



Draft for Public Consultation



**Lough Egish
Community
Plan**



2020-2025



Facilitated by
Monaghan
County
Council



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Foreword

If someone asked you what kind of community would you like to live in, what would you say to them?

Perhaps you would tell them that you would like to live somewhere where you feel welcome and safe, where the people are friendly, where there is lots going on that you can join in, and where you have access to all the services that you need. You would probably like to think that if there was something wrong, you could call on a neighbour for help, or if you were ill and hadn't been out of the house in a few days, someone would notice and come to check if you were ok.

Monaghan County Council is committed to supporting communities to be the best places to live, work and visit in Ireland. As part of our drive to support communities, we are helping communities to prepare Community Plans. Through a process of consultation with the people living and working in your community, Council staff have drafted a Vision of the Future for Lough Egish and the parish of Aughnamullen East and compiled a set of Priorities which will help the community to develop towards this Vision over the next ten years.

This document is a Draft Plan, which is a first try at gathering up everyone's thoughts on the way forward. We'd like you to take a look and let us know what you think. It's not too late to add new ideas, take some things out, or even go back to the drawing board, if necessary!

- What would make Lough Egish and the Parish of Aughnamullen East an even better place to live?
- Have the right priorities been identified in this Plan?
- If everything in this Plan was achieved, how would life have changed? Would it have improved for everyone?

At the back of this Plan, you will find a short questionnaire, which you can tear out and send back to us with your thoughts. We'll use those to make any necessary changes and additions to the document, before finalising the Community Plan.

Monaghan County Council is committed to supporting the communities of Co. Monaghan to become the best they can be. We hope to play a significant role in many of the projects outlined in the Plan and view the drafting of this document together with you, the community, as the first step in a long and fruitful partnership.

We will continue to assist you in delivering the Plan and will fund a Facilitator to help you through the first twelve months, to ensure the best possible start is made.

Thank you for your investment in Co. Monaghan.



Eamonn O Sullivan Chief Executive

Monaghan County Council



At the back of this document, you will find a short survey, which is provided for you to give us your thoughts. Please detach and return to any of the following:

Community Dept
Monaghan County Council
The Glen
Monaghan

Clones Ballybay MD Offices
The Diamond
Clones

Box provided in
Aughnamullen
Social Centre

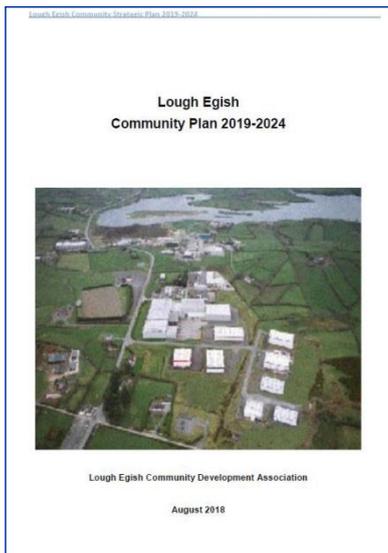
You can also fill out the survey online by following this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PXJLNRY>

Please return your submission by Friday 29th November 2019.

1. Introduction

Monaghan County Council and the Lough Egish community and area have a long history of collaboration, covering many areas, including business, Innovation sport, heritage and the arts.

The journey towards producing this Community Plan began in 2018, when Lough Egish Community Development Company carried out a planning exercise, in preparation for a number of government funding programmes which were in the pipeline. This resulted in the production of a five-year Community Plan for the Lough Egish area.



The production of the Lough Egish Plan involved wide consultation with the community and with the business sector, and it identified the key infrastructural projects which would underpin the development of the area over the next five to ten years.

In January 2019, Monaghan County Council met with Lough Egish Community Development Company, and with other community leaders, to discuss where the Council's community planning process might add value to the work already achieved by the community itself.

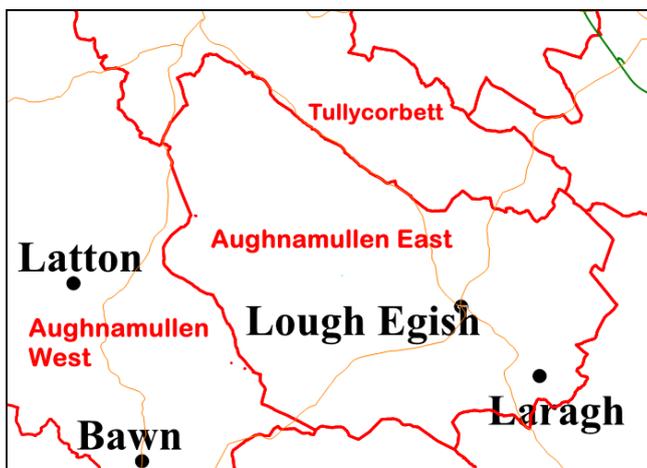
It was agreed that whereas the Lough Egish Community Plan had focused on the capital projects required to develop the area, Monaghan County Council might look at the programmes and 'soft' supports which might enable the people of the area to thrive. The Council would therefore focus on the activities and supports that the people of Lough Egish and indeed the Aughnamullen parish as a whole need, both in order to thrive as individuals, and in order for the Lough Egish area and its environs to be a strong, sustainable community.

This document brings together the work of Lough Egish Community Development Association and Monaghan County Council into one Draft Community Plan for the Lough Egish area. It looks at everything that is needed in the area in order for the people of the community to thrive.

2. Community Profile

2.1 Defining the Area

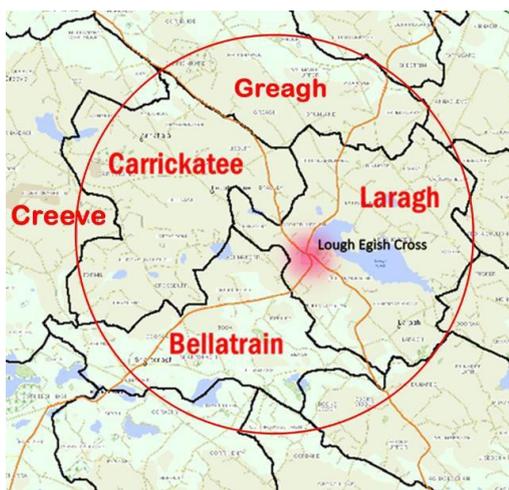
Lough Egish and the parish of Aughnamullen East is located right in the centre of County Monaghan. One of the issues which took up a lot of time in initial discussions was trying to define the exact area which makes up the community of Lough Egish.



Following the boundaries of the Parish of Aughnamullen East meant omitting people in the DED of Greagh, who belong to Tullycorbett Parish, and including half of Creeve DED, many of whose residents might identify more with either Bawn or Latton communities.

It was decided to use Lough Egish cross as a central point for the area. The map below shows roughly the area that the committee felt people identified as belonging to the community of Aughnamullen.

The area is made up of the entirety of three District Electoral Divisions, namely Carrickatee, Laragh and Bellatrain, as well as part of Greagh.



The following section presents some information which has been taken from the CSO's Census of Population, which collates the data by DED. As only part of Greagh DED is relevant to this Plan, we have not included data from this DED in the Plan, in case data relevant to the part of the DED which lies outside our study area might skew the overall data set. The information contained in the following section is based on data supplied on the three DED's of Carrickatee, Laragh and Bellatrain, along with interviews with local community groups. This will be further checked and balanced by the information received from the community through the survey associated with the public consultation on the Draft of this Plan.

2.2 Socio Economic Profile

Location

The Lough Egish Community within the parish of Aughnamullen East is located right in the centre of Co. Monaghan, only ten minutes' drive from Carrickmacross, Castleblayney, Ballybay or Shercock. It was this central rural location which made it an attractive location for the establishment of one of Ireland's first milk co-operatives, on the shores of Lough Egish, now known as Lakelands. The area is nestled in the heart of drumlin country, and features distinctive rolling hills and whitethorn hedges, interspersed with lakes and wetlands.

The area is very rural in nature, with no town or village settlements. There is a gathering of industrial buildings around Lough Egish cross, and some recent development has brought life back to the former mill village of Laragh; apart from these, civic buildings such as shops, schools, churches and community buildings tend to stand in isolation across the area, rather than around one focal point. This can make it difficult to provide transport links to amenities, or safe routes between them for vulnerable road users.

Layout

The closest the area has to a focal point is Lough Egish cross, at which is located a number of business premises as well as the GAA premises and main community centre for the area. The local primary school is located at some remove from here, along with a pre-school facility. The school is located along a very narrow minor road, 3.4km from the main source of employment in the area, i.e. Lough Egish Business Park. There are two catholic churches in the community, again, neither is connected to other amenities, so there are few opportunities to benefit from economies of scale or from sharing amenities such as car parking. There is one Church of Ireland building, and one former church at Laragh which is now used as a heritage centre.

Population

1,168 people make the Lough Egish area their home. This is broken down into:

388 households made up of:

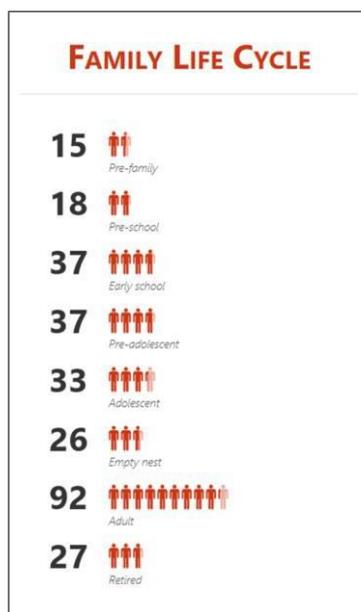
- 285 families
- 91 people live alone
 - 23% of all households

120 people in the community have a disability

- 10.3% of all people

32% of people in the Lough Egish Community are under the age of 20.

