

Ahane, Castleconnell & Montpelier

Community Plan



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**
Limerick City
& County Council



The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas

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

The facilitators wish to acknowledge the support, guidance and enthusiasm invested by members of ACM Ltd and Love Castleconnell (host groups), local community groups and organisations, and local residents throughout this project.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

On behalf of the Board and Staff of Ballyhoura Development

Aidan Gleeson

Chairperson

Introduction to Community Plan

When ACM Ltd accepted the offer to develop a plan for our community, we were motivated by the need to encourage and unite the numerous groups, businesses and individuals in the parish. The aim was to give shape and direction to our community, provide a shared vision for its future and create opportunities for agencies and public sector bodies to work together with us to impact the quality of life of those living and working in the area.

We asked that any plan focus on employment, infrastructure, heritage and tourism, social activities, environmental awareness and the needs of both younger and older members of the community.

Community groups, businesses and residents, young and old, have participated in the development of this plan both in completing the on-line survey and attending the three community workshops. This level of participation has made this exercise worthwhile and we are grateful to all those that took the time to join in. We must now ensure that this outcome can be realised and in the coming months, we will be highlighting those areas that need input from as many members of the community as possible.

Thanks and appreciation must also go to Ballyhoura Development CLG who funded this Community Development Plan and to Paul O’Raw (O’Raw Consultancy) & Associates, Niall Heenan and Dr Shane O’Sullivan for their professional commitment, guidance and support in facilitating this project.

Nicky McNamara, Love Castleconnell
Eamonn McQuade, Love Castleconnell and ACM
Breda Casey, Chairperson, ACM Ltd
December 2018

Executive Summary

Ahane, Castleconnell, Montpelier. This community planning process was designed to encompass the community of Ahane, Castleconnell, Montpelier, referred to as *The Area* or ACM, and for this purpose the research team agreed with the host group that the geographical boundaries for the area would be based on the Roman Catholic Parish.

The parish covers a large area from Montpelier in the north to Ahane in the South. Gouig bog borders the eastern boundary and Mountshannon the west. Running through the middle of the parish is the Ballybrophy to Limerick railway line, joined in recent years by the M7 motorway. The area has a rich archaeological, cultural, fishing and sporting heritage.

These three areas each have their own different history. Ahane is perhaps best known for its sporting heritage with Ahane GAA historically regarded as one of the great clubs of Limerick. Castleconnell is universally described as a ‘scenic village on the banks of the River Shannon’ and is generally considered to be one of Limerick’s best kept secrets. The townland of Montpelier is famous for its 14 arch bridge which spans the River Shannon connecting county Limerick to county Clare at O’Briens Bridge.

The village of Castleconnell is an urban settlement within a rural area that has become a desirable area to live in recent years, due to its location and proximity to Limerick City. The village performs an important civic, trade/market and service function for the resident population and for the surrounding hinterland. However over the last number of years the economic role of the village has diminished with it becoming mainly a commuting village (source: Castleconnell Local Area Plan, LCCC, 2013)

According to the Castleconnell Local Area Plan 2013-19, there are 37 protected structures within the LAP boundary and an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) extending along the banks of the River Shannon and taking in Castleconnell village centre.

Historic buildings and monuments in the parish include the home of the Bourke family, Thornfield (Ahane), Mountshannon House, home to the Earl of Clare, and the historic Castleconnell Castle. In 2001, excavations at Hermitage revealed features of a Mesolithic date, most notably two cremations dating to the Early Mesolithic period. This internationally significant find is now recognised as being amongst the earliest cremated burials in Europe.

The importance of the River Shannon to the community cannot be underestimated. World champion John Enright and his family lived and worked in the village and the Castleconnell Rod became known far and wide. The history of the ferry, the local fishing pools and fishermen are well documented and during the 18th and 19th centuries, Castleconnell became a popular resort patronised by the local Ascendancy classes and visiting gentry from overseas. The Castleconnell fishery is still in use today.

At the other end of the village lies Castleconnell Boat Club, founded in 1983 and located at Worrell’s End. Here, the club enjoys one of the best stretches of water to row in Ireland, some 3.2km upstream to Montpelier / O’Briens Bridge.

This strategic plan for the community of Ahane, Castleconnell, and Montpelier 2019-2023 was prepared between September and December 2018, with preparatory work undertaken during the summer. The community saw the planning as an opportunity to build on experience and to involve the wider community in identifying priorities and planning for the future.

The planning involved information gathering through analysis of CSO returns for the area, a confidential on-line community survey, and a series of three community consultation and planning sessions. Therefore the themes identified and the detailed actions arise from this analysis and community discussions. The

methodology used by the consultants in facilitating the community planning is set out in Section 3. The themes that emerged from this process are;

1. Community Vibrancy and Coordination
2. Transport and Commuter Travel
3. Local Amenities and Facilities
4. Enterprise, Commerce and Tourism
5. Youth Needs

The CSO findings reveal that of the sixteen SAs (small areas) three are classified as being either marginally below average or disadvantaged, while thirteen are classified as being marginally above average or affluent. This classification is determined by Pobal Deprivation/ Affluence index. In relation to the six, of the population of the area, the proportion of non-Irish Nationals is lower than average. The employment rate is higher than that for Limerick City and County, early school leaving is low and the number of third level graduates is conversely higher.

The workshop discussions and the on-line survey produced considerable listings of needs, challenges and opportunities and these are recorded in Section 4 of this document. The process of workshops and survey enabled the community to work through the issues and the analysis, and enabled the consultant to identify the main thematic areas emerging from the work. Five themes emerged and are developed in Section 5. The detailed actions are set out in Section 6.

The feedback shows that the people of Ahane, Castleconnell, and Montpelier like living in the area, they are appreciative of the adjacent natural amenities and of the need to both preserve and develop these amenities for the enjoyment of locals and of visitors. These include the river Shannon, local walks and nearby bog-land.

There has been reasonable growth in population in the area, the economy has improved, and these factors bring their own challenges. There is considerable traffic through the main roads, and footpaths designed for less busy times, are inadequate. Thus traffic calming and safe walking are areas people wish to address. Linked to this is the need to develop walk-ways and cycleways for leisure but also for greater connectivity with the city.

While the economy has improved local retailers report challenges, in the main due to the dormitory effect, i.e. people living locally but working in the city and making their purchases in the city instead of locally. At the workshops a need was expressed for greater supports for retailers and for local start-ups who could work from home rather than joining the commuter traffic. Consultations highlight the need for strategic engagement with Bus Eireann and Irish Rail to improve the level of service to this busy, growing population. Both retailers and locals would like to see a vibrant, retail and commercial heart to the village meeting local needs.

While there is good community activity in the area, and there have been a number of local initiatives, the need for greater communications and coordination was raised during discussions. It is a priority theme as part of the overall set of themes in the plan. Given the concerns around low levels of satisfaction with public services the community will need to engage strategically and build up working relations with the public services and agencies to effectively implement the plan.

In this document the community sets out an ambitious, yet practical and achievable, set of actions for the development of the community of Ahane, Castleconnell, Montpelier for the period 2019-2023. Given their experience and track record, the various community organisations, working in partnership with relevant agencies are likely to enjoy significant success as they work towards realising their goals.

Paul O'Raw

Project Consultants, December 2018

Niall Heenan

Dr Shane O'Sullivan

1. The Planning Context

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

In terms of the planning context Castleconnell village is the main population centre in the parish and is described in Limerick County Development Plan as a Tier 3 settlement – a population centre on a Transport Corridor. In this respect the village of Castleconnell is in the same category as Abbeyfeale, Adare and Croom, for example.

Limerick City and County Council published a Local Area Plan for Castleconnell 2013 – 2019, which has recently been extended until Sept 2023. This plan states:

It is the long term vision of the Council that Castleconnell functions efficiently as a place where people can and want to live, work, and visit, and which fosters an authentic sense of place.

To achieve this vision Castleconnell must develop in a manner that protects its rich cultural and natural heritage, accommodates a vibrant and balanced community, and provides good employment opportunities and quality local services and amenities. Good transport links are important, including improvements to public transport services to provide a genuine alternative to the car. Building on the existing strengths of the settlement it is imperative that all stakeholders maximise any development opportunities in the village to secure progression and improved quality of life.

Limerick City and County Local & Economic Development Plan (LCEP) 2016 – 2021, sets out some key principles and strategies which are of interest to and could impact on, the community of Ahane, Castleconnell, Montpelier. Principally, the LCEP states as its first Goal:

“To promote equally vibrant and safe communities with high quality of life, access to quality services in urban and rural Limerick, engaged in civic life and local decision making”

The LCEP also references the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and its plans including support for community socio-economic action planning and the promoting the regeneration of rural towns and villages across the county as centres for living, leisure, services, business and employment. The issues of broadband provision in rural areas is also a specific action.

The creation of this Community Plan therefore sits within this above rationale and guiding principles.

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

2. Demographic & Socio- Economic profile

Introduction

This document provides a social and economic profile of Ahane-Castleconnell-Montpelier. It is important to note that ACM Ltd refers to a local development body active in the community and one of the hosts for the Community Planning Process. This Community is situated in the northern part of Co. Limerick. The community is bounded to the North and West by County Clare (boundary marked by River Shannon) and to the East by Co. Tipperary. This is a very accessible Community with the M7 and a railway line (station in Castleconnell) traversing through its territory. Furthermore, the community is approximately 20 minutes commute to Limerick City centre. 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 the area, 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, the following steps were undertaken by the researchers for the compilation of the parish / community statistics:

1. Identification of townland, ED and SA boundaries for each parish. Data sources consulted for the identification of parish boundaries included the Community Centre website: <http://www.castleconnell.ie/index.php/parish-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 (See Table) for the area. 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).

This profile corresponds to the official boundary of the Roman Catholic parish for the area (Diocese of Killaloe). This area includes the urban settlement of Ahane, Castleconnell and Montpelier and its immediate rural hinterland. In total, this area contains 15 Small Areas¹ and a portion of another SA. All key statistics for the community are outlined 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. 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 area. These include: identification number; population size in 2011 and 2016; percentage population change (2011 – 2016); and townlands / streets / estates located within SA. Population growth / decline has been very uneven across the community between 2011 and 2016. There is an urban – rural divide, with the principle urban settlement of Castleconnell witnessing significant growth in population (for example: SA127041009 (51.81%); and SA127041008 (31.92%). However, 8 SAs recorded a decline in population with the most significant population loss (as measured as %) in SA127041004.

Table 1: Small Area (SAs)

SA ID Code	Pop. 2016	Pop. 2011	% Change 11 – 16	Townlands / Streets / Estates
127041001	346	350	1.14	Hermitage; Ruan; Park; Newgarden South; Ballynacourty; Drominboy; Sallymount; Parkwood; Gortnalaghagh; Woodraod; Brackloon; Drominboy Upper; Drominboy Lower; Knockaunbaun; Waterpark
127041002	241	234	2.99	Montpelier; O'Briensbridge; Fairyhall; Derryhasna
127041003	380	352	7.95	Lacka; Inis Cluain; Castlecourt; Cederwood Grove; The Commons;
127041004	306	340	-10	Portcrusha; Coolready; Derrylusk; Derreen; Gooig; Cloon and Commons (rural)
127041005	226	241	-6.22	Cloon and Commons (urban)
127041006	203	204	-0.49	Meadowbrook; Bruach na Sionna;
127041007	270	242	11.57	Coolreiry
127041008	219	166	31.92	Castle Rock Mews; Castle Rock Woods
127041009	293	193	51.81	Coolbane Wood; Castle Rock Woods
127041010	238	238	0	Stradbally North
127041011	316	320	-1.25	Woodpark; Huntingstown; Gardenhill; Bunkey
127041012	294	300	-2	Cois Sionna; Saint Patrick's Villas; Castle Rock Road
127027002	227	227	0	Richill; Raheen
127027004	319	324	-1.54	Prospect; Mountshannon; Ballyvollane; Newgarden North
127027011	234	239	-2.09	Knockbrack East; Knocksentry; Thornfield; Biddeford; Laghtane East
127027015	235	236	-0.4	Lisnagry

There is a distinct micro-geography associated with deprivation / affluence across the individual SAs in the ACM area, with all of the disadvantaged SAs in 2016 situated in urban locations (Map 2). The Hasse Index

¹ 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.

provides a composite or overall measure of affluence or deprivation. It has been used by agencies, most notably Pobal, since the early 1990s, and is widely accepted as providing an objective analysis of the socio-economic well-being of localities. The Index is derived from data on employment and unemployment levels, educational attainment, housing tenure, social class and demography, each of which can be used independently as indicators for deprivation. Figures for each of these variables are compiled into a single index, with lower (including negative) scores indicating higher levels of deprivation, and higher scores corresponding to higher levels of affluence. On this Index (See Table 2):

- A number of SAs have changed categorisations on several occasions between 2006 and 2016. However, there has been no significant change with respect to categorisation between inter-censal periods.
- There is significant divergence between the SAs with respect to affluence and deprivation as measured through Censuses of Population for 2006, 2011 and 2016.
- In 2016, there were 1 very disadvantaged SA; 3 marginally below average SAs; 7 marginally above average SAs; and 5 affluent SAs.

