

January 2022





## Contents

Forewords	4
WHY INVEST IN A COMMUNITY PLAN? - Monaghan County Council's Vision to Build Strong Communities through Building Resilient People	6
Part I: Background Information Which Helped to Inform the Plan	10
1. The Planning Process	10
2. A Quick Overview of the Data which Informed the Plan	11
2.1 Situational Analysis	11
2.2 Identification of Assets	13
2.3 Area Character Assessment	20
2.4 Gaps in Community Infrastructure	21
2.5 Challenges to be Overcome	22
Part II Interpreting the Data & Identifying the Needs	24
3. SWOT Analysis	24
4. Community Views	25
5. Key Issues to be Addressed	28
6. A Vision of the Future	28
7. Main Strategies & Priorities	30
7.1 Addressing the Physical Appearance of the Area	30
7.2 Improving Community Amenities	31
7.3 Looking Forward & Future Proofing the Area	34
7.4 Building Community Spirit	36
7.5 Improving Community Connectivity	37
7.6 The Main Objectives Behind the Priority Themes	38
Part III: The Actions – What is going to be done, and who will do it	40
8. The Actions & Actors	40
9. Implementation	51
10. Making it Happen	52
11. A Partnership Process	53
Appendix A: Map of Proposed Capital Projects for Newbliss Village	54
Appendix B: Development Constraints Map from County Development Plan	55
Appendix C: List of Protected Structures	57

## Foreword

Welcome to this five-year Community Plan for Newbliss and Killeevan. It has been a while longer in the preparation than expected, thanks to a little interruption by a certain virus. But in typical fashion, our little community has weathered the storm, regrouped and can now present to you an updated and even more ambitious plan, which we hope will bring a positive improvement to the lives of everyone living in our community.

We are aiming in the Plan to create the conditions under which the people living here can flourish. This requires that all your needs are met, from basic social needs such as regular contact with other human beings, to higher human needs such as the need to find contentment through a sense of self-worth and achievement, so that you start each day feeling positive and with a sense of fulfilment.

The Plan also looks at the infrastructure supports which make a place a pleasant place to live, and make it easy for people to go about their lives. It considers things to do, amenities to enjoy, and how easy it is to access services that you need.

Where things which are important for enjoying a good quality of life are not currently available in our area, the Plan sets down Actions which will help us to put those things in place. There are also things which are uniquely of interest and importance to the people of this area, and which we do not want to lose. The Plan records these, and ensures that these won't be lost in the drive for development; this way, we won't lose what we value the most, and what makes Newbliss and Killeevan so great.

The groups listed at the end of this page have all signed up to making this Plan a reality. A new Community Council is to be set up, to oversee the delivery of the Plan. Each group will have one voice on the Community Council, and Monaghan County Council will work with us to help us to access the resources we need to take control of our future.

We need your support. Please get involved in your community in any way you can. If you have only one hour a week, please pitch in. A new volunteering initiative will be starting soon, organised through the Acorn Centre, which will make it super easy to identify what group needs a little extra help, when, and with what. Please show you appreciate the facilities and services that our groups provide by giving whatever small amount of time or skill you have, to make our community that bit better.

Together we are stronger!

Thank you for your support, and happy reading.

***Killeevan Development Association***

***Killeevan Sarsfields GFC***

***Newbliss Childcare Services***

***Killeevan Tidy Towns***

***Newbliss Macra na Feirme***

***Currin Killeevan Aghabog Community Games***

***Killeevan Remembrance Group***

***Greenan's Cross Development Committee***

***Killeevan Catholic Church Parish Council***

***Board of Management Killeevan National School***

***Killeevan Heritage Group***

***Oriel Athletics Club***

***Union Hall Committee***

***Newbliss Tidy Towns***

***Killeevan Gymnastics Club***

***Lios Darach le Gaeilge***

***Killeevan Foróige***

***Presbyterian Church Committee***

***The Select Vestry of the Church of Ireland***

## Foreword

Co. Monaghan communities have a long and proud tradition of community development. A strong community takes a special sense of pride in the area, reaches out to those that are vulnerable, cares for those most in need, celebrates together when times are good, and gathers around to support one another in the sad times.