14% are over the age of 65.



There is a mix of family life cycle stages, with some still needing pre-school and early school facilities, many needing amenities for children and teens, and a growing pressure on the area to find ways of retaining their younger members into adulthood in order to keep the community alive into the future.

Disadvantage

According to the Haase Pratschke index of deprivation, the area was classified as 'marginally below average' in the 2016 Census. The area is slightly worse off than the county score, which while also classified as 'marginally below average', is nearer to the national average of 0 at -3.23 than any of the three DED's which make up Aughnamullen. The area has seen more of a fluctuation in its fortunes than the county has overall during the last ten years, however, as can be seen in the chart opposite. This is probably due to the area's strong ties to the agri sector.

	2006	2016
Carrickatee	-9.55	-4.94
Laragh	-3.33	-4.26
Bellatrain	-1.81	-5.14
COUNTY	-3.06	-3.23

Disadvantage scores for Lough Egish area

Housing

There are 385 houses in the community. 90% of these are owner occupied and 60% of these are mortgage free.

- 62 houses (16%) were built before 1919
- 12% of the community live in these houses
 - *Higher ratio of the people living alone, so they are likely to be older people, living in older, fuel-poor homes*
- 64% of the housing stock was built prior to 1990
 - *These homes are also likely to be energy inefficient*
- 81% of all the houses in Aughnamullen rely on oil for heating
- 31% rely on private wells for their water supply
- 82% rely on individual septic tanks for sewerage disposal

The environmental sustainability credentials of Aughnamullen's housing stock are low!

Nationality & Religion

- 91% of Aughnamullien's list their religion as Catholic
- 86% are Irish by birth, and 11% are UK citizens

8% of people speak Polish 11% speak Lithuanian

10 people speak little or no English

Education & Employment

- ❑ 74 households (19%) rely on farming/ agriculture as their main source of income
- ❑ 44% of the workforce left school at or before Junior Cert
- ❑ 53 people (11% of workforce) stated their home is also their place of work

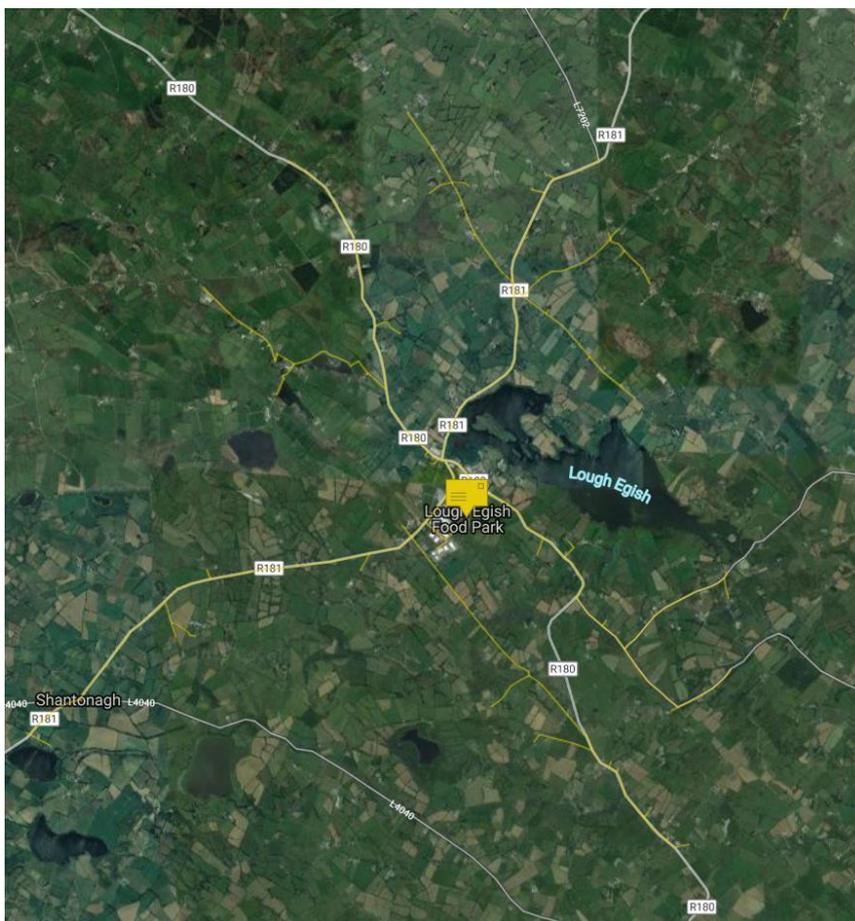
Lough Egish Business Park is the largest source of employment in the area. It is home to a number of food-related businesses, and ancillary services such as cold storage.

There is one primary school in the community, at Tossey, Loughmourne (Saint Oliver Plunketts NS) A community pre-school is located in portacabins on the school grounds but is operating at full capacity in its present home. There are plans to construct a purpose-built facility beside the school on a green-field site.

Connectivity

The area is rural in nature, with roads providing the only way to get around. In this context, it is surprising to find that 7% of households, or 28 houses, have no car.

- 35% of households have NO computer
- 60% HAVE broadband



According to www.fiberrollout.ie, broadband of up to 1000MB was to be available from winter 2018 at the premises along the routes outlined in yellow on the map above

Environment

The area is very sensitive to water pollution, due to the number of lakes. Biodiversity and climate adaptation considerations must be prioritised with any further development of the food park and lake.

Transport

Lough Egish lies on a regional intersection of routes (east-west and north-south), making it relatively easy in rural Irish terms to get around. However, the area is still totally reliant on vehicular transportation, and public transport links are rare. Cavan Monaghan Local Link runs a bus service through Lough Egish on a Friday to Ballybay, and Collins Coaches runs a daily bus service to Dublin from Ballybay through Lough Egish and Carrickmacross.

Culture & Heritage

The area is associated historically with the flax industry – Acadh na Muileann, the Irish version of the name references the mills which once dotted the landscape. Two mills still remain remarkably well preserved in the area, and the remains of the mill village of Laragh are being conserved by a very active heritage group. The former church of the village, St Peter's Tin Church, has been restored by the group, and is now in use as a heritage centre. It enjoys protection as a monument of national importance.

Lough Egish is of ornithological scientific interest and it is a good over-wintering site for Whooper and Bewick's Swans and Goldeneye. Breeding birds recorded here include Black-headed Gull, Common Sandpiper, Lapwing, Coot, Great Crested Grebe, Little Grebe, Tufted Duck and Pochard. Lough Egish bogs have also been listed in the County Development Plan as being a county site of Biodiversity Importance, and the scenic views around the lough have also been protected in the Plan.

A number of trees of special amenity value have been identified in Laragh village and given protection in the County Development Plan.

The Record of Protected Structures includes the following local landmarks:

Creevelands - Detached 3 bay two storey house	Creeve, Ballybay	Crossduff Church of Ireland	Shantonagh
Creeve Chimney Stack - Freestanding industrial brick chimney stack	Creeve, Ballybay	Farm Hill Flax Mill complex consisting of five bay two storey central building with water wheel	Reduff
Carnaveagh House - Detached three bay three storey house	Creeve, Ballybay	Laragh Hill workers cottages - Terraced of four two bay single storey mill worker's cottages with attic storeys	Laragh, Castleblayney
St. Mary's Catholic Church	Annahaia, Carrickatee		
Church of the Sacred Heart,	Tullynamaltra Crossroads, Lough Egish		
Single storey gatelodge	Creevelands, Creeve Ballybay		

How Lough Egish Fits into the County Development Plan

Monaghan County Council adopted a new County Development Plan in March 2019. This document outlines how MCC views the county developing over the next 5 to 7 years and sets out the types of development it will allow, and where, in order to guide and control development. Within the Plan, the Council has categorised Lough Egish as a 'Tier 6' type Settlement, and states that it sees the future for this type of settlement lying mainly in one-off housing developments. Where a settlement is mostly focused around a crossroads or community building, future developments should also try to take this into account.

2.3 Overview of Social Capital

Buildings & Amenities:

Social Centre



The main community building in the area is Aghnamullen Social Centre, which was built on GAA ground to the front of the Aghnamullen Sarsfields Football grounds. The current centre is itself an extension of the original Clubhouse, to make it into a community facility. This was facilitated by PEACE Programme funding, amongst other sources over many years. Amenities in the complex include a sports hall, gym, meeting rooms, and a bar/ lounge area. The bar can cater food and does dinners on Sundays.

Murals depicting local landmarks decorate the walls, promoting pride in the heritage of the area, as well as the local talent. The main car park lies between the building complex and the roadside and is used both by for events at the complex, and by employees working in the business park in the campus on the opposite side of the road.



The facilities at the GAA grounds include a pitch and walking track. The club has ambitions to floodlight the walking track and pitch and erect a seated stand, improve the surface of the pitch, and develop an all-weather training facility.

School

St Oliver Plunkett's school, Loughmourne is the only primary school in the community. In addition to catering for mainstream education needs, it houses an autism unit for the south Monaghan area. The school is located along a very narrow minor road, and experiences severe problems with vehicular access at opening and closing times, with buses being unable to turn, and lengthy delays being a regular feature of the school day. Parking for teachers is limited, and while there is ample land to the rear of the school, funding has limited the school's ability to provide play facilities.



Preschool



There is one community-run preschool, on the grounds of the school in old portacabins once used by the school. Plans have been drawn up to construct a new facility beside the school, but funding has yet to be found.

Consultation with the employers in the Food Park indicate that they would find it easier to recruit and retain employees if childcare were available close to the Food Park. Some thought should be given to finding a way to facilitate both the needs of local parents and those who need childcare closer to their place of work, so that both local families and local businesses may thrive.