Even though there is a high rate of disadvantage within one SA in ACM, 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. However, the high level of unemployment experienced in the region as a consequence of the economic downturn (post 2008); and lower education attainment rates have had a compounding effect in increasing the rates of deprivation in specific SAs. Therefore, the generation of new employment is a key conduit for increasing the rate of affluence.

Table 2: Deprivation / Affluence Categorisations for SAs located in the ACM area (2006 – 2016)

SA ID Code	Deprivation 2006	Deprivation 2011	Deprivation 2016
127041001	Marginally below average	Marginally above average	Marginally above average
127041002	Marginally below average	Marginally below average	Marginally below average
127041003	Affluent	Affluent	Affluent
127041004	Marginally above average	Marginally above average	Marginally below average
127041005	Disadvantaged	Disadvantaged	Very Disadvantaged
127041006	Marginally above average	Marginally above average	Marginally above average
127041007	Marginally above average	Marginally above average	Affluent
127041008	Very affluent	Affluent	Affluent
127041009	Marginally above average	Very affluent	Affluent
127041010	Marginally above average	Affluent	Marginally above average
127041011	Marginally above average	Marginally above average	Marginally above average
127041012	Marginally below average	Marginally below average	Marginally below average
127027002	Affluent	Marginally above average	Affluent
127027004	Marginally above average	Marginally above average	Marginally above average
127027011	Marginally above average	Marginally above average	Marginally above average
127027015	Affluent	Marginally above average	Marginally above average

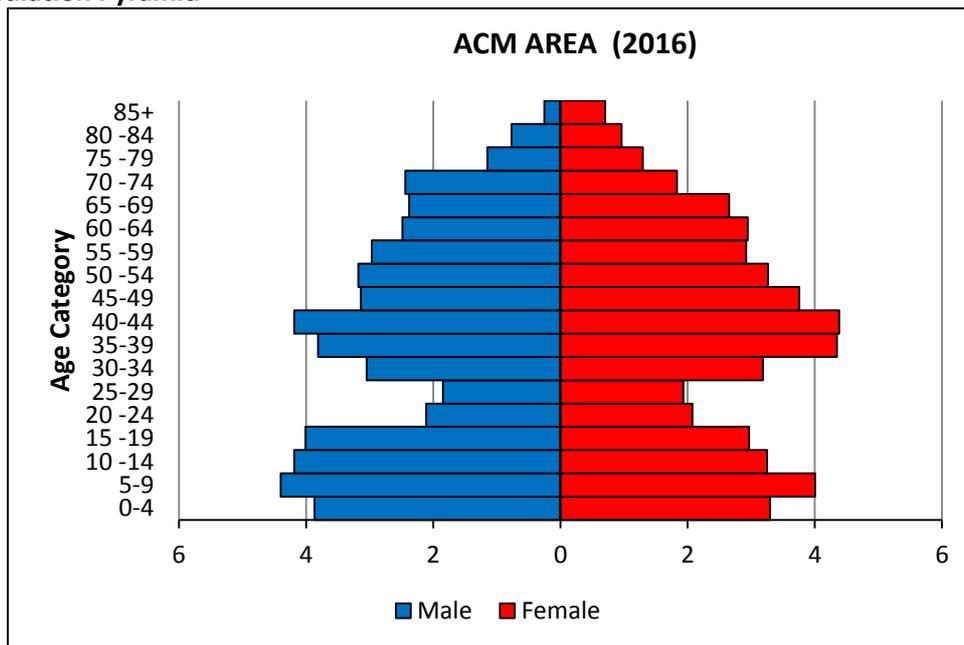
Demographic Profile

According to the 2016 Census of Population, there are 4,347 individuals living in the area, with 2,184 males and 2,163 females. The population has increased (+141) since the previous Census of Population. The population pyramid (data derived from the 2016 Census of Population data) for Parish area highlights a varied population structure (Figure 1). The population profile should conform to a pyramid structure² with a broad

² 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.

base and tapering sides to form a narrow peak. The more rectangular the graph is shaped, the slower the population is growing. The Community population pyramid has an unusual structure with a relatively consistent proportion of individuals in the 30 to 74 age categories. However, the age category between 20 to 29 years has a significant inversion. This implies that young people have migrated to other locations (in Ireland or further afield) in search of employment or education opportunities. Furthermore, there is a significant proportion of the population pyramid also comprising of young people (less than 19 years of age).

Figure 1: 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 the community (0.34) is higher than Ballyhoura region (0.31); Limerick City and County (0.29); and Ireland (0.30). 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 slight divergence between this community 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 the community of ACM is aging at a slightly quicker rate in comparison to the other selected locations. This can also be accounted for the lower proportion of 20 -29 year olds living in the area.

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

Location	Youth Dependency Ratio	Elderly Dependency Ratio	Demographic Vitality Ratio
Ahane, Castleconnell, Montpelier	0.34	0.14	2.37
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

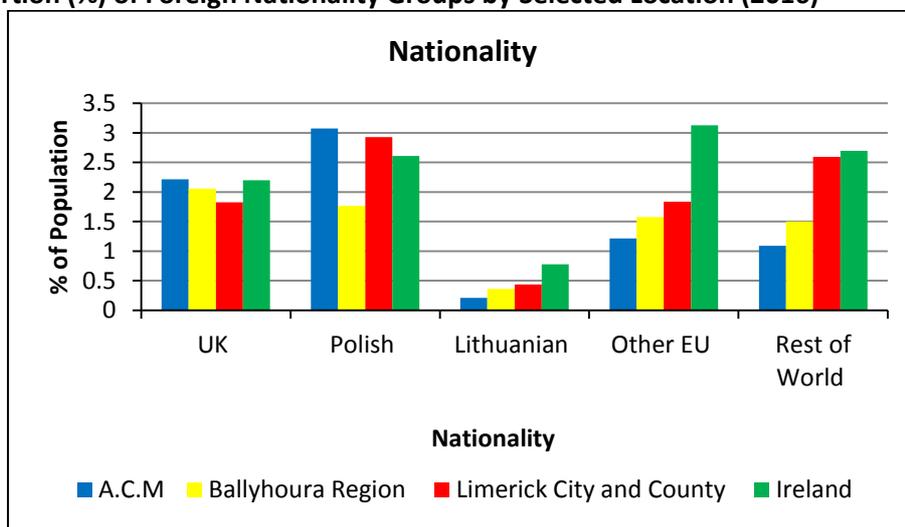
Nationality

According to the 2016 Census of Population, the area has a lower proportion (7.81%) of foreign nationals in comparison to Ballyhoura region (7.27%); Limerick City and County (9.62%); and state average (11.42%).

Polish nationals (3.07%) are the biggest foreign national grouping living in the community. The proportion (%) of Polish nationals is also significantly higher in comparison to Ballyhoura region (1.76%); and national (2.61%) average. Furthermore, UK nationals (who are English speaking) are the second largest foreign national cohort living in the community of (Figure 2). Their distribution varies considerably throughout the county with the highest concentrations in the South-West and South-East of the county. These locations have attracted UK migrants due to being predominantly scenic rural areas. This community is no exception with its close proximity to the river Shannon.

In total, 50 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 336 foreign nationals living in ACM - UK (95); Polish (132); Lithuanian (9); Other EU (53); and Rest of World (47).

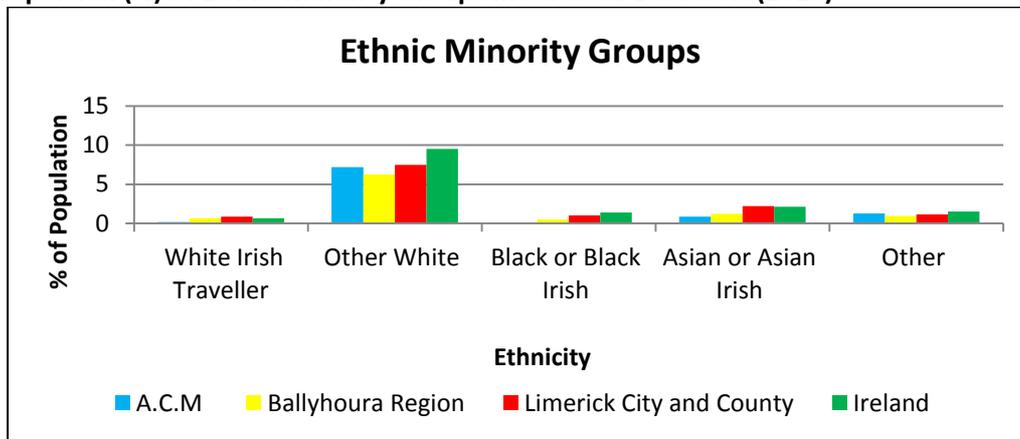
Figure 2: Proportion (%) of Foreign Nationality Groups by Selected Location (2016)



Ethnic Groups

According to the 2016 Census of Population, there is no significant ethnic minority group living in ACM community, with the exception of other white which accounts for 7.17% of the population (Figure 3). This refers to white individuals who are neither white Irish nor white Irish traveller. Overall, 9.56% (411 individuals) of the population are non-Irish white (this term refers to all minority groups including white Irish travellers). In absolute terms, there are 8 white Irish travellers; 308 other white; 4 black or black Irish; and 36 Asian or Asian Irish.

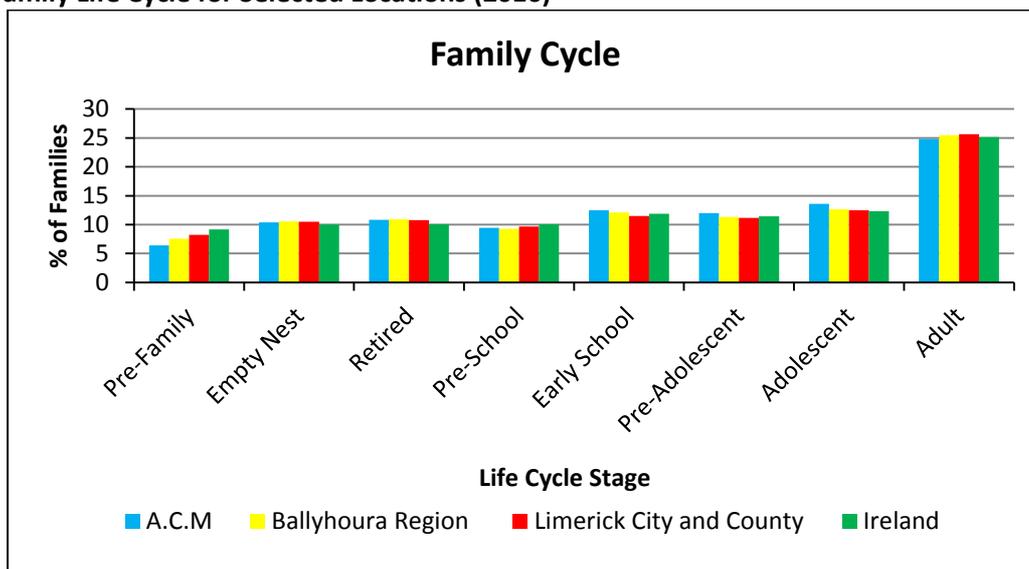
Figure 3: Proportion (%) of Ethnic Minority Groups in Selected Locations (2016)



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 3,868 families living in the area being studied. This includes: 154 pre-families; 248 empty nest families; 259 retired families; 380 families with pre-school children; 586 families with early school children; 577 families with pre-adolescent children; 650 families with adolescent children; and 1,014 families comprising of adults. In comparison to the national, county and regional averages, there is an over-representation of early school; pre-adolescent and adolescent children families locally (Figure 4). The proportion of pre-families is lower when compared to the other selected locations.