Communities need to be nurtured in order to grow; they need a mix of physical resources such as meeting facilities, and activities and services which encourage and support all members of the community, from the youngest to the oldest. They also need leaders, who know that the process of bringing people together can often be as important as the event itself, as it can help to foster a sense of achievement, belonging, and pride in their community.

Monaghan County Council is committed to supporting communities to be the best version of themselves. As part of our drive to support communities, we are helping communities to prepare Community Plans.

This document is the product of a year-long process of consultation and planning which was facilitated by the Community Dept of Monaghan County Council. It gathers together the opinions, plans and aspirations of the people of Newbliss/ Killeevan for their community.

Over the next few years, you will hopefully see the months of planning and consultation bear fruit as projects are delivered in Newbliss/ Killeevan for the benefit of the community. Already, funding has been secured to acquire a site to provide additional car parking on Main St, and to provide enhanced play facilities at Newbliss Childcare Services, both actions identified in the Plan.

I am also pleased to announce that funding of over €1.8 million has been secured to turn the former courthouse at the bottom of Main St into a remote networking hub and enterprise centre, which will hopefully stimulate economic activity in the area and encourage new residents to come live in the Newbliss Killeevan area, which has so much to offer.

Monaghan County Council hopes to play a significant role in many of the projects outlined in the Plan and views the drafting of this document, together with you, the community, as the first step in a long and fruitful partnership.

Thank you for your investment in your community, and in helping to make Co. Monaghan the best county to live in Ireland.



**Eamonn O Sullivan**  
Chief Executive  
Monaghan County Council



## **WHY INVEST IN A COMMUNITY PLAN? - Monaghan County Council's Vision to Build Strong Communities through Building Resilient People**

If someone were to ask you 'how do you build a community', how would you answer? For us, it starts with another question: WHY do you build a community? We believe it's because being part of a strong community helps individuals to reach their full potential. Communities are a supportive environment where the young are safe to explore and learn, the youth are supported to challenge themselves and find what they shine at, parents find that their family is embraced and supported by the entire community, and the older members of the community still feel they have something to contribute and feel secure in their homes. The vulnerable are looked after, and everyone is included.

A strong community develops a set of values, lives by these values and passes them on to the next generation. These values included caring for people; knowing the value of spending time with those we love; learning from life's setbacks and picking ourselves up and trying again; not having to do everything alone, but learning to share both the burdens and the joys of life. These are the kind of 'life lessons' that people pick up as they bounce off other people. There is much wisdom in the old saying, "it takes a village to raise a child"!

A community needs strong, resilient people, who can work together, support each other in hard times, bounce back from life's setbacks and cheer each other on to success. Resilient people know that life will not always be smooth sailing, and they develop the ability to dust themselves off and go again whenever they encounter difficulty. Some people are born knowing how to be resilient, but it is a skill that can be learned, and communities are good places to pass it on.

Monaghan County Council has a part to play in creating the conditions which help the people of the county to flourish individually, as well as together. We provide amenities such as playgrounds, public spaces and leisure facilities, and we support local communities to provide all kinds of facilities and services in every corner of the county.

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 other times 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.

Building communities is about investing in people. We put amenities in place in order to provide people with somewhere to go to avail of training, pursue a personal interest or hobby, meet friends, develop social skills, grow in confidence and raise their sense of self-worth. They get an understanding not just of themselves, but of how they connect with others, and how they contribute to the wellbeing of other people and to the community as a whole.

Think of those amenities as building blocks, each one helping to build something worthwhile. The blocks are held together with things like community plans, leadership, fundraising – the glue which binds the blocks into something greater than the individual pieces. How we know which blocks are needed, and what mix of cement will give the best result is by getting the foundations right – doing surveys, needs analysis, community planning, etc.

Directing the construction are the community groups, who hold the "Vision" for their community. The bigger the vision, the higher the people within their community can climb! But only so long as the groups nurture the foundations, the blocks and the glue equally!

So, it all starts with Community Planning. And what we are ultimately trying to arrive at is a strong, tight-knit, resilient community which can cope with whatever life brings, both on an individual level and on a community level, and both today and in twenty years – because part of being a strong community is raising children to know the value of community and want to nurture it for their children, too.