There are a few notable gaps in community amenities in the area; there is no park, and no playground, for example, and despite having more than one lake with good access in the area, they remain underdeveloped for either angling or amenity use.

Carrickatee Hall



An old building to the roadside at Carrickatee chapel was formerly used as a community hall, and it holds an important place in the heritage of the local community. However, the site is completely surrounded by either road or graveyard, making it difficult to develop. As the building does not currently have toilets, the cost of bringing it up to modern building regulations would make this a very expensive proposition per metre gained. What would that same amount of money provide elsewhere in the community?

Saint Peters Tin Church Laragh

Laragh Tin Church is a listed building of national importance and as such we now have signage on most national routes and the Tin Church also features on Failte Ireland signage for Ireland's Ancient East. It has also been recognised on national television and media along with being advertised in the Aer Lingus autumn magazine as being a national heritage site. The Visitor book within the church highlights the number of visitors to the area which include a large number of overseas visitors.



Laragh Tin Church is also a site of social importance, attracting national and local bus tours along with other heritage and conservation groups. There are also a number of events held throughout the year such as an Irish language summer camp for children with

an attendance of over 70 children, also a visit from Santa Claus which attracts up to 500 children. The Tin Church is also used as a venue for bands and drama groups and also as a location for promotional videos and wedding photography. The Heritage Group has also provided a sense of community amongst the local people, as they now use the walkways around the Tin Church along with the community garden which provides them with somewhere to picnic and avail of seasonal flowers and vegetables.

Crossduff Church



This limestone-built Church of Ireland church dated 1828 was restored in the 1990s. Its congregation are few in number and will require the assistance of the wider community to care for this fine building on an ongoing basis.

Outdoor Amenities

Lough Egish lake is 289 acres in size and roughly 13 times larger than the size of Dublin's St Stephens Green Park . The lake is difficult to navigate, with many submerged rocks lying close to the surface. The Two Loughs are well known in the area for being good coarse angling lakes.

Chapel Moyle



On the rocky shore of Lough Egish in the Town land of Lattonfaskey is an ancient and interesting ecclesiastical site. Chapel (Temple) Moyle is steeped in historical significance as far back as 1590 AD where it is marked on ancient mapping as Temple Egas. This fine old monastery site is registered in Rome as one of the oldest burial places in Ireland. The ruins of an ancient Franciscan monastery which was destroyed by Cromwell remain at the site, in a scenic and ever-changing landscape which could support tourism and amenity type developments. The Temple Moyle heritage site/hub is accessible from the local road which interlinks to the R181.

Hunting and shooting are popular, with an active hunt club and a shooting range in the in the area.

Care needs to be taken to ensure that any development of local amenities for economic reasons does not result in a lowering of the high-quality environment that the local residents enjoy, or endanger the sustainability of local wildlife and habitats.

Carrickatee Rocks

Carraigarellan Well is situated in Carrickatee at the foot of a high rock convenient to the chapel. This well is said to be a holy one and the people of the district used to go to it to get cured of headaches. They had to say some prayers, bathe their foreheads and drink some of the water.

The well is said to never go dry even in the warmest days of summer. Beside it there is a Mass Rock, where mass was celebrated in the penal days when the practice of the Catholic religion was forbidden by law.

Some distance from this rock there is a place which is called the gunroom, where the English soldiers were said to have kept their guns hidden.

These landmarks are reminders of periods in Ireland's past which shaped the community as it is today. They need to be marked and their story told, as they are a part of us.

Local Groups:

Lough Egish Community Development Company Limited by Guarantee

The Lough Egish Community Development Company (LECD) was incorporated on the 6th March 1996. LECD as part of a unique partnership with Private Sector Companies, Monaghan County Council and Grant Agencies led to the successful development of Lough Egish Food Park. This successful partnership continues to influence growth potential at the Food Park.

In addition, the PPN registered Community Development Company continues to deliver on its goal to develop the area, for the benefit of the people of Lough Egish community and its surrounding environs within and outside of Aghnamullen.

LECD sees its future role in the community as being one of co-ordinating and facilitating development, bringing people together to enable projects to be put together, and helping groups to put together funding applications so that the area can maximise the potential for new developments benefiting the area.

Sarsfield's GAA

Founded in 1954, the Aghnamullen Sarsfields are the local Gaelic Football Club that covers the wider parish. The club grounds are located adjacent to the Food Park and Lough Egish cross roads. The club currently tables fields very successful men's and ladies' teams from underage right up to senior level, and engages in an extensive programmes to promote wellbeing to the general community.

Aghnamullen Sport, Leisure and Social Development Association Ltd.



Sam Maguire Cup at Aghnamullen Gym. Photos copyright of Mary Byrne @ Castleblayney News

Established in 2005, this very successful organisation oversees the delivery of fitness and leisure facilities through a lease arrangement with Aghnamullen Sarsfields. The entity is PPN registered and are active participants in that body.

Le Cheile Community Resources CLG

Established and registered as a CLG in April 2017, this board of management's objective is to broaden and enhance the remit of Saint Oliver Plunkett Community Preschool Ltd. It has plans to construct a new purpose built childcare facility located on and adjacent to Saint Oliver Plunketts National School.



Artists impression of proposed new childcare facility

Laragh Heritage



Laragh Heritage was founded in 2012 by a group of residents and friends of Laragh village and surrounding townlands with common interests and aims; to bring our community together and to form links with those people with Laragh connections. One of the group's most successful projects has been the restoration of Laragh Tin Church, which also provides a venue for many of the events which are hosted by the group. The total visitor numbers to Laragh "Tin Church" in 2017 was approx. 3,500.

Ceara

Ceara women's group run a regular programme of outings, talks and demonstrations which mix information provision with craic and friendship.

Rod & Gun Club

There is a strong interest in shooting and fishing in the area, which is not surprising, given the number and size of lakes in the area, and the rural nature of the landscape. This club dates to the early fifties and has over 100 members presently.

Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann

There is an active branch of CCE in Aughnamullen, which organises regular music lessons and supports its members to compete in Fleadhanna Cheoil.

Aughnamullen Pipe Band



Formed in the 1940's as Lough Egish band its was renamed in the 1970s as Aughnamullen East Pipe Band and it recently celebrated its 40th birthday with a function in the Aughnamullen community social centre. The band has over thirty pipers and drummers with the youngest pipers been trained at 5 years of age.

Holistic Dogs

A nonprofit organisation that provides a unique kenneling service, facilitates re-homing & rescuing dogs and provides natural methods to rehabilitate animals back to their happy self. All kenneled dogs have the opportunity to avail of services and are spoilt with swims & walks.

Lough Egish Vintage



Celebrating its 10th birthday in 2019, this active group of vintage enthusiasms recreate and presents the ambience and activities of a typical harvest day. This social gathering draws more than 800 people to the community centre grounds for the annual event which also sees a community dance late into the night.

Macra na Feirme

Macra remains active in the area, catering for young rural adults up to age 35. However, there is a need for an organisation to target teenage youth in the area.

Community Alert

Aughnamullen Community Text Alert provides a service right across the area. It has recently joined the new county-wide Monaghan Community Alerts initiative set up by the Joint Policing Committee.

Human Resources

The area belongs to the Muckno Parishes CE Scheme, which allocates workers to the following:

- Aughnamullen Church & Grounds
- Carrickatee Church & Grounds
- Aughnamullen Sarsfields grounds

Festivals

Aughnamullen was once famous for its annual carnival, which was first held 50 years ago in Oct '69 and was one of the most popular festivals in the county for 2 decades.

Recent annual festivities include the parish annual tractor run in July, the annual parish dance also run in July, the Laragh Flax festival in September, and the vintage festival every October bank Holiday weekend.



In addition, an annual 5km walk is conducted in memory of Michelle Mc Cabe. This walk raises funds for all the local charities draws of a large support for the community and the neighbouring communities.

2.4 Gaps in Social Capital

While the range of groups in the area is impressive, there are some notable gaps which should be looked at. For example, there are few activities for children outside of structured school activities and the GAA, and there are few amenities where young people might come together on a casual basis to socialise. There is no youth club.

At the other end of the age scale, again there are few organised activities or spaces which cater for older people. In a rural area such as Lough Egish, isolation, particularly of older people, is likely to be an issue, and initiatives such as the men's shed or an active age/ older persons club in Lough Egish could be of assistance in this regard. The community centre has the capacity to provide meals; could it combine some social activities for older people with lunches? The prospect of a hot meal might also prove attractive to workers across the road in the Food Park.

There has been no Tidy Towns group since the early 1990's, and no area in the community competes in the National Tidy Towns competition.

This shows in the lack of progress made in improving the physical appearance of the area over the years: one of the benefits of having a Tidy Towns committee is that they work to a plan and make improvements to the area year on year.

3. Community Planning

3.1 Community Survey

During 2018, Lough Egish Community Development Company carried out a Community Survey, asking the people of the area what they felt was needed in the area. Ideas included:

- Day care for the elderly
- More indoor sports facilities
- A youth club
- activities for kids that aren't sport-focused
- a small housing project
- a playground/ outdoor recreation area
- improved access at the school
- more transport links
- coffee mornings & social meet-ups
- tidy up the cross roads
- new community childcare facility

3.2 Business Park Needs

Right in the centre of Aghnamullen East parish and the Lough Egish Community lies Lough Egish cross, which has developed over the years into a business park of significant size. The businesses are mostly connected to the food sector and related services. The development has three broad components:

- The first, nearest to Lough Egish Lake, dates back to the founding of a farmer's co-operative on the site, which has evolved into the current Lakelands operation.
- The second consists of the privately-owned businesses on the roadside which service the co-op and its customers
- The third, most recent development is a substantial plot of land behind the Lakelands co-op and extending up from the crossroads towards Lough Egish chapel, past the GAA grounds. This park was developed in partnership with the local community and included a significant expansion in capacity of the water treatment plant, which not only provided for new businesses within the food park, but for the expansion of the existing Lakelands facility.