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

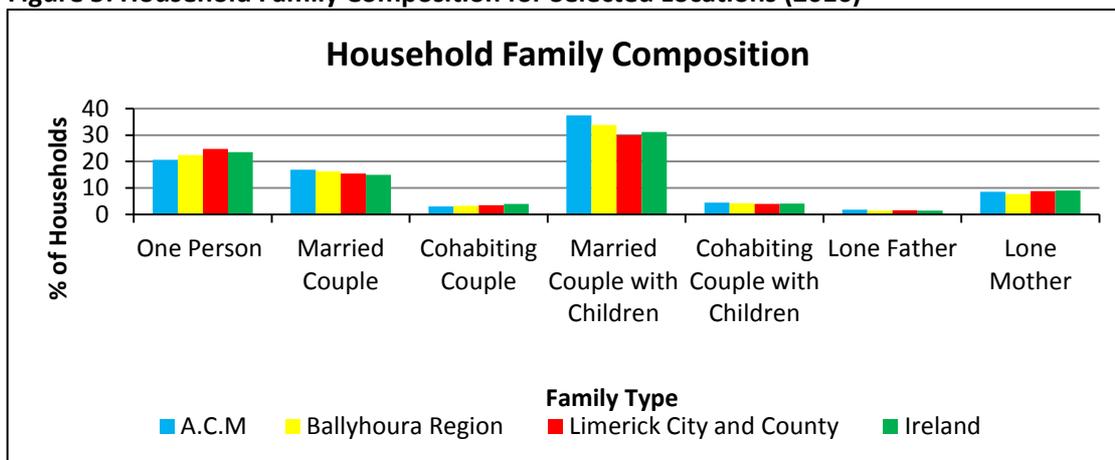


Household Family Composition

The household family composition does not differ significantly from the Ballyhoura region; Limerick City and County; or Ireland (Figure 5). However, the area has a larger proportion of married couples with children in comparison to the other selected locations. Furthermore, the proportion of single person households is marginally lower in comparison to the other selected locations. The proportion of lone parents (lone fathers and lone mothers) is consistent with the national average. This group is the most susceptible to be living in disadvantage. The number of persons belonging to each family type includes: one person (317); married

couple (260); cohabiting couple (46); married couple with children (576); cohabiting couple with children (68); lone father and children (28); lone mother and children (132).

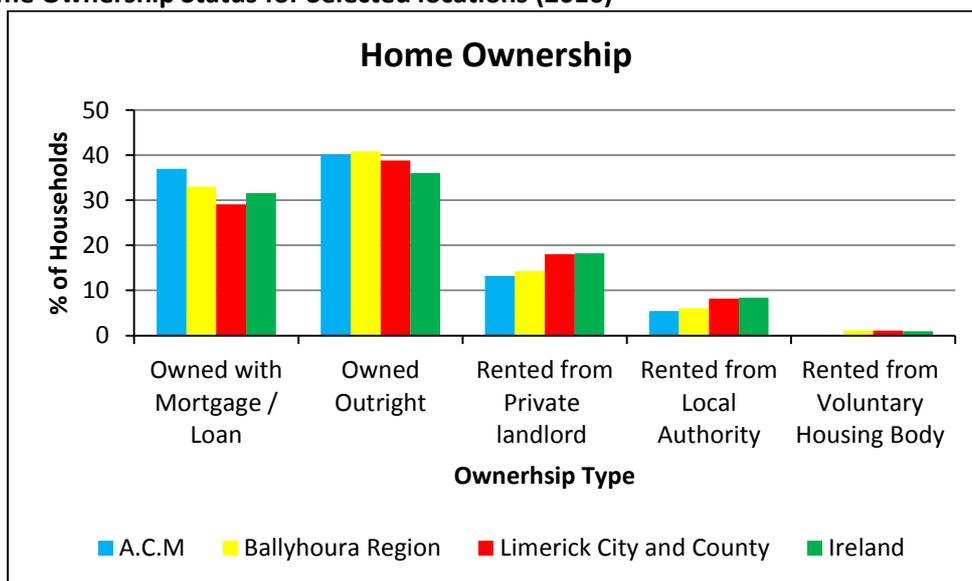
Figure 5: Household Family Composition for Selected Locations (2016)



Home Ownership

In the Parish Area, there are differences in relation to the nature of housing occupancy relative to national and regional trends (Figure 6). A higher proportion of households own their home outright in (40.18%) in comparison to the national average (36.04%). Furthermore, an additional 36.94% of homes in the community 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 (13.23%). The proportion of local authority housing is lower than Limerick City and County; and Ireland. The following provides a breakdown (absolute numbers) of the status of home ownership in the area: ownership with mortgage / loan (568); owned outright (618); rented from private landlord (204); rented from local authority (83); and rented from voluntary housing association (1).

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



Employment Statistics

The labour force participation rate for the community of ACM (as recorded in the 2016 Census of Population) is higher for both males and females in comparison to the Ballyhoura region; and Limerick City and County; but lower than the national average (Table 2). A similar trend is 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 (57.17%) is significantly higher than the female employment rate (49.85%). 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)

Location	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)			Employment Rate (%)			Unemployment Rate (%)		
	Male	Female	Total Pop.	Male	Female	Total Pop.	Male	Female	Total Pop.
The Area of ACM	63.66	53.90	58.69	57.17	49.85	53.45	10.19	7.50	8.93
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 the local area being no exception. In recent years, there has been a gradual reduction in unemployment rates across the state. Ahane, Castleconnell, Montpelier now has a lower unemployment rate than Limerick City and County; Ballyhoura region; and Ireland. 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 was 10.19% and 7.50% respectively in April 2016 (Table 2).

Occupational Profile

The male occupational profile differs significantly from the Ballyhoura; Limerick City and County and national profiles (Figure 7). This is due to a very small proportion of the male workforce engaged in agricultural forestry and fishery activities. Consequently, the proportion of males working in the remaining occupational sectors is either larger or equal to regional and national averages. Figure 8 indicates that the majority of the female workforce are engaged in professional service (44.11%) or commerce and trade (22%). This is not surprising as the area of ACM is located in close proximity to Limerick City. The majority of the jobs within these sectors would not be found locally and there is a reliance on commuting to work. For instance, 23.96% of the workforce (male and female) commute in excess of 30 minutes daily to their employment; and approximately 80% travel by private car. This implies that a large proportion of the workforce are travelling to Limerick City. The 'other' category is broadly similar with the Ballyhoura region for both males and females, but less for Limerick City and County; and Ireland (Figures 7 and 8). This category refers to individuals engaging in multiple types of employment (pluriactivity).

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

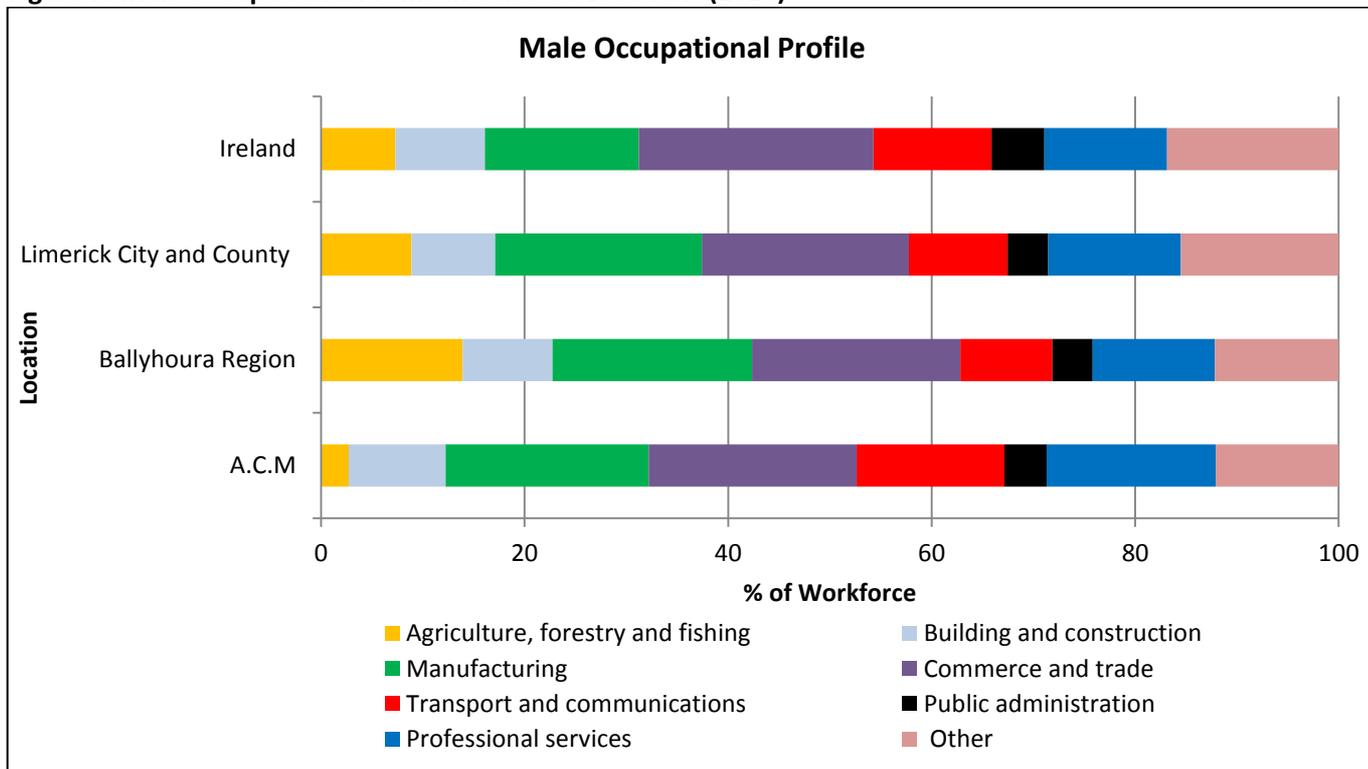
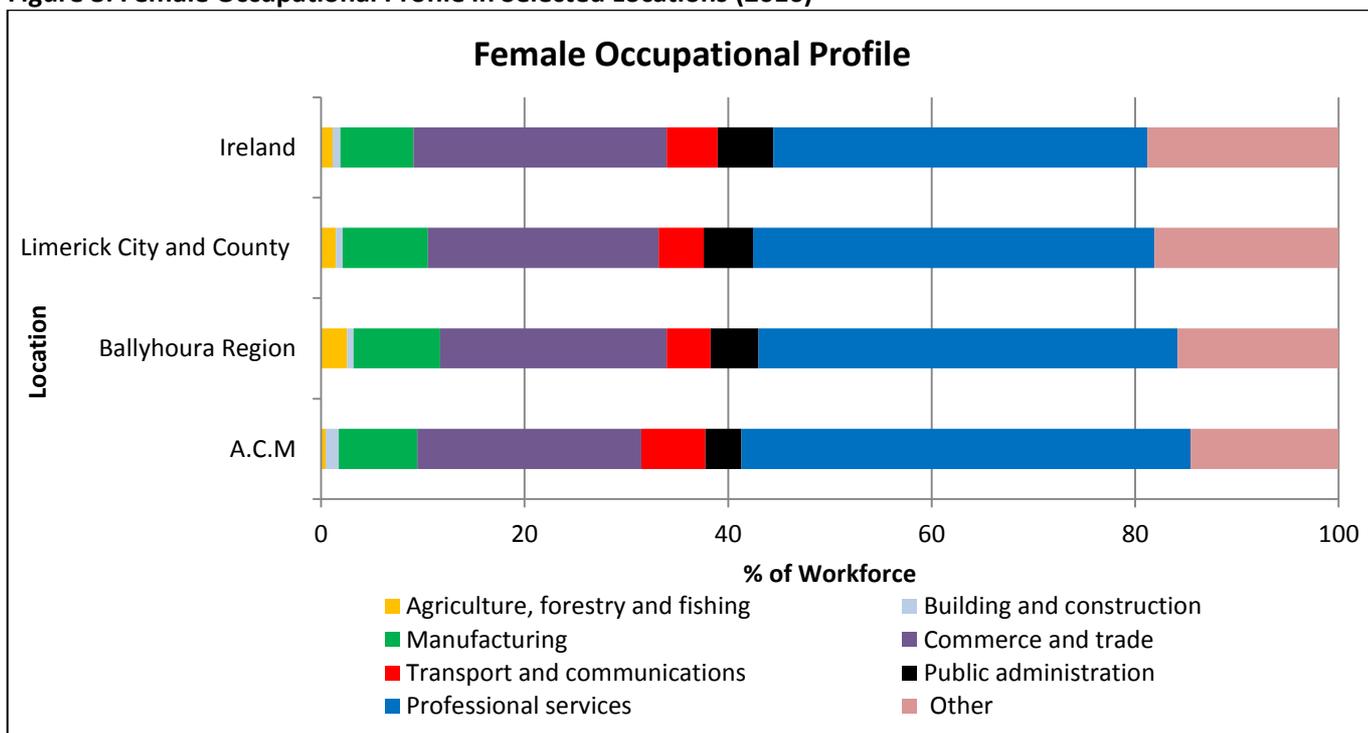


Figure 8: Female Occupational Profile in Selected Locations (2016)



Education Attainment

The education attainment rates for the area of ACM differs from the Ballyhoura region, Limerick City and County; and Ireland 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. Unusually, the ACM area has a higher proportion of third level graduates than early school leavers (Figures 10 and 11), An early school leaver has been defined as a person who has completed only minimal education (up to and including Junior Certificate) or no formal education whilst third level graduates includes undergraduate and postgraduate degree holders. In absolute terms, 560 individuals living in this community are classified as early school leavers (no formal education (31); primary (218); and lower secondary (311); whilst the number of third level graduates is higher (971). Furthermore, a large number of individuals have attained a technically orientated education / skillset - technical or vocational qualification (212); advanced certificate / completed apprenticeship (193). The number of individuals who ceased with an upper secondary qualification (Leaving Certificate) is 537. In the ACM area, the higher education attainment rates can be explained by a large proportion of the population engaging in professional services employment within Limerick City. During the 2000s, significant housing developments were built for the professional orientated market and the community effectively became a dormitory settlement of Limerick City.