Monaghan County Council attended a public meeting in the Union Hall in Newbliss in January 2018, and outlined our vision for creating sustainable, resilient communities throughout the county. The people of Newbliss and Killeevan wanted that for their community too and agreed to enter into partnership with the Council to devise and deliver a Community Plan.

This document is the result of that commitment.



## Building Strong Communities



The stronger the wall,  
the higher you can go!

The Cement that  
binds it together

The Building Blocks

The Foundations



### HOW TO BUILD A STRONG COMMUNITY:

#### 1. START WITH STRONG FOUNDATIONS:

- A STRONG IDENTITY
- SHARED VALUES
- A SENSE OF PRIDE & BELONGING
- KNOWING THAT PEOPLE ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THINGS

#### 2. BUILD AMENITIES

- TO BRING SERVICES TO THOSE WHO USED THEM
- TO PROVIDE SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

#### 3. COME TOGETHER OFTEN

- CELEBRATE
- REMEMBER
- SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER

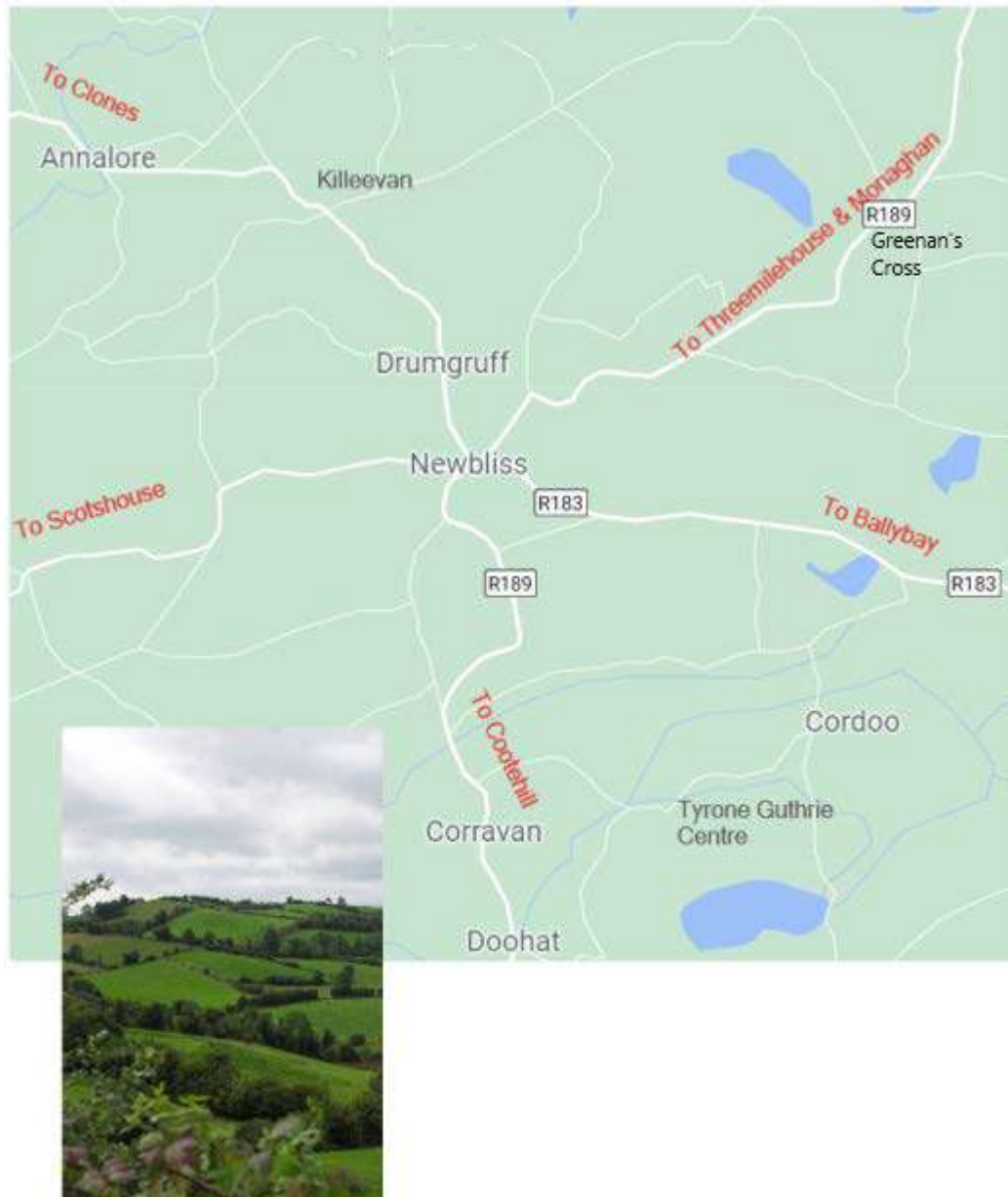
#### 4. BUILD PEOPLE

- LEAD BY EXAMPLE
- CREATE RELATIONSHIPS
- PASS THE SPIRIT OF CARING ON
- RAISE THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS



## Our Community –

A Rural Idyll with stunning drumlin views, convenient to multiple towns and villages



## Part I: Background Information Which Helped to Inform the Plan

### 1. The Planning Process

Monaghan County Council and the community of Newbliss/ Killeevan have a long history of collaboration, covering many areas, including sport, heritage and the arts. In 2017, the Council secured funding for Newbliss under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme and organised a public meeting in November 2017 to give control of how this funding was to be spent over