The amenity has grown into a substantial regional hub for the processing and storage of food products.

The amenity is one of the largest employment campuses in Co. Monaghan, with many of the businesses operating around the clock.

We invited campus businesses to meet with Council staff to discuss their needs. Challenges identified included:

- The entrances to the campus could be enhanced, with clearer signposting, to help new lorry drivers identify which entrance to use
- Transport links could be improved to neighbouring towns, especially for shift workers
- Some employees are dropped off at Lough Egish Cross and make their way up to the Food Park from there. There is no footpath or lighting from the cross to the Food Park entrance, so this is a dangerous situation which needs to be rectified as a priority.
- A bus shelter at the cross would also be of benefit for those waiting for lifts/ bus links to town
- Childcare: being able to drop children off on the way to work, and having after school care available locally would enable many employees to remain in work after becoming parents
- Food/ lunch/ rest facilities for some businesses, which do not have canteen facilities with hot food available

- Car parking is an issue for some businesses, with accommodation being provided by the GAA at the social centre opposite the Business Park. This creates a road safety issue, as this stretch of road is known for speeding. A pedestrian crossing is recommended.
- Wi-Fi access would enable workers to do some personal business online during breaks, eg banking, paying bills, booking holidays etc. It's difficult to get these done when you work in a rural area and have limited time to get into town during work hours.

Where employees' needs can be accommodated by the local community, it will greatly aid the businesses in holding on to valued employees, ensuring that it is sustainable for them to remain in Lough Egish for the long term.

Providing services such as childcare and hot lunches to the business park is also an opportunity for the local community, which may help to increase the number of customers/ users of amenities & services to a feasible level, thus enabling this rural area to benefit from facilities, services and activities that would not normally be viable in such a small rural community.

3.3 Community Meetings

Monaghan County Council met twice with the local community, including representatives of voluntary groups active in the area. The meetings provided the community with an opportunity to discuss the priority needs for the area. These included:

- Enhancements to the primary school, including improved access for buses, car parking facilities, and improved play facilities for the children
- Amenities and activities for older children and young people
- Road safety – traffic calming, particularly near community facilities
- More community events, to bring people together more often
- Supports for older people, particular to improve social connections
- Supports for mental well-being, particularly for men, and people living alone
- More leisure facilities
- Development of a new community childcare facility
- More heritage information, to help develop tourism in the area
- Access to the lakes

Key projects identified included:

- New community childcare facility
- Car parking at Carrickatee Church & hall
- Creation of a community park
- Improved signage to amenities around the community, including school, churches and lakes.
- Improved rural transport links across the area
- Public realm works to improve the appearance of Lough Egish cross
- Refurbishment of Carrickatee Hall to provide meeting facilities for the community

3.4 SWOT Analysis

Lough Egish Community Development Company, when completing their Community Plan during 2018 looked at the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats facing the Lough Egish and Aughnamullen areas. They are:

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Levels of Self-Employment; • Strong Agricultural Base; • Established Community Structures; • Strong volunteerism tradition • Strong Base of Work Skills and higher education. • Strong community & voluntary sector • Accessible Location • Population Growth & Potential • Good Local Committee • Lots of Groups & Organisations – • Established School and Autistic Centre • Have large town and city bus Services • Location adjacent to a regional traffic route • Strong fundraising ability locally. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No clear scene of place/ village • No community hub or all-encompassing focal point. • No Garda Station • Poor Community Physical Infrastructure • Lack of Community Hub • Lack of Political Representation • Lack of Services/Retail • Lack of broadband infrastructure • Poor Telecom connectivity
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Rural Development Programme will bring an opportunity to realise some significant capital projects. • To help with and provide much needed local services. • Improve Quality of Life • Tap into EU & Public Funding Schemes • Develop Strategic partnerships • Apply for village status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commuter culture – people travel outside the area to work. • Lack of Inward Investment. • Economic downturn, improved economy not reflected locally. • Costs of basic services. • Availability of adequate funding to realise plans. • Losing Business opportunity. • Losing Young People. • Decline in Population. • Visual Appearance continue to further deteriorate. • Crime. • Loss of Jobs & Economic Activity • Further Loss of Public Services.

3.5 Schools Consultation

Staff of Monaghan County Council visited the Saint Oliver Plunkett's Loughmourne School in April 2019 and spoke to 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th class students about what they liked and didn't like about living in the parish of Aughtnamullen East and the Lough Egish community. They also spoke to them about what they would like to see happen in the community, and how to make it an even better place to live.

The children are very concerned about the amount of littering in their environment. They spoke a lot about pollution and providing habitats for wildlife. They want to have more activities to do in the early evenings, preferably not sport.

They view the community centre down at the GAA grounds as the hub of community life, and would like to spend more time there, taking part in a range of activities.

They also would like improved play facilities at the school, and also a park in the community.

Here is a snapshot of what the children had to say:



3.6 Key Issues for Lough Egish

Having listened to everything the people of Lough Egish and the parish of Aughnamullen East have to say about their community, Monaghan County Council pulled all the information together, and have identified the following as being priority issues for the community:

- *Lack of an 'Identity' for the area,*
- **Lack of priority given to the visual appearance of the industrial area around Lough Egish crossroads**
- **No Tidy Towns initiative in the area and no public realm/ Tidy Towns plan**
- **Lack of day-care and an older persons hub**

These are all contributing to a less-than-idyllic physical environment, which has been noticed by the children of the area. They will surely impinge on the extent to which the area can develop a tourism infrastructure, and therefore have a direct impact on the local economy, as well as on the people's pride in their community.

- *Lack of community-owned space, such as a park*
- **Lack of a public playground**
- **Lack of public use of Lough Egish as an amenity – one of the largest lakes in the county**

These are opportunities which are being missed in an area which is rich in natural wealth, yet which has developed few community facilities apart from the GAA grounds and the recent restoration of St Peters Church at Laragh

- *The Lough Egish Community Development Company has been focused on the development of the Business Park and has been very successful in doing so by providing key infrastructure such as the effluent treatment, however greater focus need to be afforded to opportunities necessary to develop amenities for the use of the local community*

The Group needs to consider its purpose, and perhaps consider re-structuring so that it can effectively split its attention between both the needs of the local community and the Business Park. This would allow it to take on more projects at a time.

- *Similarly, there are cohorts of the community for whom there are very few activities currently being run. The needs of young people and older people are not being adequately met, for instance.*

A drop-in space for non-activity-centred socialising is needed, as are more organised clubs and activities. Young people in particular need to be engaged and encouraged to get out and get involved. The biggest factor in whether they will come along or not is the quality of the space and activities provided. Let the young people lead the design and take ownership of the project, and they will support the space when in place.

The needs of children also require attention.

- *St Oliver Plunkett's NS needs upgrading works, including road safety works and play facilities*
- **The children are asking for more after-school, non-sport activities**

Parents are also asking for help. Childcare is an issue for many, including for those working on the Business Park campus

- *All-day child care service is required to cater for working parents*
- **Parent & toddler activities and supports for parents of older children are also recommended**

3.7 Projects in Development 2019

The consultation process facilitated the various stakeholders to exchange information, and in some cases to make progress on plans. It was revealed over the course of putting together this Plan that the following projects are underway, in tandem to the completion of this community planning exercise.

Community Well Being Centre

- Right on the doorstep of the Food Park Hub is an established recreational amenity that currently has two pitches and with plans to develop a MUGA at the Aughnamullen GFC site.
- The committee is presently concluding a very successful six figure fundraising challenge that has given the group the capacity to match fund multiple sports capital programmes into 2020 and beyond.

Lough Egish Community Development

- The Lough Egish Community Development Company made an application to the 2019 Town and Village Improvement Fund to create a Footpath linkage from Lough Egish Cross roads past the GFC and Food park linking to the church car park. Depending on amount secured, this may require successive funding applications before the project is complete
- The Group has also secured €50k from the Leader programme to appoint a specialist consultant to assess the business needs of the Lough Egish Food park and its supporting community
- Further collaboration with the Local Enterprise Office in Monaghan During 2019 should result in the addition of new enterprises at the Food Park.

Laragh Heritage

- A planning application is in development for permanent toilet facilities on site to enable the Tin Church to cater for further events

Saint Oliver Plunkett's NS Loughmourne

- The School made a successful application to CLAR in 2019 for Funding to address bus turning and car parking issues at the school. They will now seek improvements on road safety at the school entrance

Le Cheile Community Resources CLG

- Plans are at an advanced stage for the development of a new, Purpose-built childcare facility. Planning permission has been granted for a 678m² indoor and outdoor area, sensory garden, car parking and effluent treatment adjacent to Saint Oliver Plunkett's National School at Loughmourne. Funding is not yet in place for the project, however.

4. A Vision of the Future

A 'vision' is a picture that the community creates in its head of the end result of its efforts. It describes what the Lough Egish community as a whole in Aughnamullen will look like at a specified time in the future –say in ten years' time - after all the hard work has paid off, and the various initiatives have been put in place to create the 'Ideal Lough Egish'. ***Here is our suggested vision for Lough Egish/ Aughnamullen:***

A Vision for the Lough Egish Community in Aughnamullen in 2029:

Aughnamullen is a beautiful rural community, with good local amenities and a clean, tidy environment. People take pride in the area, and love living here. Everybody feels welcome in Aughnamullen, and everyone has a part to play in the community. There is always something going on, and nobody is left out, young or old.