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

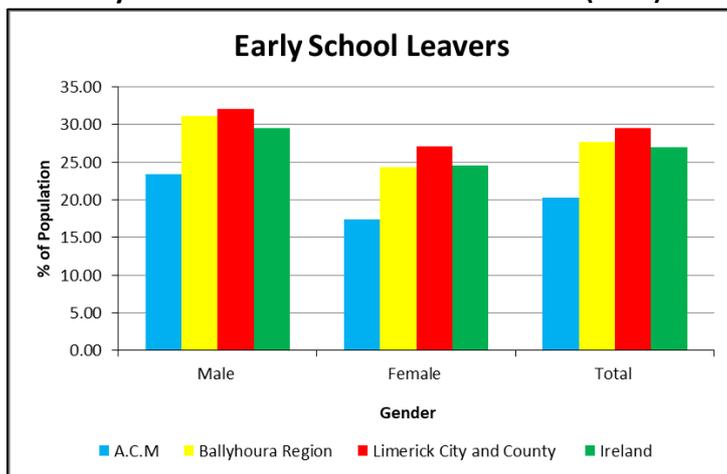
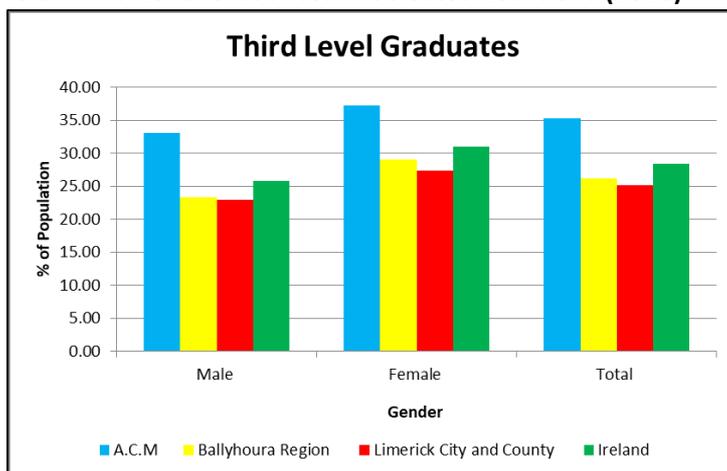


Figure 11: Gender Profile of Third Level Graduates in Selected Locations (2016)



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 the community is lower for females in comparison to the other selected locations, whilst the proportion of males who have a disability is slightly higher in comparison to the Ballyhoura region; and Ireland (Figure 12). According to the 2016 Census of Population, there were 570 individuals (303 males and 267 females) with a disability living in the area. The overall proportion of carers is slightly higher than the national and regional averages (Figure 13). However, there are more female carers (111) than male carers (77). Overall, 69 individuals (37 male; 32 female) reported their health as being bad or very bad in the 2016 Census of Population. This equates to 1.58% of the population and it is lower than Limerick City and County (1.86%); and Ireland (1.6%) but higher than the Ballyhoura Region (1.42%).

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

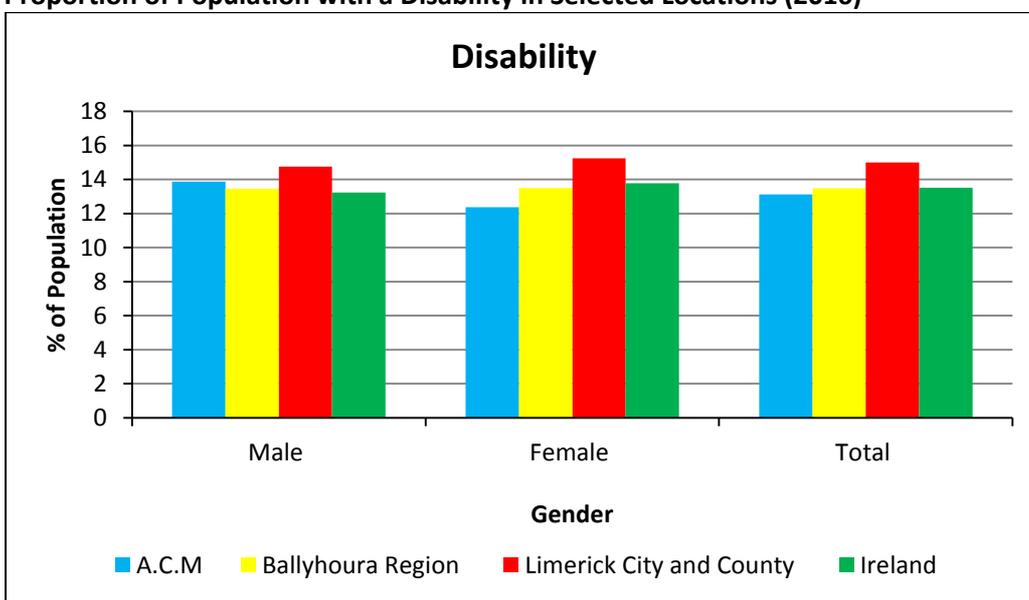
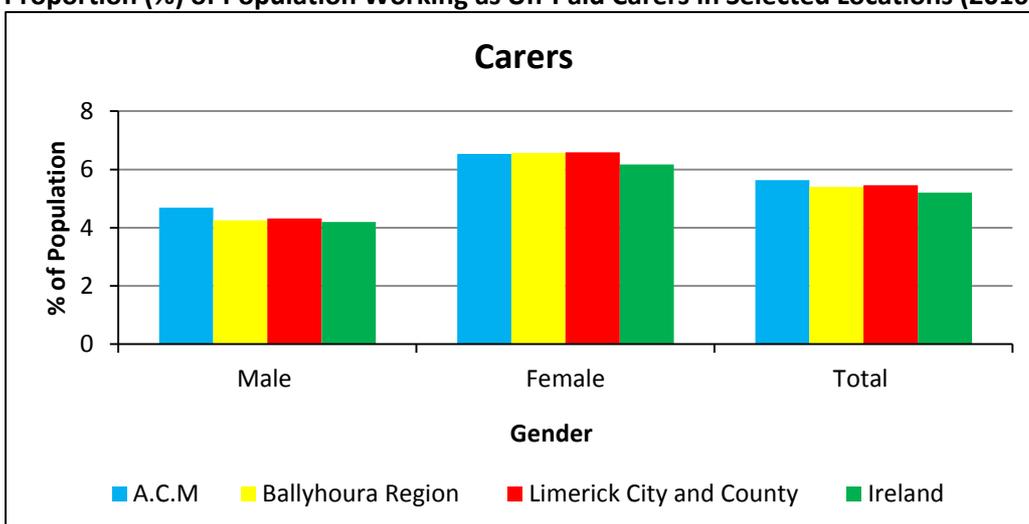


Figure 13: Proportion (%) of Population Working as Un-Paid Carers in Selected Locations (2016).



Conclusion

The following provides a summary of key socio-economic and demographic findings (discerned from the 2016 Census of Population) with respect to the area of Ahane, Castleconnell, Montpelier:

- The population has grown marginally between 2011 (4,206) and 2016 (4,347), with an increase of 141 individuals. This equates to a 3.25% increase in population.
- The elderly dependency ratio (0.14) is higher in comparison to Ballyhoura region (0.13); Limerick City and County (0.13); and Ireland (0.13).
- There are 336 foreign nationals living in the area - UK (95); Polish (132); Lithuanian (9); Other EU (53); and Rest of World (47).
- There are 411 individuals (9.56%) living in the area who are classified as non-white Irish. This includes: 8 white Irish travellers; 308 other white; 4 black or black Irish; and 36 Asian or Asian Irish.
- A diverse range of family types are living in the area - 154 pre-families; 248 empty nest families; 259 retired families; 380 families with pre-school children; 586 families with early school children; 577 families with pre-adolescent children; 650 families with adolescent children; and 1,014 families comprising of adults.
- The labour force participation rate Area (58.69%) is higher than Ballyhoura (57.69%); Limerick City and County (58.02%) but lower than the national average (61.35%).
- A lower proportion (8.93%) of the working aged population were classified as being unemployed in the 2016 Census of Population.
- In the ACM area, 560 individuals are classified as early school leavers (no formal education (31); primary (218); and lower secondary (311)). Conversely, the number of third level graduates is higher (971).
- According to the Pobal Deprivation Index, the ACM community has one distinct area of disadvantage, with one SA (127041005) being classified as being very disadvantaged in the Hasse / Pobal Deprivation Index. There are also 5 affluent SAs within the community.

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3. The Community Planning Process

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

The six communities participating in the 2018 phase of the project were;

	Community	County
1.	Pallasgreen – Templebradden	East Limerick
2.	Bruff – Grange – Meanus	East Limerick
3.	Oola	East Limerick
4.	Kilmallock	East Limerick
5.	Ahane – Castleconnell – Montpellier	East Limerick
6.	Charleville	North Cork

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

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

Summary of the planning process;

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

Promotion of the process to the community.

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

4. The Three Community Planning Workshops, September – November 2018

1st Workshop 27th September 2018, Castleconnell Parish Hall - Priority Themes Emerging

The facilitator presented the key findings from the Demographic & Socio-Economic profile of the area of ACM. These findings were further developed by the participants at table discussions, focusing on the key themes that had emerged from the Demographic & Socio-Economic profile. The following is a summary of the table discussions where groups of participants discussed the themes and explored possible responses to these themes.

Note: there is overlap across some of the themes however in an attempt to record as accurately what was expressed the following lists the actual feedback at the workshop as given.

Local facilities

- Lack of bus service and transport to the city
- Cycleways, walks, seating and exercise machines on loop walks, greenway to UL, Survey and maintain footbridge
- Town park similar to Abbeyfeale
- Evening courses
- Support town centre, shops, cafe
- Swimming facilities at Worrels End, diving boards, lifeguard during the summer etc , Public toilets
- More Garda presence in village also CCTV
- More bottle banks
- Facility for entrepreneurs-hot desks, hub
- Primary health centre
- Access to Parish Hall -long term lease, also Montpelier Community Centre-make these centres available to groups
- More input from smaller groups
- Playing pitches similar to Murroe
- Centre similar to Caherconlish Millennium Centre
- Improve tourism
- Secondary school needed
- More facilities at primary school
- Community allotments

Community Connections

- Bring people into the village for events
- Need to build a great sense of community through arts and culture
- Need an all-encompassing community council for ACM area
- Develop ACM's new buildings
- More inclusiveness among newer and longer established residents
- Community Calendar/Directory and / or notice board
- Welcome initiative for new families
- Connect Castleconnell and Montpelier with walkway and cyclelane
- UL greenway
- Encourage Community workshops and enterprise
- Social running and walking groups
- Develop a Community Garden
- Disability awareness and opportunities
- Further develop Wi-fi connectivity

Other issues

- Meetings like these are not reflective of the overall population-tend to be higher income and older people. Need a different system to engage with poorer and disadvantaged
- Childcare issues
- Killaloe v Castleconnell
- Threat of flooding
- Natural amenities here are Ireland's secret
- Reach out to former residents
- Local English classes for Polish families
- Potential as a high cuisine village
- Cooperate with Clonlara and O'Briens Bridge to develop Canal walks
- River area, canal, bogs, woodland and Biodiversity to be protected and promoted as tourist attraction
- Post Office needs developing
- Improve Credit Union opening hours
- Promote accommodation for tourists
- Text alert system, traffic calming
- Business group
- Lobby Inland fisheries and ESB in relation to the Shannon River

Maintaining Local Vibrancy

- Greenway to Montpelier
- Improve train times
- More B&B's, a Hostel
- Clear scrub from river bank
- Gaeltacht quarter for Irish language learning
- Improve River-fishing, canoeing, walks etc
- Raise awareness of the natural heritage/wildlife in the area-Castleconnell is home to the protected Marsh Fritillary Butterfly and the rarer Large Heath Butterfly
- Artists hub
- Log of local trusted professionals such as electricians, landscape, handyman etc
- Develop stronger links between Castleconnell, Ahane and Montpelier
- Riverside community centre
- Place for homeworkers to work from near coffee shop/shops to bring footfall to village
- Wi-fi hub for village
- Develop Sunday market
- Support Rowing club
- Men's shed
- More active The Area
- Cookery classes/knitting classes

Older People

- Outdoor gym equipment
- Nurse for medical centre and more nursing home places
- Supported living
- Retirement village with medical staff
- Dementia and Alzheimer's Association and care areas
- Social activities for older people, bingo
- Community Bus

- River walk suitable for all ages

Population growth-needs and impacts

- More local employment needed
- Development of derelict buildings in village
- Better road and path maintenance
- Parking problems in village
- Need to protect green areas such as the field on the Mall Road
- Don't turn commercial units into apartments with the population growth-losing out on employment possibilities in the long term
- Build houses for future in character with the village
- Protect the river-have flood protection but in a way that respects the river
- Work from home group
- More non sport orientated youth groups
- Smart planning
- Broadband and fibre
- Support families
- No building on flood plains

Youth

- Secondary school for the area
- Local sports infrastructure - affordable leisure for young people
- Use Parish Hall and Montpelier Hall
- Youth club for all - inclusive youth service
- Ask teenagers what they want
- Youth employment in local services
- Tackle disadvantage through education e.g. homework club
- Youth facilities- sports facilities, hall modern and warm, youth rooms, educational and training facilities, upgraded playground
- Language classes- Irish and Spanish
- Provide opportunities for young people to get involved in their communities
- Supervised youth games, pool, snooker, badminton
- Better transport to city
- Biodiversity education
- Local playgroup
- Develop sporting groups
- Improved community sports facilities
- Homework clubs
- Indoor area for young children
- Sports facilities

Commuter area

- Communal taxi/minibus regular service
- Better timetabling / Earlier trains and later buses
- Accessible transport
- Better public transport
- Better cycling infrastructure
- Group cycling at set times-cycle bus to Castletroy secondary school
- Greenway - Montpelier- Castleconnell-UL-Limerick (2)
- Bus to UL

- Become a smarter travel hub

Community Survey

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

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

The slide presentation gave a detailed analysis of the survey feedback. See appendices.