to the community. At that meeting, the various groups and residents present agreed that a Development Plan was needed. A follow up meeting in February 2018 identified many key needs in the area. An online needs survey was then carried out, to give those not present at that meeting an opportunity to have their say.

The feedback from the needs survey, along with data from the CSO and an asset survey of the community, were published as a Draft Community Plan in November 2018, and the community was asked to take a look and comment on whether it was the best plan for ensuring that Newbliss/ Killeevan develops into a thriving community over the next ten years. A final public meeting was held in May 2019 to feed back the result of the public consultation to the community and to agree any necessary changes to the draft document.

The group representatives present at that meeting decided that they needed to bring the document back to their respective committees for ratification, and the process stalled for a time. The arrival of the Covid pandemic in early 2020 brought about further delays to the planning process, as it became impossible to bring people together to meet. However, in autumn 2021, during facilitation by Monaghan Integrated Development, the committee of the Acorn Centre became increasingly aware of the importance of completing the Community Plan, and reached out to the other committees with a proposal to revisit the Plan.

It was agreed that each group would review the Plan and submit any updated plans they wished to include in the finished document. The groups also agreed to sign off on the document and to participate in the proposed new Community Council.

The necessary changes were relayed to Monaghan County Council at the end of December 2021, and the updated Plan was completed in January 2022.