There are regular social gatherings, which help to keep this community closely connected, and helps to ensure that the needs of the people are identified and acted upon, thereby ensuring this community will remain strong and successful for many years to come."

There are four key elements to this Vision:

1. The **physical appearance** of the area
2. The **activities & amenities** which are built up within the area
3. Looking after the vulnerable **people** of the area
4. **Building community spirit**, so that everyone feels equally welcome and knows how they can contribute best to their community. The idea of giving back to community should be automatic to everyone in a strong community.

We have identified Five key Strategies which will help to drive progress towards this Vision:

- Creation of a **strong identity/ brand** for the area
- **Improvement to amenities and services**
- Improving **road safety**
- Ensuring that **everyone's** needs are looked after (social inclusion)
- Building a **strong community spirit**

There are three underlying objectives which sit at the heart of the work:

- **Addressing Isolation**
- **Promoting Community Spirit and Pride**
- **Sensitive Development & Promotion of Local Heritage**

The next section lays out how and what we propose to do.

5. Main Strategies

5.1 Creation of 'Identity'

The Lough Egish Community within Aughnamullen East is very dispersed, with no one centre around which the community is focused, such as a village. There are no welcome signs to the area, to orient the visitor and inform them they have arrived in the Lough Egish Community. There are few places where the name 'Aughnamullen' is featured, giving few occasions for the creation of a sense of identity or belonging to the community.

To assist in the creation of a sense of one community, the name 'Aughnamullen' should be used more widely - in Carrickatee and Laragh and Lough Egish – to convey the sense of the area all belonging to the one community. This will bear fruit also in helping to promote a sense of pride in the area.

The primary character of the area is rural, and for the most part the area enjoys a blend of the most stunning drumlins covered with whitethorn hedges and studded with lakes. However, right in the middle of what is an idyllic rural location, a cluster of buildings of very unlovely industrial design has grown up around Lough Egish crossroads, particularly those associated with the dairy co-op.

This area is very industrial in appearance, with functional rather than beautiful buildings. This lends an 'uncared-for' feel to the area, which the local community has done its best to offset by creating a feature at the crossroads. The road verges themselves lack definition, which, when traversed by heavily lorries, get cut up on a regular basis and give a careless appearance to the crossroads area. The dead space between buildings looks unloved and very hard – there is no greenery, no colour, and no effort made to 'soften' the bulky buildings with trees to blend in to the surrounding countryside.

While we understand that the purpose of these buildings is industrial, so also must the businesses responsible for them understand that they are located within a community, and that the community is affected by their appearance.

The community and businesses need to form a partnership to address the physical appearance of the area. This should start by agreeing a set of objectives for the partnership, and then setting out to achieve them together. Funding is available for such initiatives through programmes such as the government's Town & Village Renewal Programme, which offers between €20,000 and €100,000 for projects which aim to revitalise areas of dereliction to stimulate local economies. Competitions such as the National Tidy Towns competition can yield further cash incentives.

The GAA grounds car park is in need of resurfacing and landscaping, and the area around Lough Egish cross also needs to be landscaped.

It is difficult to take pride in your area when you feel it doesn't look its best, so this is an important place to start. It also has a real impact on the area's economic potential, as the area's tourism potential cannot be realised until it matches up to the image of unspoilt countryside that holidaymakers have in their minds when they come to Ireland.

The children have noticed the lack of pride in the area's appearance, which shows up as a serious littering habit throughout the countryside. We believe that the littering is a symptom of the lack of regard many have for the physical appearance of the area. It has been proven in many studies that when an area looks uncared for, it attracts more and more vandalism, littering and graffiti, whereas if it is well kept, incidences of antisocial behaviour drop dramatically.

While this may seem like an insignificant thing to focus on, it has such a profound effect on people's mindset, and it has the potential to transform both the appearance of the area and the outlook of the community. Therefore we propose that the community make the appearance of the area a priority.

We recommend the following:

- That a Tidy Towns movement is started in the community, and that the area gets involved in the national competition
- That a Public Realm Plan be developed for the area around Lough Egish cross, to include measures to give proper definition to the roadside boundaries, some visual enhancement of the road side around the cross itself, and public lighting and footpaths from the cross up to the business park.
- That a brand/ image for the area should be developed, and feature welcome signage erected on the approach roads, to define the boundaries of the community and raise awareness and pride
- That local heritage be promoted through the erection of visitor information points, perhaps drawing inspiration from the area's association with flax mills, from which the name Acadh na Muileann (the field of the mills) derives.
- That the ancient monastic site of "Chapelmoyle" is developed, with a recreational linkage back to the community centre and the Laragh heritage projects.

5.2 Improving Community Amenities & Services

We recommend the following amenities be developed as a priority:

- A Youth Hub, to include Wi-Fi, and a coffee area, to encourage young people to call in and spend time in the Hub on a regular basis
- A new community childcare facility
- Develop a Community Park
- Enhance information signage to and at the heritage sites & provide access to information on the sites online, in leaflets etc
- Provide access to Lough Egish for rowing boats from a point visible from the main road, to promote tourism development
- Develop with the necessary sensitivities the ancient monastic site at Chapel Moyle
- A public playground, preferably as part of the community park development
- Extension of the services available at the Social Centre, to include more activities for older people and children, and hot meals on a 5 days/week basis to cater for the Business Park employees as well as older people in the area.
- That the sports & recreation facilities at the GAA park be extended, to become the recreational hub for the area. Economies of scale should be sought with regard to using the community-owned buildings at the centre of the facility to provide changing facilities for other amenities such as a walking track, multi-use games area (MUGA) etc. in the same locality.

Other projects which should be considered include:

- The restoration of the mill cottages at Laragh
- The restoration of Carrickatee Hall
- Consideration should be given to the housing needs of the area.
 - o How many older people are living alone, and would like to move into a sheltered housing project within the next 3-5 years?
 - o How many young people would like to build family homes in the area?
 - o How many local homeowners would like to improve their home's energy performance, and avail of assistance to deep retrofit their family's home?

5.3 Road Safety

If one should wish to be dropped off or picked up at the crossroads and walk up to the GAA grounds or Food Park, which is a very short distance from the cross, there is no footpath, verge or lighting to safely see you to your destination. Workers parking in the GAA car park take their lives in their hands as they try to cross the only straight and wide stretch of road as vehicles pick up speed leaving the cross. A pedestrian crossing is needed. Some road markings to effectively narrow the surface of the roadway and discourage speeding would greatly increase road safety for all at this location.

The Business Park has two entrances, which are not clearly marked. This is confusing for a new driver and could lead to a road traffic accident as drivers stop in the middle of the road to assess the situation. Some feature signage to brand the park and to signpost which entrance is the correct one for which business would be helpful to drivers.

There are traffic congestion problems at the school, with buses not being able to get turned due to parents trying to drop off children along the same narrow road.

We recommend:

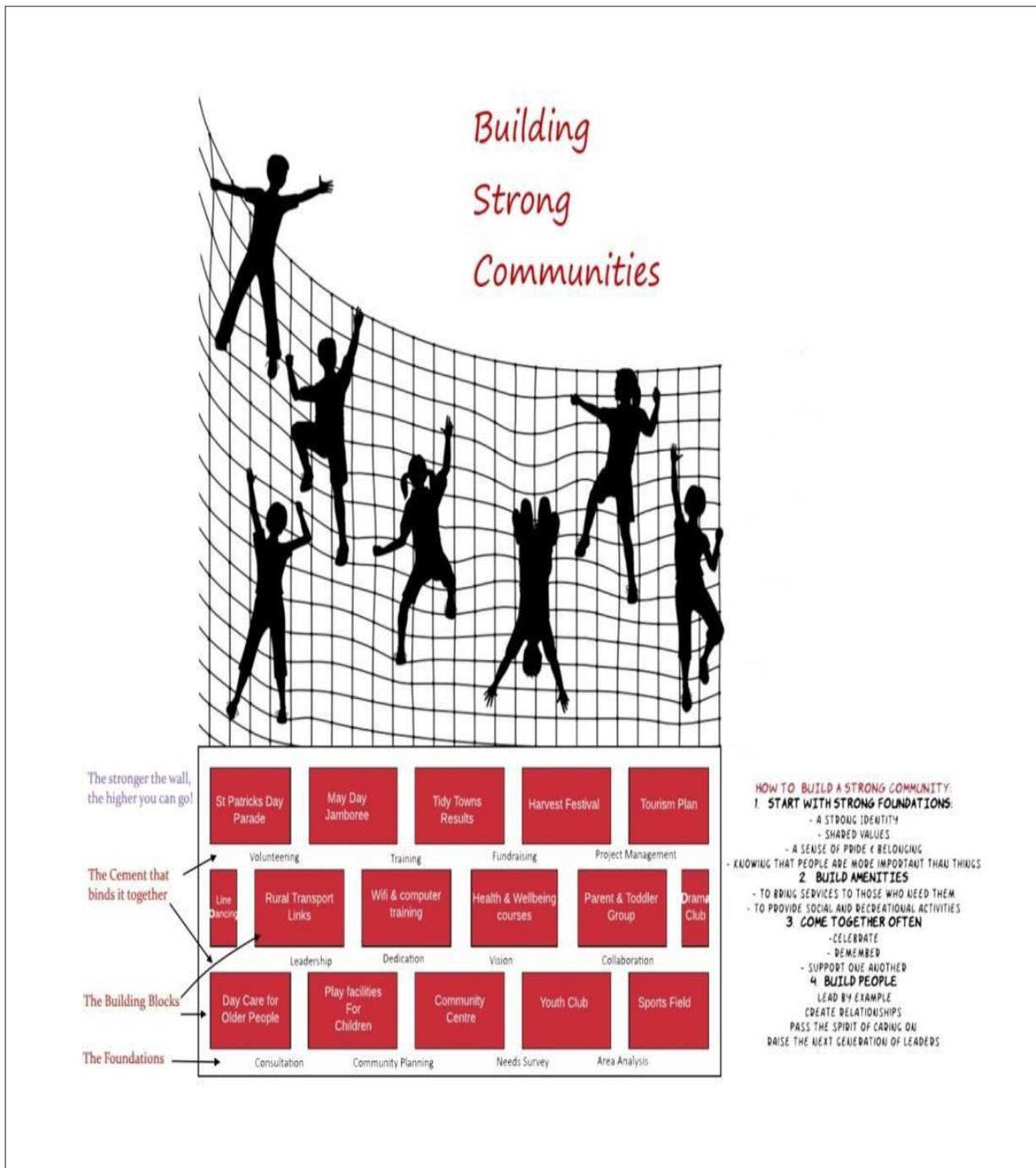
- Traffic calming measures & pedestrian crossing at food park
- Pedestrian link between food park and Lough Egish cross
- Bus shelter at crossroads
- Feature signage for food park
- Road improvements and access works at the Saint Oliver Plunkett Loughmourne NS