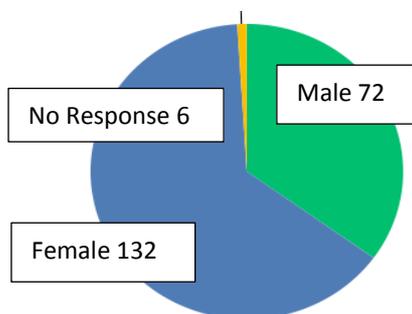


Fig 14, Gender of Responses

Survey Results (206 responses received)

Gender

The first set of questions were introductory and provided some background information on respondents. Question 5, 6, 7 and 8 were about volunteering, and in ACM community approximately two-thirds stated they were involved in organisations as volunteers. Of those who don’t currently volunteer, almost a further two-thirds said they would be interested in volunteering.

Volunteering

Reasons given for not getting involved are to do with family, work and time commitments. When people were invited to say how they would personally like to get involved in the community many suggestions and ideas were offered. This is very positive as it shows a few points worth noting. One is the wide range of ideas and creativity people have for the improvement of their community. Also, it shows there exists a considerable pool of untapped resources that can contribute to existing organisations as well as involvement in new projects and services. A common complaint from established groups is the problem of attracting new members. These findings suggests that there are people with energy and ideas, willing to give time to their community. Figs 14, 15 & 16.

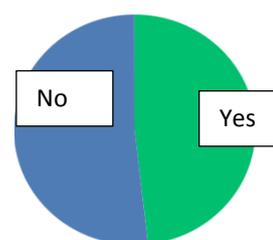


Fig 15, Volunteering

Q8. If you had the opportunity, what would you like to do personally to help improve the quality of life for your community?

- Activities for children and young people
- Activities and facilities for older people
- Tidy-towns
- Environment projects
- Coaching, tutoring
- More transparency in decision-making
- Retail and commercial development, cafe
- Not sure – anything
- Footpaths and cycleways
- Regular community events
- Bring community together more

Fig 16, What would you like to do to help?

Words used to describe Ahane, Castleconnell & Montpelier

People were asked to give three words that describe their community and as can be seen very positive terms were used suggesting very good satisfaction and appreciation for living in the locality. Fig 17.

welcoming Mixed Vibrant local Picturesque small inclusive
 community Beautiful busy friendly Safe diverse
 supportive active Good caring helpful quiet potential

Fig 17, Words to Describe The Area.

Economic Vibrancy

Q10 asked people to agree or disagree with a range of statements on the local economy. People were asked to grade their answers to the statements from Strongly Agree to Strongly Disagree. The chart below illustrates how people responded to the statements. The biggest negative is in response to the question on the locality attracting investment, the level of other negatives also reflect this sentiments. The greatest positive in this set of questions relates to local businesses appreciating local custom reflecting the importance of local businesses to the community. People also believe the community enjoys a good standard of living as evidenced by over 80% agreeing or fully agreeing. Fig 18 below.

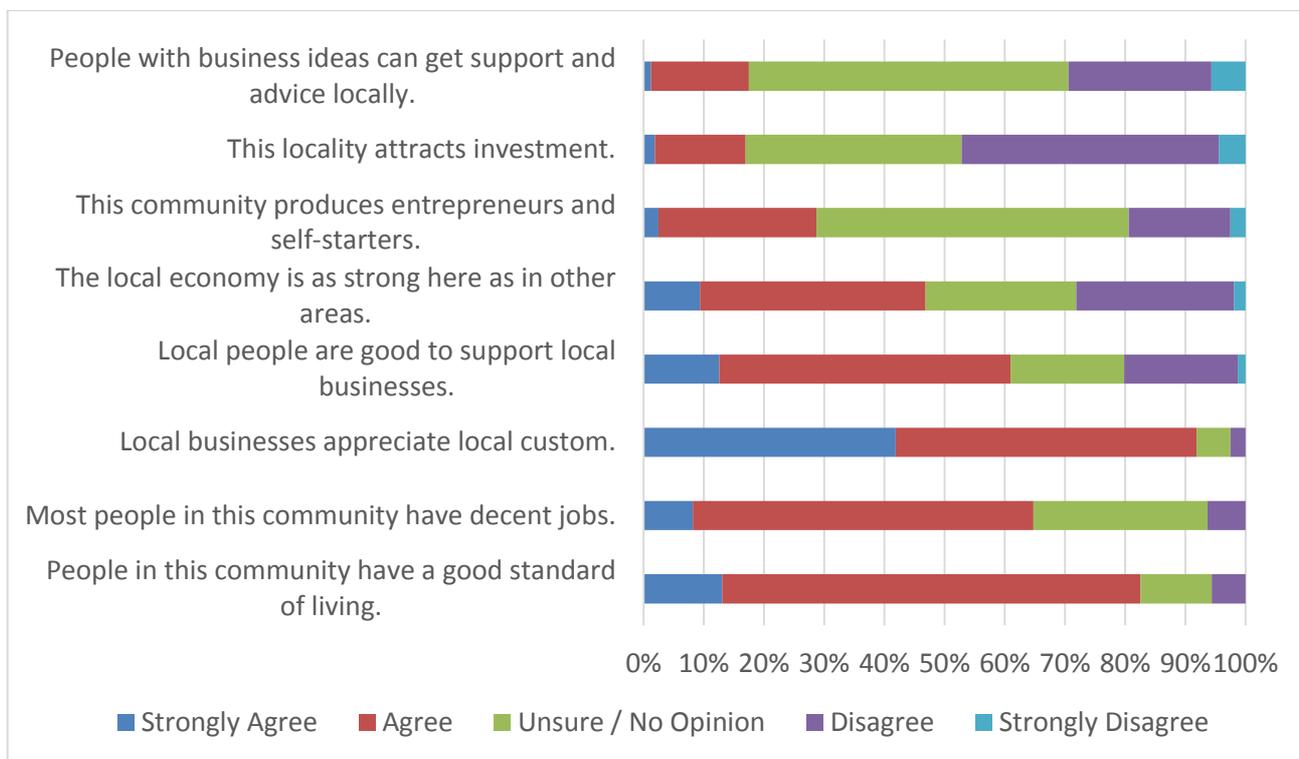


Fig 18, Perceptions of Economic Vibrancy

The theme of Economic Vibrancy is continued in the following set of questions, with a focus on local government, local development and public services. In response to the question on adequacy of public transport over two-thirds are dissatisfied with the transport services locally. Almost half of the respondents disagree that public services are good in the locality, with just over 10% agreeing with the statement that local government provides good value for money. In comparison, 40% agree that Ballyhoura Development provides good services for the community. The above responses suggest a need for strategic engagement with local government and public services to develop partnership arrangements and address local priorities. Fig 19, below.

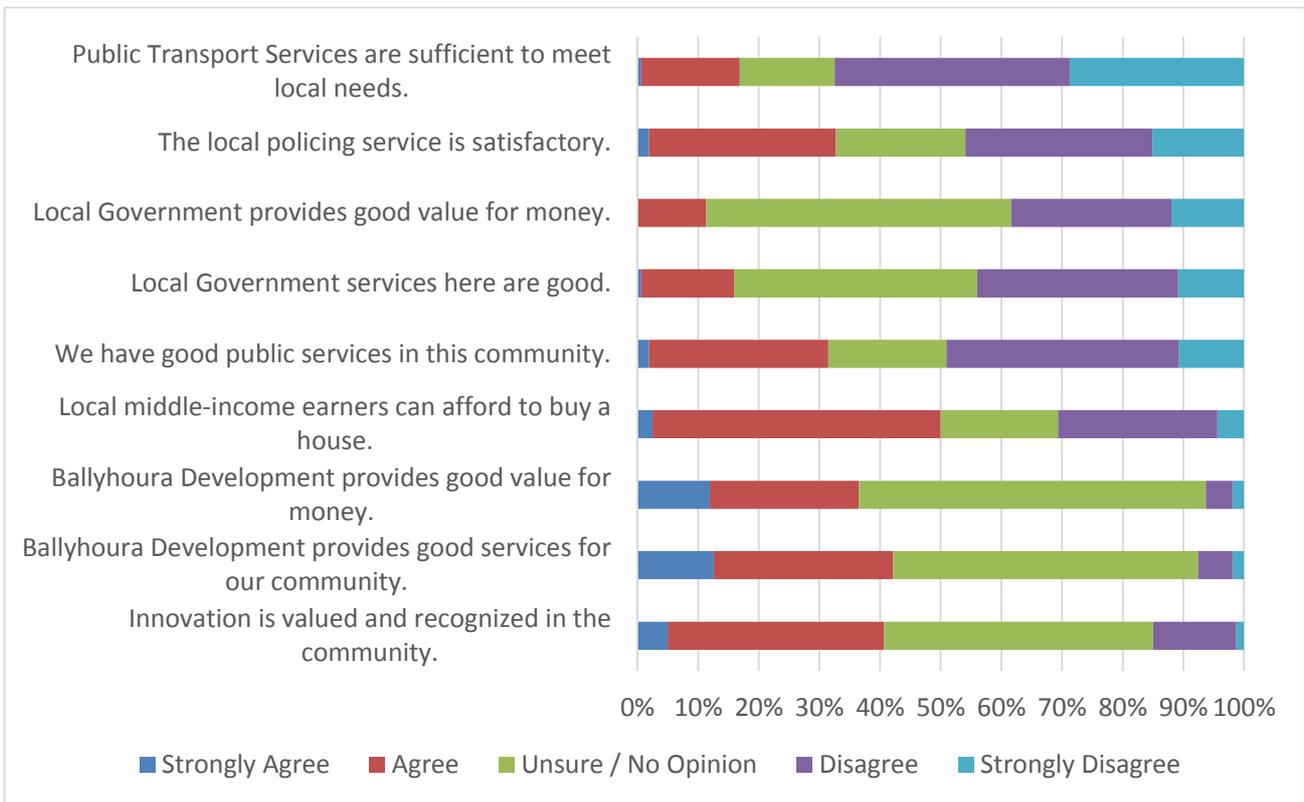


Fig 19, Perceptions of Economic Vibrancy (2).

Social Vibrancy

The following two graphs outline people’s responses on the theme of social vibrancy (figs 20 & 21).