## 2. A Quick Overview of the Data which Informed the Plan

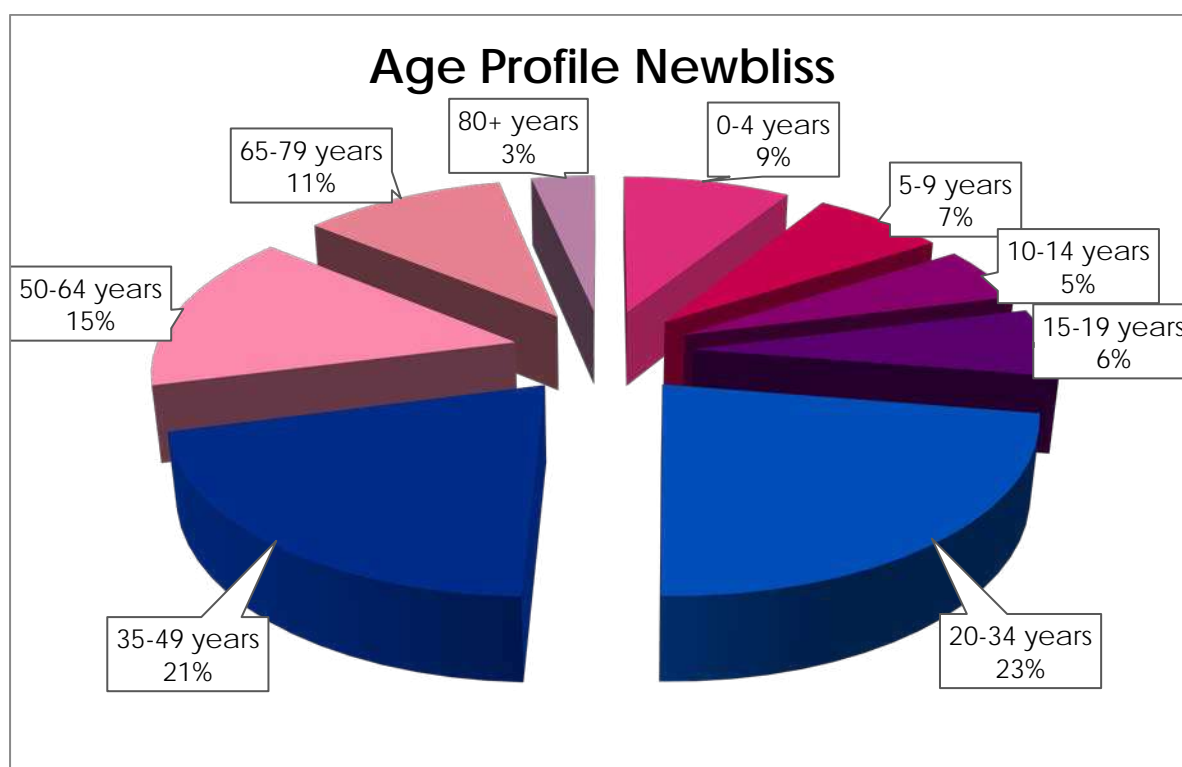
### 2.1 Situational Analysis

#### Location

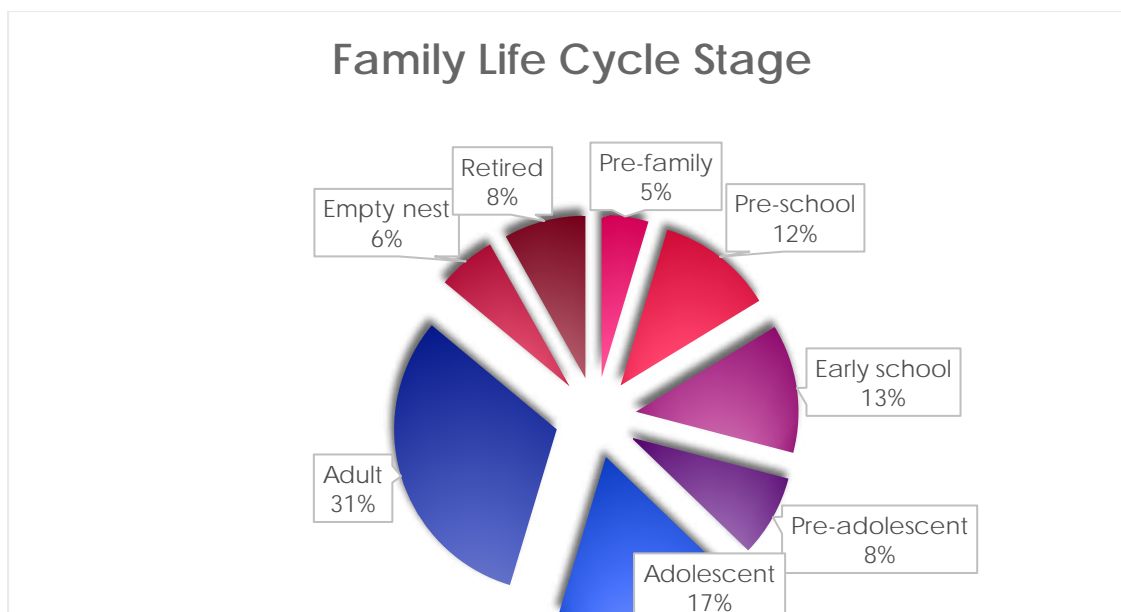
The community centred around the village of Newbliss identifies itself also with the old Civil Parish of Killeevan, which gives the area its ecclesiastical and footballing identities.