5.4 Looking after Everyone

A community thrives when the people who live and work in it know each other well and come together often. They learn from one another, and they help one another to grow. They also look out for each other. As a person passes through life, there will be times when they will need a lot of care and others when they have the capacity to give care to others.

There will be times in their life when things are going well, and other times when they will need the support of others to get through; sometimes emotionally, sometimes physically, sometimes even financially. There will be people in the community who will have skills that they can use to help give something back; others will be vulnerable and need the community's protection. A strong community finds a place for all, and everyone finds their place.

Many things have a part to play in creating a strong community, and all must be present in order to achieve a good balance, capable of withstanding the storms and tempests that time and life will bring.



At present, there are very few activities or groups focusing on the needs of older people or children and teenagers. These are vulnerable members of the community and this should be looked at specifically.

It is also of concern that the people who work in the Food Park are being ignored. At best, the community is missing an opportunity – the social club could be making money from providing lunches, for example. At worst, the indifferent attitude of the community to the needs of the workers on the campus may jeopardise the long-term survival of the campus itself, if the businesses located on the campus find it difficult to recruit or retain employees due to the remote location, difficulties accessing suitable childcare, transportation etc.

We recommend:

- The needs of the business community are more actively considered by the community. By providing meeting facilities, catering, hot lunches at the social club, an income stream could be created which could benefit the community and subsidise many worthwhile services in the area.
- That the Lough Egish Community Development Company re-focuses, to look not just at the needs of the Food Park, but at developing programmes and activities for the wider community, using facilities such as the Social Centre
- That the facilities already built up around the Social Club become the locus for future community development, to make the most economic use of resources already invested in toilets, car parking etc.
- The Social Club should look into providing hot lunches, to serve not just the workers in the Food Park, but also the community of Aughnamullen East
 - o Funding is available from the HSE for example to provide a service to older people
- That a Youth Club is established in the area and a youth space is provided
- More focus on supports for older people be developed, to include a social element, and also to look at services such as day care, seniors alert and rural transport.

5.5 Nurturing Community Spirit

As people become increasingly busy, we cannot take it for granted any more that people will automatically know how to be good neighbours or know that this is important because it builds strong community bonds that see us through in tough times.

We also cannot take it for granted that the next generation are picking up the skills that come naturally to the present generation; where are our young people being given the opportunity to participate in community activities? Where are they learning how to organise events? How to plan activities? How to run fundraisers? How to run meetings?

Community spirit has to be built, and then it has to be nurtured. It can be built around a cause, or a team. It can be nurtured by bringing people together regularly to celebrate, to commiserate, to have the craic, to remember, and to find joy in each other's company. Community days and festivals are the foundation stone upon which a strong community thrives. The community needs to build on its successes when it comes to functions and dances. It is recommended that all groups should get involved in running an annual festival, to pull people together and help bind them.

We recommend:

- That a community park be created, to provide local people with somewhere they can share, and can come together for small events, family picnics, fun days etc. The park will function as a Community Space and will be an important asset in fostering a sense of community spirit, providing a place for people to meet, get to know their neighbours, and enjoy belonging to the community of Lough Egish and Aughnamullen East
- That the community develop an annual event, to bring people together at least once a year for a bit of craic. This event will provide an opportunity to 'touch base' and check that all is well with the community, to ask people what activities and they would like to see run over the upcoming period, and also to act as a thank you to all who have been working hard behind the scenes all year. It will also promote a sense of community. We suggest that the community look at rejuvenating the Carnival, with all local groups helping to organise aspects of the event (using the 50th anniversary of the first carnival as a reason to reminisce and celebrate the people of Aughnamullen)
- That a 'committee shadowing' programme be initiated by all local groups, whereby young people are invited onto all committees, and given the role of shadowing those in positions of responsibility, so that they may 'learn the ropes'.

- To ensure that young people are given a meaningful role in local development, the young people who become involved in shadowing local committees should be facilitated to form a Youth Leaders committee and mentored to take on their own programme of work. Two good starting projects might be:
 - o The researching of local heritage and development of a heritage trail, with website, app and on-site information boards.
 - o The development of a brand/ logo for Aughnamullen, to be used on all promotional material including the heritage signage
- That a Community Council be set up, with a seat being given to each community group active in Aughnamullen. The purpose of the Council will be to meet once a year to review progress on developing the area, identify problems, agree solutions, and plan for the future. Monaghan County Council will attend the meetings if requested.
- That a website (linked to Facebook) be set up to cover the whole community, with each group posting their news to the site. This will aid in keeping everyone in touch with what is happening in the community, and will enable groups to gain feedback from the residents of the area through surveys etc. This will help the community to respond to emerging needs as the years roll on.

5.6 The Main Objectives behind the Priority Themes

Addressing Isolation

The research has shown that for many reasons, there are many people in the community who are at risk of becoming isolated, be it because they live alone, or they are newly arrived to the area, or they have small children and can't get out much, or they are disabled, or they have no transport or no internet access.

Councils and community groups working together can be very good at addressing causes of isolation, through the provision of services, the development of amenities, and the running of activities such as fun days, evening classes, etc.

A number of actions are proposed for the Lough Egish community in Aughnamullen, including the creation of a Community Park, where people can come together, and the creation of an annual family festival, to enable people to celebrate together and strengthen community connections.

Involvement in community activities can be difficult when you don't know many people; it can be intimidating to step into a gathering where you're the only person who seems to not know everyone there. Clubs need to be mindful of this and find innovative ways of providing a less 'closed' face to those who may not have the confidence to approach them. Could you introduce a 'newbies' day into your calendar of events, for example?

Promotion of Community Spirit & Pride

Giving the community – young and old, newly arrived and lifelong residents alike – a Community Plan to get behind, to sign up to, and to play an active role in delivering, gives everyone a chance to be a part of a fresh start for Aughnamullen. Everyone will be asked to identify what part they play, and what gifts they bring to the community, and to put something back into their community.

Starting a Tidy Towns group in the area and making enhancements to the appearance of the area around Lough Egish cross will provide local residents with the opportunity to take action to improve the appearance of their area, and to take pride in their community. The development of a brand and the promotion of the area's heritage will also give the community a sense of self and something to be proud of. As they see these projects begin to slot into place, the community will rightfully take pride in their achievements together.

Sensitive Development & Promotion of Local Heritage

The community is situated in an ancient pocket of the county and has much heritage to be explored. However, there is little signage, or literature promoting the area's history and culture. The Plan includes actions which will promote the area's heritage and make it more accessible for visitors. This will also help to generate local pride in the area.

6. The Action Plan

The table below outlines the wider suite of projects and activities which have been suggested by you, each of which will play a part in achieving the Vision set out for the Lough Egish community within Aughnamullen.

We find that unless a task is assigned to someone, it doesn't get done, and unless you give that task a deadline, it never moves forward. So, against each Action, we have listed the organisation/s which needs to take the initiative to make that project happen, and a pathway to progress the project – the next steps to making it happen.

These are for guidance only. Plans work best when they stay flexible and respond as local circumstances change. This is why we recommend that the community comes together once a year to review how things are going and see if its priorities remain the same.

When prioritising projects, as a community, we recommend that the following criteria be used, in determining how one project is given priority over another on the list:

- *Their potential to impact on a large number of people*
- *Their potential to have a far-reaching impact through facilitating people accessing personal development opportunities*
- *Their potential to improve the quality of life for people in the community through improved services, access to opportunities, etc.*

Only the people of Lough Egish and the Aughnamullen community will know the right balance of projects to meet their needs.

We have suggested a committee shadowing programme as a mechanism to facilitate the inclusion of new people onto local committee structures. Strong communities know that the knowledge of how to carry out community projects must be known to as many in the community as possible, so that all may understand the important role they play in creating the 'glue' that holds the community together.

A community that:

- ***understands and values community development***
- ***nurtures its youth and supports young families***

will never be short of willing volunteers

For this reason, you will find that our Plan does not focus entirely on **Projects**, but also on the **Programmes and Supports** that facilitate the development of People and the **Processes and Structures** which facilitate the co-ordination of effort to deliver the projects and programmes.

At the end of the day, a Community Plan is all about the **PEOPLE**. They are the WHY behind the Plan – the reason behind all the work, all the facilities, all the meetings, all the fundraising, all the planning. It's all about making life better for the people of Aughnamullen.

When considering projects, the impact on the people of the community should guide the decision-making on priorities.