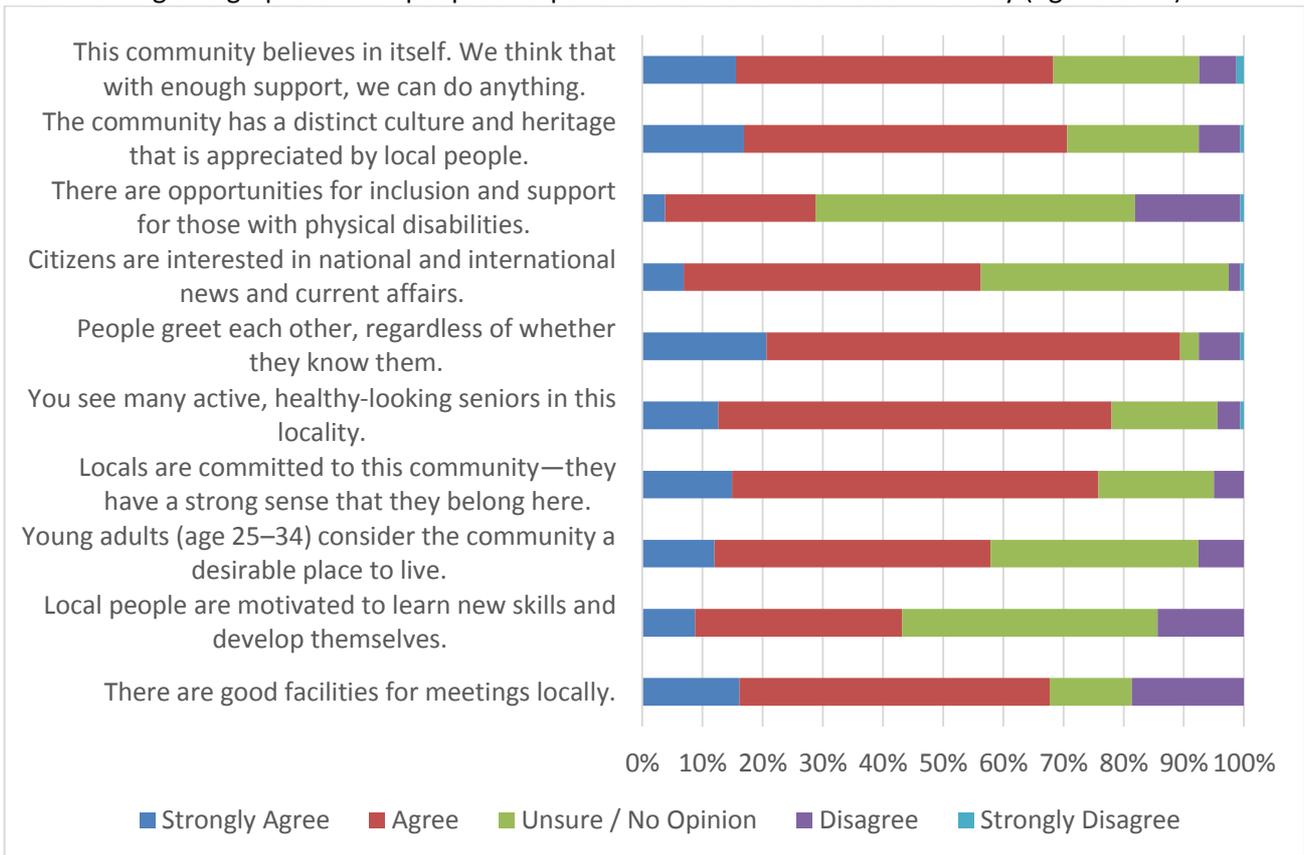


Fig 20, Perceptions of Social Vibrancy

Social Vibrancy...

The response to the statement on people greeting each other on the street, reflects earlier sentiments towards living in the area, with over 90% responding in agreement. There are a number of statements on related themes of community self-belief, having a distinct culture, and a strong sense of commitment to the community. The responses to these statements are all very positive. The main negative responses in this section are in regard to opportunities for inclusion for people with physical disabilities. Fig 20 above.

The second set of responses on social vibrancy reflects more negative sentiments. The majority of people feel there not enough facilities for young people, also there are divided opinions on the questions of sports, recreation, cultural and arts facilities. Over half feel that crime and anti-social behaviour are problems for the area. A number of positives should be noted here including; good levels of satisfaction with schools and education, friendly spaces where people can meet and over 80% satisfaction with the local annual festival. Fig 21 below.

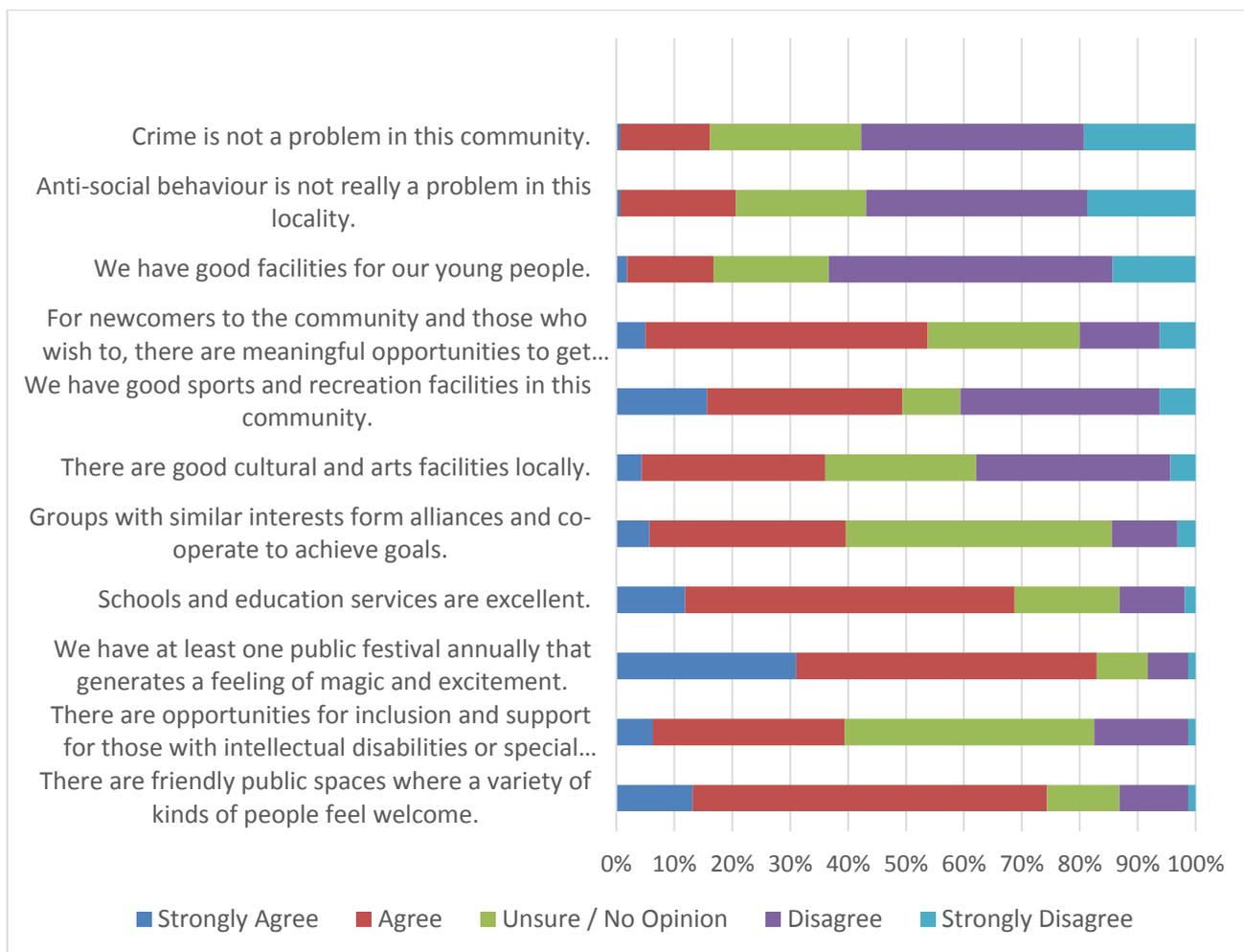


Fig 21, Perceptions of Social Vibrancy (2)

Does Everyone Feel Included?

When invited to say if everyone feels included in the community, the majority replied they don't know and a divide between 'yes' and 'no'. This question allows for the topic of inclusion to be raised for consideration. The answers suggest a need to maintain a focus on inclusion in future planning.

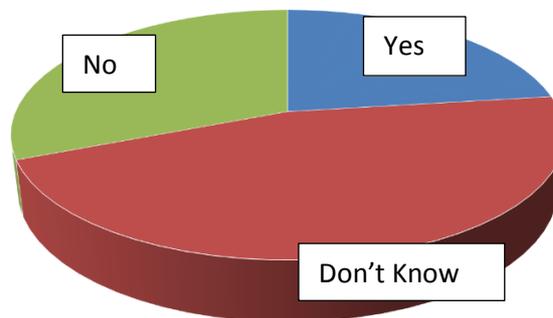


FIG 25, Does Everyone Feel Included?

Future Focussed Questions

Questions 18 and 19 focus on the priority issues to be addressed for the community. A number of themes emerge, consistent with issues raised in the overall survey and in the planning workshops. These include the need for good coordination and communication, improvements to footpaths, road safety, walks and cycle-paths, supports for small businesses, improvements to local facilities and amenities, policing, environment matters and greater transport/ connectivity with the city. See responses to the question on what needs to be done in Fig 26 below.

A coordinating group	Support small business start-up in village
Better local communications	Form a trader's alliance
Build cycle paths	Facilities and activities for youth
Footpath improvement	Environment projects
Address anti-social problems	More policing
Need to get more people involved	Better housing planning
More / improved community facilities and amenities	Better transport links with city

Fig 26, What needs to be done?

Main Issues

The following summarises the key findings from the on-line survey for the ACM area:

- People like living in the locality and appreciate its location with ready access to a number of natural amenities. There is a clear desire for sensitive and sustainable development of these amenities for locals and for visitors.
- There is a strong sense of community, identity and commitment to on-going development of the area.
- Locals feel there is good economic recovery, with a sense of vibrancy about. Yet there is a need for further supports for local retail and start-ups.
- There are concerns over traffic and narrow footpaths.
- The cost of housing is raised as a concern, and in relation to this there is further concern on the quality of planning and development.
- People would like to see pathways and cycle-ways developed.
- There is low sentiment for public services and a wish for better policing to address crime and anti-social behaviour.

The results of this survey was presented to the community at the 2nd planning workshop and this facilitated further discussion to clarify priority areas and actions for the community plan.

2nd Community Planning Workshop, 25th October 2018, Castleconnell Parish Hall

Identification of Priority Actions

This workshop focused on a summary of the individual survey responses which had been gathered via Survey Monkey over the preceding month. The facilitator presented the following conclusions from the survey results based on the main issues emerging. The main issues of need in the community, as indicated by the individual survey responses include the following:

1. Need to plan for a younger, growing population
2. Community coordination and communications
3. Environment enhancement projects, recycling
4. Better transport links with city
5. Concerns with planning
6. Need for more youth facilities
7. Supports/ initiatives for small business
8. Develop footpaths and cycleways
9. Untapped resource of local, skilled volunteers
10. Concerns regarding social and community divides

Participants at the meeting were asked to respond to the survey presentation and findings under the headings of Economic, Community/Social and Environmental Factors and to suggest actions or comments.

Economic Factors

- Market as a tourism area- further development and attractions eg River, Restaurants, talks, heritage centre, boating
- Mini enterprise centre
- Encouragement and support for small businesses and employment
- Planning
- Affluent area but not reflected in investment in village
- Investment from council in footpaths/greenways
- Expense in opening businesses- not enough support from council/govt
- Better community centre would attract more footfall
- Funding from council for market/festival centre
- Create a business directory
- Promote shop local for goods and services
- Improve transport infrastructure
- Promote tourism/fishing etc
- Recognise and try to address economic divide
- Divided society
- Groups divided
- Community event planning
- Discrimination

Community/Social Factors

- Need for community coordination group to work together and synchronize events/activities
- More community use of Hall, eg Drama etc
- Local council
- Restaurant or Pizza type cafe
- Secondary school with its facilities for younger people
- Provide events especially for younger people, sports competition, music school
- Transport links to the city-buses/train times

- Cycleway connection Montpelier, Castleconnell, UL-major benefit to commuters, students, walkers-tourism will grow-business will grow
- Cycleway would also make river more accessible for water sports-rowing club, Limerick Kayak Club, swimming
- Anti-social behaviour
- Open green play areas
- River maintenance
- Secondary school
- Car park
- Community centre similar to Caherconlish/Newport (Lease or Build)- Diocesan rules problematic
- Ask groups that engage with youth to fill out survey-camogie, GAA, youth club etc
- Pooling of resources/groups
- Perception of blow ins/non inclusive
- Develop a community-not them/us
- Secondary school
- Market
- Create a village park-dual purpose
- No communication to locals re events
- Community Board
- Create an overall community council
- Create arts hub/library
- Create a community group directory
- Recognise value of the area of ACM and promote further

Environmental Factors

- Develop walks along village
- Need for 'freshening up' village buildings
- Continuity of footpaths-connect to bog, connect to scout club
- Making environment safer and more accessible-footpaths, walkways, lighting, signage
- Better broadband
- Better transport services
- River maintenance
- Planning in keeping with village
- Recycling -bottle banks
- Flooding
- Poor planning
- Cycleways and footpaths to and around village
- Running paths
- Improve/create walkways and greenways
- Revisit cycle paths and footpaths
- Improve recycling facilities
- Reopen the fishing
- Clean up the river bed to banks
- Greenway to O'Briens Bridge
- Divided by M7 & N7 - need to involve Ahane more

Priority areas for community plan

The participants were then asked to prioritise the key areas and actions to be highlighted in their community plan. For the purpose of clarity, these priorities are grouped under the following headings:

Community Vibrancy and Communication

- Umbrella/ coordinating group/community council
- Village council for Castleconnell
- Independent community council - information in one area
- Community coordination and connectivity- open day- community calendar- notice board- community reps- quarterly meetings
- Secondary school
- Community Hub- after school's clubs
- Community centre-similar to Millennium centre in Caherconlish
- Pursue funding and grants
- Coordinate the implementation of the development plan
- Increased security and Garda presence
- Involve all the parish in any developments – include Ahane and Montpelier as well as rural areas

Amenities and Facilities

- Connectivity/Access- lights, transport links, footpaths to circle village, greenways to city/UL/Ahane/Montpelier
- Large community park/facility/community centre/ all-weather pitch beside school
- Develop amenities in line with history (historic walks)
- Awareness of our natural beauty-promotion of tourism-development of walks, bog, river areas
- Environment- improved recycling facilities
- Outdoor events/gym
- Enhance the river-fishing, safe swimming, water sports and activities on the water
- Clean up river
- Enhance community infrastructure- affordable community facilities-toilets-more parking-open recreational space
- Protect the local heritage in any planned developments

Transport and Commuter Infrastructure

- Travel/transport-links to city
- Greenways to Limerick and O'Briens Bridge
- Footpaths/cycle paths/ more links
- Connectivity with the city and university-bus and train

Enterprise, Commerce and Tourism

- Attract tourists/visitors - Castleconnell as a destination
- Support local enterprises/ Business initiatives and supports
- Fishing, park, festivals
- Enhance hotel
- Market the river
- Local hub for remote working and flexible working

Youth needs

- Improved Youth facilities and amenities
- Need to survey youth for their views
- Engagement of youth in non-sporting activities
- More options for young people

3rd Community Planning Workshop, 22nd November 2018

This final workshop was designed to explore the strategic themes and actions in the form of a ‘world café’ type experience. The participants choose to sit at tables, each table representing one of the key themes, and each table having a worksheet to complete. The worksheets listed draft actions based on the previous discussion, and people were invited to discuss, to clarify and to identify lead groups for the separate actions. There was also an opportunity to add in extra actions or amend existing ones. The participants were asked to move three times during the workshop so that a range of people inputted into each of the themes.

The actions were presented under five themes; the themes having been identified from previous discussions and the community survey findings.

1. Community Vibrancy and Coordination
2. Transport and Commuter Travel
3. Local Amenities and Facilities
4. Enterprise, Commerce and Tourism
5. Youth Needs

The worksheets were subsequently analysed and a detailed action plan was finalised. The details under each action are recorded in Section 7.

5. Strategic Development Themes

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

5.1 Community Vibrancy and Coordination

The Area of Ahane, Castleconnell, Montpelier is a very well-resourced area in terms of the social capacity of the population. There has been a significant growth in new residents in the last 20 years, with many people bringing new thinking and perspectives to the community. There is also a long standing pride of place in the community with many residents committed to safe guarding the environmental and cultural heritage of the area which contribute to this sense of identity.

Existing community groups have developed many responses and initiatives designed to add value to the social, cultural and economic life in the community. Sporting clubs have invested heavily in their facilities and coaching programmes, ACM Ltd and Love Castleconnell have established themselves as local bodies for the good of the community and events such as Fright Fest have demonstrated what impact that such initiatives can have in terms of activity and benefit to an area.

Throughout the process of consultation a repeated theme was the need to collectively harness this voluntary goodwill and contribution and to allow for a co-ordinated approach to the local area, so that all communities and sectors can benefit. The need to look at community structures and local community governance has to be a central element of any community planning process. For this area to optimise its social capital in an effective and planned manner, the need for an overall community structure that will facilitate cross community and organisational communication and cooperation needs to be underlined.

However not all communities in the catchment area have reached out fully in this consultation process. There are areas of disadvantage in the village of Castleconnell and the agricultural sector has also been under represented at the public meetings. Any actions under this theme need to ensure that there is an inclusive approach, engaging with all sectors of the community.

Underpinning all this is a strategic theme of creating a vibrant, inclusive, modern community where people can experience a quality of life that can take advantage of its location close to Limerick that is welcoming and progressive in its outlook and in how it responds to challenges.

5.2 Transport and Commuter Travel

In many respects the area serves as a suburb of Limerick City and as a commuter town for the wider area. Existing Public transport links to Limerick are based on Bus and Rail connections. There is strong feedback from the participants in this process that these links need to be improved or modified so that residents can use this network. Allied to this is the need for more environmentally sound connections both within the ACM area as well as connecting it with UL/Limerick through the creation of walking and cycling greenways.

The development of greenways within the area would also impact on daily lives between the centres of population and would allow for safer access for all ages to social and sporting activities. It would

also help create a sense of shared community space with the local areas surrounding the village of Castleconnell which would have to be positive in terms of building community awareness and identity. A key aspect of this strategy lies in encouraging an environmentally sustainable solution to both the need for commuter channels into the city and the University of Limerick campus as well as the need to safe access within the community for people of all ages so that they can best utilise the community and business resources available to them

5.3 Local Amenities and Facilities

The ACM area has a rich environmental resource with the River Shannon occupying a central aspect to the community, allied to traditional farmland and access to natural bog land as one moves eastward towards the M7. The attraction of the river is part of the area's history and rationale and is an important amenity for residents and visitors alike.

The appropriate and sustainable utilisation of these environmental resources is an obvious theme for this community. The potential of these same resources, in particular the River Shannon, to offer tourism, leisure and social opportunities, will need to be balanced with the need to ensure that its environmental integrity is not compromised. The creation of new and support of existing facilities such as swimming areas, walks, river access, bog walks, cycleways etc are all potential areas where amenity creation based on the particular environmental resource locally was a consistent request arising from the consultation process

The need for built amenities and facilities necessary to serve the population is also an area of consideration. Effective utilisation and access to community halls, the potential of a secondary school for the community, availability of facilities for young people, development of all-weather facilities for sporting organisations are all significant desires among the local people who participated in this process.

5.4 Enterprise, Commerce and Tourism

There is widespread acknowledgement that the community area has become a residence of choice for those who commute to Limerick and beyond. Modern working scenarios no longer require one to be physically located at the same desk each day and flexi, home and remote working are becoming increasingly common. The challenge for a small retail base in this area is in remaining economically viable and attractive to the local population, many of whom have the option of shopping outside of the community for all their needs. Tourism, as an element of enterprise has its roots in this area in salmon fishing on the River Shannon and with the availability of safe access to the water during the summer period.

There have already been initiatives such as Love Castleconnell aimed at increasing the sense of community as well as the work of ACM Ltd in developing community facilities.

A strategy of Enterprise, Commerce and Tourism for the local area could include the need to create flexible space for remote working, shared community space for groups, support for local businesses (and subsequent support for emerging businesses). The need to incentivise and encourage local spend is a vital one in sustaining local communities. Tourism is one sector where there is potential for local spend and any tourism development in this area must occur in sympathy with the natural environment and natural resources available. The village of Castleconnell, and in particular the village centre, has its own identity and character and any development needs to take cognisance of this. The demographics of the area illustrates its own uniqueness in terms of educational attainment and this resource provides the core for imaginative exploration of supports and services that could be provided to local people and visitors alike.

The rich historical and environmental significance of the environs of the area of Ahane, Castleconnell, Montpelier will have to be considered in any Enterprise, Commerce and Tourism developments, and in all aspects of Community Planning. Historic homes and buildings in the locality, particularly in Castleconnell village, are part of the attraction and uniqueness of the area and reflect how this area has long been recognised as a place with a distinct offering due to its location on the River Shannon. Archaeological excavations in 2001 provide evidence that the locality is home to settlements from the Early Mesolithic period or the Middle Stone Age (9600 - 4000 BC) which illustrates the depth of history in the surrounding areas. The current environmental importance of the Shannon and the Boglands nearby boglands are all factors that will need to be considered in any Enterprise, Commerce and Tourism developments

5.5 Youth Needs

One of the difficulties of this Consultation Process was the low level of engagement among young people, despite using online methods of engagement. The need to respond to the needs of young people, from all areas and backgrounds, was clear as the process of consultation progressed.

Young people are growing up in more complex and challenging times than heretofore and a central tenet in Community Development is the enabling of our young people to develop into their best version of themselves. The needs of young people locally, allied to the concerns expressed during the consultation process in relation to anti-social behaviour, would suggest that any local community plan for this area would focus on how best to engage with and respond to the needs of the sector.

6. Thematic Action Plan

The following table presents the various projects that emerged during the consultation process. Some of the themes do not involve funding, they relate to communications and coordination at a community level. Some relate to better use and upgrading of existing facilities and premises. While some will require engagement and planning with relevant agencies. The lists of project partners may expand as projects are rolled-out. In order to ensure the delivery of these actions, it is necessary to invest in social capital and the capacity of community and voluntary organisations in the community.

Theme 1: Community Vibrancy & Coordination			
Actions	Lead Organisation	Resources required	Partners
1.1 Establish an overall Local Community Forum*	ACM Ltd and Love Castleconnell to initiate the convening of steering group	Facilitation, Training, Project Worker, Reps from all organisations	Love Castleconnell, Tidy Towns, Local Businesses and organisations (listed in appendix), Ballyhoura Dev
1.2 Undertake specific community consultation with areas identified as disadvantaged to establish needs	Local person and/or civic leaders in or with connections in selected communities.	Feasibility Study, Needs Analysis	St Vincent de Paul Limerick Youth Service Care of the Aged
1.3 Create and publicise community noticeboard, physical and online	Community Forum	Notice Board, People with IT Skills Church Newsletter	ACM Ltd, Love Castleconnell All clubs and organisations
1.4 Lobby for increased Garda presence	Community Forum	Gardaí on the ground, connecting with Schools and Youth Clubs	Dept. of Justice, Community Alert Ahane
1.5 Hold a community welcome event where local groups can highlight what they do and engage with potential volunteers	Community Forum	Funding, time	Ballyhoura Dev
1.6 Establish a coordinating body to oversee the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the plan.	Community Forum	Funding, time	Ballyhoura Dev
1.7 Engage with Limerick City and County Council as it develops the next Local Area Plan for Castleconnell to ensure that developments are in keeping with local heritage and environment*	Local councillors		Local professionals with expertise Muintir na Tire
* Priority Actions			

Theme 2: Transport and Commuter Travel			
Action	Lead Organisation	Resources required	Partners
2.1 Engage with transport providers for improved access times on Bus and Train to Limerick for workers and students and provide information on routes etc locally	Community Forum	Bus stops and timetables. Maps of bus routes ACM Ltd to display timetables	Irish Rail, Bus Eireann, Kavanaghs Coaches and other private operators
2.2 Feasibility study on Greenway to connect area with UL/Limerick, not impacting on environmental SAC along river*	Greenway Group	Permissions from land owners	LCCC Tourism Officer, Enterprise and Development sections UL, Ballyhoura, Inland Fisheries, ESB, Canoe Club
2.3 Investigate Feasibility of Smarter Travel/Car Pool initiative for village to Limerick	Community Forum	Website/Social Media	Local groups

* Priority Actions

Theme 3: Local Amenities & Facilities			
Action	Lead Organisation	Resources required	Partners
3.1 Set up working group to explore feasibility of setting up secondary school in the community	Community Forum Educate Together Primary School committee, Parents organisation		LETB
3.2 Establish working group to outline potential walk areas to include Riverside, Boglands, linking population centres etc for local and visitor use.	Sub-committee of Community Forum		All groups in area, ESB, Fisheries Board, landowners, Active Aged Walking Group
3.3 Lobby for improved swimming facilities and changing area at Worrells End	Community Forum, Boat Club	Funding	LCCC, Limerick Triathlon Club, Limerick Swimming Club
3.4 Create outdoor exercise area	Community Forum		LCCC
3.5 Develop safe walking routes and pathways on the theme of connecting communities and shared public spaces, use idea of Slí na Sláinte Route*	Community Forum	Funding, Signage	LCCC, Ballyhoura Dev, Tidy Towns, Enable Ireland

* Priority Actions

Theme 4: Enterprise, Commerce & Tourism			
Actions	Lead Organisation	Resources required	Partners
4.1 Establish a community hot desk/shared workspace for home and remote workers	ACM Ltd or private enterprise	Building, IT infrastructure, Project mgmt., Service mngt	Local Enterprise Office, Limerick based industries
4.2 Set up a local tourism network to develop themes, packages and special offers and for shared learning	Community Forum	Marked routes, identify existing walks, information signage, Ballyhoura Dev, LCCC Tourism Officer	Tidy Towns, Historical group, walkers, Community Forum, Greenway Group, Boat club, Love Castleconnell, ACM Ltd
4.3 Support local businesses with the creation of an online local services and community organisations directory and information point and also physical noticeboard in village	ACM Ltd	Website, list of businesses, site maintenance	Love Castleconnell, student on placement from UL/LIT

Theme 5: Youth Facilities & Activities			
Actions	Lead Organisation	Resources required	Partners
5.1 Undertake a specific process of engagement with young people utilising methodologies and approaches that are attractive and applicable to this age group and gender specific where necessary*	Community Forum with Limerick Youth Service	Budget, staff person	Scouts, Boat Club, GAA, Local Schools, Soccer club, Camogie, Ladies Football, Ballyhoura Dev Ltd
5.2 Support Youth Club, and youth interest groups, in their efforts to attract volunteers and resources	Community Forum		All local groups, Limerick Sports Partnership
5.3 All weather playing surface	Community Forum	Volunteer Training	All local groups, Limerick Sports Partnership
5.4 Establish a Youth Council			Primary School, local groups, Foroige
5.5 Establish a boxing club and/or martial arts club	Community Forum	Funding, site	
5.6 Investigate possible Youth Meeting Space	Community Forum sub-group & Foroige/ ACM Ltd	Funding, Shannon House	Ballyhoura Dev, Limerick Youth Service, Foroige

*Priority Action

7. Consultant's Observations and Commentary

When one visits the area of Ahane, Castleconnell, Montpelier one is immediately struck by the nature of the built and natural environment of the entire area. It is an area that has seen population increase and housing development with the increase in population being driven by the proximity of Limerick and the environmental and historical qualities of the area which have made it a desirable place to live. The socio economic profile outlines the significant advantage that the population holds in terms of educational attainment, for example. Notwithstanding this, the area of ACM also includes communities that are classified as disadvantaged and any community plan needs to reflect this. The challenge in any community is to engage with harder to reach sections of the community and the consultation process may have not reached all the groups and individuals who are not mainstream actors in community, business and social life.