Project Detail	Who	How
1.Developing Community Capacity & Co-ordinating Local Effort		
<p>1.1 Lough Egish Community Development Company to restructure, forming two subcommittees: one to focus on the continued development of the industrial park, and the other to look at the wider needs of the community</p> <p>The second committee will need to broaden the scope of their current activities, and become more proactive in organising events, training courses, activities, festivals etc.</p>	Lough Egish Community Development Company	<p>Suggested format:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Form a Forum with the occupants of the business park, to facilitate regular, structured contact and joint planning 2. Form a Community Council, giving a seat to every active group in the community, to facilitate their involvement in community planning going forward
1.2 A bespoke training programme to be put in place to meet the needs of local community groups	Community Council	Training/ skills needs assessment of local committees, followed by a request to PPN/ Monaghan Integrated Development/ ETB for support in putting together a programme of support to upskill the community leaders where deficits/ needs are identified
1.3 Groups to formally buy in to the Community Plan & the planning process which goes with it.	ALL	Annual progress meetings to be held, facilitated by Monaghan County Council, to monitor progress, identify obstacles, agree changes to the Plan etc.
1.4 Committee shadowing programme, to provide learning opportunities for new people on all committees.	ALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Committees to prepare a list of roles & tasks suited for inclusion in the shadowing programme - Programme should be for a specified time period egg 1 year - Invitation to the wider community for volunteers to fill the roles - Training and induction to be provided at the start, and a learning/ celebration to be organised at the end - Links to accreditation, eg Gaisce award for young people, should be developed
1.5 Set up a Community Council, with every local group to have one seat. Monaghan County Council and Business Park also to be represented on the Council, as stakeholders in the community	ALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All groups to be invited to a meeting - Terms of reference to be agreed - Each group to identify tasks they will try to progress before next meeting

Community Council to meet annually to review progress on agreed Plan, identify areas of concern, agree solutions, update the Plan etc		- Agree date of next meeting, at which progress will be shared, lessons sought, plans adjusted, and new tasks assigned
2.Creation of Identity		
2.1 Develop a 'brand' for the area, to feature the name 'Aughnamullen'	Community Council	Design brief agreed by the Community Council & put out to tender The winning designer then develops number of concepts, to be presented to the community for comment. The preferred concept is then selected & the artist refines it further.
2.2 Erect 'welcome to Aughamullen' feature signage at the limits of the area	County Council / Tidy Towns	Signage along the roadside is best erected by the Council, for insurance reasons. The design will come from 2.1 above, and the placement will be overseen by the Tidy Towns committee
2.3 Erect visitor information points at Lough Egish Cross, Laragh, Carrickatee and Crossduff with key heritage & tourist information	County Council / Tidy Towns	Local heritage information to come from Heritage Committee Tourism information to come from Monaghan Tourism Design & placement to be overseen by Tidy Towns Committee Installation by County Council
2.4 Conserve & promote local heritage & find ways to connect with the community	Laragh Heritage	- Extend Laragh Heritage to look at heritage of wider area - Agree a set of projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o To conserve sites of importance o To explain local heritage to visitors o To promote the importance of heritage to everyone - Put a Plan in place to help deliver a range of Actions, from talks & training to restoration of buildings.
3.Area Enhancement		
3.1 Establish a Tidy Towns committee & compete in the National Tidy Towns competition annually	Local volunteers	Interested local volunteers to call a meeting to kick things off County Council will support with initial funding & mentoring

		Tidy Towns will develop a Plan for the area, to address the appearance of public areas, littering, etc
3.2 Improve the 'industrial' appearance of Lough Egish area, to fit in more with the rural aesthetic of the surrounding area	Tidy Towns/ Local property owners/ County Council	Design a Public Realm/ landscape Plan for the area around Lough Egish Cross and up to Food Park entrance. Work with property owners to implement improvements
3.3 Undertake litter awareness projects, with the aim of decreasing the amount of littering in the area	Tidy Towns/ IFA/ County Council/ School	Participate in national spring clean, farm plastics campaign and other initiatives aimed at cleaning up the countryside. Tidy Towns to co-ordinate local events, and get school/ local IFA branch etc involved
3.4 Undertake water quality projects, with the aim of protecting the quality of rivers & lakes in the area, and protecting the fish/ angling	Rod & Gun Club	Funding available from LEADER. Advice available from both Monaghan Co Co and LAWCO
3.5 Enhancement of the landscape	Tidy Towns/ landowners	The area is characterised by drumlins, whitethorn hedges, wetlands and flax mills. Every effort should be made to bring this character out where possible in all new developments, and in restoring the old
3.6 Conservation of local heritage landmarks, including buildings associated with the local mills, Temple Moyle, Laragh cottages, Carrickatee Hall	Heritage Committee	<p>Compile a list of heritage buildings Prioritise the buildings, according to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. State of repair 2. Suitability for use by the community 3. Cost of the project 4. Availability for development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish ownership & availability of site for community development/ access - Establish condition of site - Establish suitability of site for modern purpose & identify use for the site - Commission design - Cost the project - who/ how many will it benefit? Is it feasible given the cost? - Secure resources

4.Extension & Enhancement of Amenities		
<p>4.1 Create a 'community hub', to make economical use of existing social and sports facilities and related amenities such as changing rooms & toilets</p> <p>Because of its location opposite the Food Park, the hub should include amenities which support the businesses on the Food Park Site. Such amenities will also support the local community e.g. Meeting rooms, training facilities and wifi will all be of benefit to the wider community as will the availability catering facilities.</p>	GAA & local community	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agreement with GFC to provide space for other physical activities around social centre 2. Add indoor space to social centre, to provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Youth Hub -Conferencing/ Meeting facilities 3. Design & build playground & outdoor gym 4. Expand the kitchen facilities in the Centre to enable it to provide catering for training events, seminars etc. 5. Design & build walking track 6. Design & build MUGA
<p>4.2 Improvements to St Oliver Plunketts NS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access for buses/ improved traffic flow - Parking for teachers - Play facilities for children, to facilitate learning outside the classroom environment - Multi use games area with goal posts 	Parents Committee/ County Council	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Funding application to CLAR for road safety measures at school 2. Funding application for playground enhancement
<p>4.3 Increased childcare services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New, purpose-built facility - All day childcare for working parents - Links to Business park 	Childcare committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Secure funding to progress plans for new facility 2. Consult with Business Park re employee needs

<p>4.4 Enhanced transport links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide bus shelter at Lough Egish cross - Develop Local Link routes to facilitate shift workers 	County Council/ CMTCU	<p>Monaghan MD to erect bus shelter</p> <p>Invite Cavan Monaghan Transport Co-Ordination Unit to carry out a transport needs review of the area & work with the Business Park employees to ensure their needs are met</p>
<p>4.5 Create a lakeside amenity, to maximise the leisure, tourism and sporting potential of scenic Lough Egish</p>	Lough Egish Community Development Company	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify suitable sites - Consider management & insurance of site - Develop partnerships with other groups (eg rowing club) & design their needs into the project - Commission drawings & costings - Secure funding for project
<p>4.6 Develop a community park</p>	Lough Egish Community Development Company	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify site - Consult on design with community - Fundraise - Build
<p>4.7 Improved sports facilities at GAA grounds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved surface to football pitches - Provision of a walking track - Provision of floodlighting - Provision of all-weather pitch 	GAA	<p>Plans are in place</p> <p>Further fundraising required</p>

5.Road Safety		
<p>5.1 improve road safety at entrances to Business Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide traffic calming along stretch outside entrances, to limit overtaking of lorries as they turn in - Provide pedestrian crossing between Park and Social Centre, to facilitate employees using Social Centre car park - Provide pull-in area at Lough Egish cross to facilitate employees being dropped off, and provide footpath and lighting from the cross up to the entrance of the Business Park - Provide monolith-style signage at entrances to Business Park to clarify for new drivers which entrance to use to access which business on the Park - Improve surface of car park at Social Centre 	<p>Monaghan County Council, GAA, Food Park, Business Owners</p>	<p>Design roads scheme & get approval from MCC/ TII Source funding</p>
<p>5.2 Improve road safety at St Oliver Plunketts NS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve traffic flow at school pickup and drop-off times - Create bus turning circle - Create off-road parking for teachers 	<p>School/ County Council</p>	<p>Design a solution</p> <p>Acquire planning permission</p> <p>Secure funding</p> <p>Carry out project</p>
<p>5.3 Identify any accident black spots in the community & work with Council to have these addressed</p>	<p>County Council</p>	<p>Respond to local accidents</p> <p>Meet with County Council reps to discuss remedial works</p>

6.Nurturing People		
<p>6.1 Supporting children and young people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social club to provide a dedicated space for the use of young people - After schools and summer camp activities to be organised for children. A good range to be provided, including non-sporting, eg art and drama. - Opportunities to develop skills and grow in confidence to be the priority, with the aim of growing well balanced, engaged, caring future citizens, with the leadership skills they need to be an asset to their community throughout their lives 	<p>Parenting Group Youth Club Macra Social Club</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invite Youth organisations to work with local development groups to get a range of clubs and activities going in the area - Avail of programmes run by the following organisations to bring activities into the area for the benefit of local people: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Monaghan Sports Partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Go for Life (older people) ▪ Sport for people with disabilities ▪ Child protection training ▪ National Bike Week ▪ National Recreation Week o Education & Training Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Music Generation ▪ Education in the community

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Creative Ireland (run through Monaghan Library)
<p>6.2 Supporting families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parent & Toddler classes & parenting courses to be organised - Quality childcare to be available to those who need it - Play facilities to be provided at school and in the community 	<p>Childcare Committee Monaghan Co Co</p>	<p>Project at advanced stage for childcare facility. Funding needed to advance to construction stage</p> <p>Work with Monaghan Co Co and local landowners to identify a suitable site for a playground, secure resources and construct</p>