A significant degree of feedback from this process of consultation could be described under the heading of 'making the area a better place to live'. The need for Greenways, improved public transport, need to connect communities etc all point to a community that is well resourced in terms of 'thought and intention'. The challenge may be to enable all these people and viewpoints to be heard in a way that allows debate and forward moving action on the ideas put forward. The area has strong community groups such as ACM Ltd, Tidy Towns and Love Castleconnell. These groups have created facilities and events with the community in mind. As these groups move forward and as new ideas emerge from both this plan and further community engagements, new structures and personalities will emerge. It will be important that time is afforded to the creation of effective community structures with a common vision and ability. This modern parish comprises a wide range of professionals and backgrounds, it is a deep well of resources that when harnessed effectively could create in new, novel and imaginative structures and events.

The heritage of Castleconnell is well noted. Any developments need to be respectful of this heritage and maintained for future generations.

The degree of commuter traffic out of the area on a daily basis is significant. The proximity of Limerick has resulted in the community as functioning effectively as a suburb of the city. That said the ACM community has its own identity and presence across the sporting, cultural and business life of the area. The riverside, greenway and bogland resources of the area of ACM offer potential for the development of sustainable walking and cycling routes which could become a model to follow in terms of better travel options which could lead to improved environmental awareness, health benefits and tourism potential.

The business core of the village of Castleconnell needs to be supported by local people. Making the village centre an easy place to visit and to do business in will be a central element in developing a strong community spirit.

The entire parish area is an area of growth and significance on many levels within the county of Limerick. This community planning process has resulted in conversations occurring between sectors, organisations and individuals within the community. As this area progresses it is vital that the representative bodies develop strategic and effective relationships with Limerick City and County Council so as to optimise the benefits for the entire community and interests.

8. Appendices

8.1 Appendix – Survey Feedback Summary Workshop Handout

2. Male or Female	Male 29	Female 49
3. To which of the following age categories do you belong?	Under 18s 3 36-50 37 Over 65s 6	18-35 17 51-65 15
Q4. Which of the following best describes how long you have lived in this community?	A broad range of responses	
Q5. Do you volunteer in your community?	Yes 48%	No 52%
Q6. On average how many hours a week would you give to voluntary work?	110 people give up to 5 hours per week 16 people give up to 10 hours per week 5 people give more than 10 hours per week	
Q7. - What is the main factor that prevents you from joining a local community or voluntary group?	Time/ Work, Family commitments, Childcare, Local Communications. 81 people would get involved.	
Q8. If you had the opportunity, what would you like to do personally to help improve the quality of life for your community?		
Activities for children and young people Activities and facilities for older people Tidy-towns /Environment projects Coaching, tutoring Bring community together more	More transparency in decision-making Retail and commercial development, cafe Not sure – anything Footpaths and cycleways Regular community events	
Q9. What three words would you use to describe your community?	<p>potential^{local} caring^{warm} inclusive^{small} quiet^{busy} Beautiful^{community} friendly^{safe} diverse^{vibrant} Picturesque^{young} active^{supportive} welcoming^{pretty}</p>	
Q10. Economic Vibrancy		
People with business ideas can get support and advice locally.	17% agree	
This locality attracts investment	18% agree	
Local middle-income earners can afford to buy a house.	Half disagree	
Local business appreciates local custom	Over 90% agree	
Local people are good to support local businesses.	60% agree	
People in this community have a good standard of living.	70% agree	
Public Transport Services are sufficient to meet local needs.	Almost 70% disagree	
Local Government provides good value for money.	10% agree	50% unsure 40% disagree
Ballyhoura Development provides good value for money.	37% agree	56% unsure 7% disagree
Q11. Social Vibrancy		
We have good facilities for our young people	Almost 65% disagree	
Anti-social behaviour/ crime is not a problem...	Over half disagree	
We have at least one public festival annually	83% agree	
This community believes in itself	70% agree	
There are good cultural and arts facilities locally.	Mixed views; 37% disagree	25% unsure 38% agree
Locals are committed to this community	¾ agree	
People greet each other, regardless of whether they know them.	Over 90% agree	

There are opportunities for inclusion and support for those with physical disabilities.	28% agree	53% unsure	9%disagree
Q12. Environmental Vibrancy			
For local people the integrity of the environment is a priority	60% agree	30% unsure	10% disagree
Planning and development are carried out in a sustainable way	15% agree	39% unsure	46% disagree
There are adequate recycling facilities locally	¼ disagree		
Q13. How would you describe the impact of recent population changes on your local community?	The majority believe the community has changed significantly through population growth		
Q14. What, if anything, do you like about living in your area?	shops ^{Limerick} local ^{feel} village ^{proximity} community The Village, OK ^{river} services ^{walks} friendly ^{people} people area ^{beautiful} amenities ^{friendly} sense ^{community} close ^{city}		
Q15. What, if anything, do you dislike about living in your area?			
Poorly planned development Narrow footpaths/ no footpaths Dangerous traffic Village not vibrant Not enough retail, cafes etc Insufficient public transport, train times unsuitable	Not enough facilities for young people The social divide Anti-social behaviour Nothing Affordable housing Community not pulling together Dirt and litter		
Q16. Does everyone in your community feel included?	25% Said Yes	50% Were Unsure	25% Said No (approx.)
Q17. How would you compare your community now with five years ago?			
Good economic recovery Vibrant, busier, better No change Population growth, more diverse, younger	Good work by Tidy Towns Good community initiatives Some not living in area 5 years Bad planning		
Q18. What are the principle current issues facing your community?	issues ^{good} Public ^{transport} service ^{The Village, OK} sports community ^{transport} housing ^{people} Lack ^{village} facilities ^{young people} need ^{go} planning ^{businesses} flooding local		
Q19. What needs to be done to make your town or community a better place in which to live and work?			
Better local communications and coordination Build cycle paths, improve footpaths Address anti-social problems Need to get more people involved More / improved community facilities and amenities Facilities and activities for youth	Support small business start-up in village Form a trader's alliance Environment projects Policing Better housing planning Better transport links with city		
Individual Survey Main Issues:			
1. Need to plan for a younger, growing population	2. Need for more youth facilities		
3. Community coordination and communications	4. Supports/ initiatives for small business		
5. Environment enhancement projects, recycling	6. Develop footpaths and cycleways		
7. Better transport links with city	8. Untapped resource of local, skilled volunteers		
9. Concerns with planning	10. Concerns regarding social divide		

8.2 Appendix – Handout on draft actions for third consultation workshop.

Theme: Community Vibrancy and Co-ordination
1.1 Establish an overall Parish Community Forum
1.2 Undertake specific community consultation with areas identified as disadvantaged to establish needs
1.3 Create and publicise community noticeboard, physical and online
1.4 Lobby for increased Garda presence
1.5 Hold a community welcome event where local groups can highlight what they do and engage with potential volunteers
1.6 Establish a coordinating body to oversee the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the plan.
1.7 Engage with Limerick City and County Council as it develops the next Local Area Plan for Castleconnell to ensure that developments are in keeping with local heritage and environment
Theme: Transport and Commuter Travel
2.1 Lobby for improved access times on Bus and Train to Limerick for workers and students
2.2 Feasibility study on Greenway to connect area with UL/Limerick
2.3 Investigate Feasibility of Smarter Travel/Car Pool initiative for village to Limerick
Theme: Local Amenities and Facilities
3.1 Set up working group to explore feasibility of setting up secondary school in the area
3.2 Establish working group to outline potential walk areas to include Riverside, Boglands, linking population centre's etc for local and visitor use
3.3 Lobby for improved swimming facilities and changing area at Worrells End
3.4 Create outdoor exercise area
3.5 Develop safe walking routes and pathways on the theme of connecting communities and shared public spaces
Theme: Enterprise Commerce and Tourism
4.1 Establish a community hot desk/shared workspace for home and remote workers
4.2 Set up a local tourism network to develop themes, packages and special offers and for shared learning
4.3 Create environmentally sound tourism offers based on the heritage of the locality
4.4 Support local businesses with the creation of an online local services directory
Theme: Youth Facilities & Activities
5.1 Undertake a specific process of engagement with young people utilising methodologies and approaches attractive to this age group
5.2 Support Youth Club, and youth interest groups such as Scouts, in their efforts to attract volunteers and resources

8.3 Appendix – Links to Presentations

Link to Socio-Economic Profile presentation:

<http://www.ballyhouradevelopment.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/ACM-area-profile-presentation.pdf>

Link to Community Survey:

<http://www.ballyhouradevelopment.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/ACM-community-survey-presentation.pdf>

8.4 Appendix – Limerick Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) 2016-2021

Selected LECP Actions relevant to community plans;

Action 2.2.04

Collaboration with LCCC services to enhance local environmental conditions (**recreational facilities, walkways, cycle paths**) and other key infrastructures that impact on health (neighbourhood planning, community facilities and housing including housing conditions and housing adaptations).

Action 2.5.04

Support the delivery of community-based interventions, based on a multiagency approach, to **address the needs of youth in city and county at highest risk of poor outcomes**. These include children from families with complex needs, families where tenancies in local authority / social housing is at risk, Traveller children and young people at risk or with a history of offending behaviour.

Action 3.5.03

Awareness-raising and local education programme on potential for individual and community action to **address key environmental challenges**

Action 4.2.01

Outreach, animation, information, training and on-going technical support to build capacity in local communities of place and communities of interest including **new immigrant communities and Travellers**.

Action 4.2.02

Implementation of **participative socio-economic planning** in local communities involving preparation of integrated area-based plans.

Action 4.2.03

Implementation of actions to support **equality, diversity and social integration**, the latter involving different sections of communities in dialogue and working together on issues of common concern.

Action 4.2.04

Capacity building and other activities (**business plans, feasibility studies**) to assist local communities and groups to implement local initiatives in a variety of areas.

Action 5.1.01

Work with existing structures / fora for consultations and input to **policing and crime prevention**

Action 5.2.01

Promote multi-agency collaboration to support local communities to develop new or strengthen existing initiatives to **promote community safety** in urban and rural areas

8.5 Appendix –Community Assets

<p><u>Community Groups</u></p> <p>ACM Community Centre Tidy Towns Enable Ireland Castleconnell Project Ltd Love Castleconnell Active Social Group CAM Cancer Support Castleconnell Youth Club Care of the Aged Irish Country Women Association</p>	<p><u>Businesses</u></p> <p>Sloan’s Pharmacy Green Cross Pharmacy Whisps Hair Salon Angelways Holistic Centre Supervalu Shannon Stores McDermott Butchers Black and Green café Dalys Cross Service Station St Vincent de Paul charity shop Bamboo Garden Chinese restaurant and take away Five Star Kebab Castleconnell Kennels Nicole Sweeney School of Dance Riverbrook Nursing Home & Respite Care Castle Oaks House Hotel Rivergrove House B&B Beechfield House B&B</p>
<p><u>Pubs</u></p> <p>Guerins Mahers Bradshaws Charcos Herberts</p>	<p><u>Education</u></p> <p>Ahane NS Castleconnell NS Lisnagry NS ACM Kidz Sunny Lane Creche Castle Crèche</p>
<p><u>Community Facilities</u></p> <p>Community Hall Post Office Credit Union Health Centre</p>	<p><u>Residents Association</u></p> <p>Castlerock Residents Association Stradbally Residents Association St Patricks Villas Residents Scanlon Park Residents</p>
<p><u>Sporting groups</u></p> <p>Ahane GAA Ahane Camogie Ahane Ladies Football Castle Golf Society Castleconnell Boat Club Fisheries Association Limerick Footgolf Lisnagry Football Club</p>	<p><u>Leisure</u></p> <p>St Joseph’s Castleconnell Scouts ACM Cards Group Historical Society</p>
<p><u>Arts</u></p> <p>Castleconnell Drama Group Castleconnell Folk Group Castleconnell Village Singers</p>	<p><u>Religion</u></p> <p>St Joseph’s Catholic Church All Saints Church of Ireland</p>