<p>6.3 Fostering Wellbeing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create a climate of acceptance and support around physical and mental wellbeing issues and provide opportunities for people to talk - Run activities to address loneliness and isolation - Start a Men’s Shed - Run annual health & fitness programmes - Provide fitness facilities – walking track, outdoor gym - Provide a 24-hour- accessible Defibrillator and register its location with the National Ambulance Service 	<p>Lough Egish Community Development Company, Sarsfields GFC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organise an event to mark National Suicide Prevention Day - Invite guests to speak on mental health - Display posters with crisis phone numbers in prominent locations - Volunteers to train in SafeTalk - Provide quiet room in Social Centre - Provide Mindfulness and yoga classes, to send out the message that these types of activities are important - Organise an ‘Operation Aughnamullen’ lifestyle transformation community support programme - Organise CPR training so as many members of the community as possible know how to use the defibrillator
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<p>6.4 Look after the Housing needs of the area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enable older people to stay in their homes for longer by linking them into supports such as home care & Seniors Alert - Facilitate homeowners to remain in the community throughout their lifecycle stages by developing sheltered accommodation and community housing suited to all needs - Provide sites at affordable cost for young families - Assist local homeowners to avail of energy retrofit grant packages through the SEAI's Better Energy Communities fund 	<p>Lough Egish Community Development Company</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct a housing needs survey to establish the extent of the need & the type of housing required - Identify & secure suitable land - Work with housing charities to design & build houses - Work with Castleblayney Sustainable Energy Group to prepare funding application for SEAI
<p>6.5 Looking after our Vulnerable People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bring supports for older people into the community - Consider developing a sheltered housing project so that older people can remain in the community for longer - Strengthen Community Alert - Provide hot meal service to older people through the social club - Start an Active Aughtnamullen club, with a mix of activities to suit all tastes and levels of mobility - Build support into the above for carers 	<p>Lough Egish Community Development Company</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discuss the needs of the area with Monaghan Integrated Development, which runs a Befriending Service, and a Helping Hands service, both of which support older people - Work with Community Alert to identify older people in poor housing, and/or considering moving into care to assess the potential demand for a sheltered housing project in the community
<p>6.6 Connecting to the Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote a sense of belonging & pride in the community - Ensure everyone knows what's going on & feels welcome to join in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Develop a PR campaign & keep sending out the message 'all welcome' o Develop a digital noticeboard/ website/ facebook page where all groups post their news o Publish a newsletter - Run regular community events, to give the community an opportunity to come together in a relaxed setting, to socialise, celebrate, and build strong bonds 	<p>Lough Egish Community Development Company</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Run a poster competition in the schools, asking children to come up with a slogan that captures how everyone has a part to play in the community and that by looking out for one another, we all become stronger - Avail of the available supports to organise events around national events, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Street Feast/ National Community Day/ The Big Hello o Bike Week o National Play Day - Organise an annual community festival

7. Making it Happen

To transform any Community Plan from a document into reality needs three key ingredients:

1: Commitment from the Community

2: A Process/ Structure which enables everyone to play their part

3: Resources

We would like to energise the whole community behind this Plan and use it to get people who are not yet active in community life to come out and find out more about the benefits that being more closely connected to the community brings.

We propose to use the adoption of this Plan as an opportunity to ask people for a formal commitment to their community. This presents everyone with an opportunity for a fresh start and to travel forward together in building the Aughnamullen they wish to share.

To help give this new approach the shape and structure it will need, we propose a new Community Council be put in place to facilitate communication between the many groups in the area. The Community Council will work to co-ordinate the efforts of all, for the overall benefit of the area rather than the good of any one organisation. It will also seek to address gaps, get new activities going, etc if there is an agreed need. It will also meet with the County Council to review progress and address any barriers.

We propose the following simple steps to ensuring there is follow-through on this Plan:

1. A Community Launch for this Plan

At the launch, the concept of every person signing up to playing their part in community life will be launched, and the '10 minutes a Month' volunteer campaign launched. Also on offer will be volunteering opportunities with existing and new organisations in the community.

Opportunities will include;

- To create and maintain a Aughnamullen web presence
- To plan and promote the 'come and try it' activities
- To get the '10 Minutes a Month' volunteering scheme off the ground
- To plan the first Community Reward Night
- To sign up for new mentoring scheme & avail of training

2. First meeting of Community Council

The business of the meeting will be:

- to agree a Terms of Reference
- to lay out a Workplan for Year 1
- to set up a Fundraising system

3. Agree when the first Community Feedback Event will be

There are two Feedback Events designed into the Plan – a summer one and a winter one. As well as being designed as opportunities to celebrate together as a community and build community links and raise local morale, they provide an opportunity to update everyone on progress, which is critical to maintaining public support.

Monaghan County Council will cover the cost of a Facilitator to organise the first twelve months' set up of the implementation phase of the Plan, to help get the process off to a smooth start.

4. Hold Review Meetings with Monaghan County Council

This meeting will take first place six months after the Community Council is formed, then once a year after this. The purpose of the meeting will be to review progress on the Plan and discuss how the Council can assist the community.

Appendix B: Draft Plan Feedback Form



Lough Egish



COMMUNITY PLAN DRAFT PLAN – November 2019 FEEDBACK FORM

Thank you for taking the time to review this document. We hope that you found much to like in it. Please let us know how the Plan can be further improved upon, by filling out the form below and returning it **before the 29th November 2019** to any of the following:

Community Dept
Monaghan County Council
The Glen
Monaghan

Clones Ballybay MD Offices
The Diamond
Clones

Box provided in
Aughnamullen
Social Centre

You can also fill out the survey online by following this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PXJLNRY>

Q1. Have we got the best projects/ actions in the Plan? Please tell us about any that should be added or taken out, in your opinion

Q2. Do you support the idea of developing a theme or brand for the area?

Yes No

Q3. If you wish to propose an idea for the theme, please give details here:

Q4. What are your thoughts on the following ideas which are proposed in the Plan?

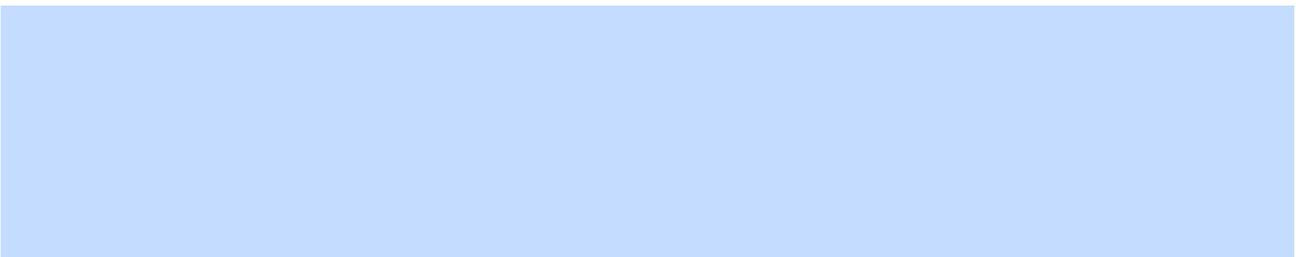
	Don't like it, wouldn't support it	Needed, but low priority	Needed, medium priority	Urgently needed, high priority	Not needed
Introduce speed reduction measures from Lough Egish cross up past social centre/ Food Park					
Provide dedicated Youth Area within Social Centre					
Provide Children's Playground					
Construct footpath from Lough Egish Cross up to Food Park/ Social Centre					
Enhance car parking at GAA grounds					
Find a suitable site and create a community park					
Improve changing facilities at GAA grounds					
Soften the streetscape of Lough Egish with tree planting, screening of industrial buildings etc					
Create a Community Council to organise local development					
Develop meeting facilities at social centre to serve needs of local businesses					
Social centre to serve hot meals daily					
Run summer community festival					
Run Christmas celebration event					
Better communication of what's on in the area					
Introduce committee shadowing opportunities, to give new people an opportunity to join committees and learn the ropes					
Community website/ newsletter to promote what's on					
More rural transport services to Blayney, Ballybay, Carrick and Shercock					
Local supports for older people, including day care					
Develop housing for older people					
Develop affordable housing for young families					
Help homeowners avail of grants to improve energy efficiency of homes					
Preserve and promote local heritage sites					
Develop new Community Childcare Facility					
Restore Carrickatee Hall					

Q5. Which project would be your No.1 priority?



Q6. Where do you think would make the most sense to locate a new Childcare facility?

- a) At the school
- b) Near the food park, to facilitate working parents and help the businesses retain staff
- c) Other (Please give details)



Q7. What activities would you like to see available in the area?



Q8. What services/ amenities would you love to have in the area?



Q.9 Please tell us about any improvements to existing facilities and amenities which are needed

Q 10 Please tell us a little about you:

	Under 14 years	14 - 19 years	20 -34 years	35- 49 years	50 - 64 years	65 + years
Your age range	<input type="radio"/>					

Q 11 Your gender

- Male
- Female

If you would like a copy of the final version of the Strategic Plan, when it is available, please supply your contact details here*:

For a hard (paper) copy, supply your name & postal address:

* Your contact details will be stored separately from the data collected through this survey, and will be deleted as soon as we have sent you out your copy of the Final Plan

(Your contact information will be used only to contact you in relation to the Community Plan, and will not be stored once the Final Plan has been launched)

For a pdf (digital) copy, supply your email address:

Your information will only be used to send out the Plan to you and will not be stored.

Thank you for helping to make Lough Egish and its environs within Aughnamullen a fantastic place to live.