#### Population

The population of Newbliss village in the last Census (2016) was 327. Approximately another 600 – 700 live in the rural area around the village, in the area identifying itself as Killeevan 'Parish'.



- 16% of the population are under the age of 12, and 9% are under 4.
- 27%, or over one quarter of the population of the village is aged under twenty
- Over 50's account for 29% of the population
- There are 70 families with children in Newbliss village
- 70% of them have children still in the pre-adolescent age group
- The lone parent rate in Newbliss village is over twice the county rate (41% compared to 17.8%)



## Disadvantage

On the HP index of Disadvantage, the area in general was classified as 'marginally below average' based on the 2016 Census data, as is much of Co. Monaghan. However, the village of Newbliss is ranked as 'Disadvantaged'. This represented a worsening from 2011 and 2006. Key factors in this rating of 'disadvantaged' for the village are a high % of lone parent households (41% - the county figure is 17%) and a high level of unemployment amongst men (29%).

## Housing

Almost 40% of the houses in the village are rented, 27% from the local authority and 13% from the private sector. 36% of the housing stock in the village was constructed before 1980, so is likely to be energy inefficient. 69% of homes rely on oil for their main source of heating, while a further 19.8% rely on coal. With fuel prices increasing, these homes may become vulnerable to fuel poverty.

## Nationality & Religion

There is a small, but growing, number of Lithuanian and Polish people living in the area. Newbliss Killeevan is a cross community area, with a strong minority Protestant presence in the community.

## Education & Employment

22% of the workforce has progressed no further than primary education within the formal education sector. A further 22% ceased their formal education at lower secondary level (i.e. Junior or Intermediate Certificate). 72% of males progressed no further in education than Upper Secondary. 49% of females ceased education at this level.

The unemployment rate in the village in 2016 was 29.63% amongst males, and 16% amongst females.

## 2.2 Identification of Assets

### Culture & Heritage

This ancient landscape is dotted with monuments dating from the Bronze Age through to modern times. Notable national figures in Irish history, James Connolly and Arthur Griffith, had connections to the area. The Great Northern Railway once passed through the village, and its mark can still be seen in a number of fine buildings and sections of the railway line. The area was once closely associated with the linen trade, and some fine residences remain from the period.

The international artists' retreat at Annaghmakerrig, left to the state by the renowned theatre producer Sir Tyrone Guthrie, is located just outside Newbliss village. Some artists who come to the estate remain in the general area after their stay has ended, having developed a connection to the unique landscape of the area.



The Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig

The lake, woodlands and environs of the estate are designated as an Area of Secondary Amenity value in the County Development Plan.

The area has a relatively high number of Protected Structures with Regional Importance (19) and a further six Protected Structures of Local Importance. These are Listed in Appendix C.

### Social & Community

#### Facilities:

- The Acorn Centre, which is located very centrally on Main St in Newbliss village, is a two-storey facility whose amenities include a large hall with stage, meeting rooms, kitchen, changing rooms and toilets, a snooker room, and a purpose-built gymnasium with sprung floor. The committee has recently purchased the adjacent building and is considering how to make best use of the additional space, in light of the building needs for storage and the opportunities

presented by the extra road frontage and potential independent entrance to the centre.

- Killeevan Sarsfields GFC. Facilities include a main playing pitch and small training pitch, as well as a small Astroturf area and a walking track which is well lit and open to the public. It can be availed of up to 10pm each evening. The facilities include a club room, dressing rooms, toilets, showers and gym. It is proposed to build two new dressing rooms with showers and toilets and an additional meeting room/kitchen, starting in January 2022. The amenity is located along a narrow road and has limited car parking. This can be an issue on a busy match day, but is managed by careful traffic stewarding.
- Newbliss Childcare Services, a community-operated childcare facility
- Union Hall, in Newbliss village
- Killeevan Old School
- Greenan's Cross Old School
- Masonic Hall, in Newbliss Village
- Heritage House, in Newbliss Village. Hosts music classes, prayer meetings, and mass twice a week, as well as heritage group and vintage group meetings
- Newbliss Playground
- St Laebhan's Church of Ireland, Killeevan
- St Luke's Church of Ireland, Newbliss
- Newbliss Presbyterian Church
- St Livinius Catholic Church, Killeevan
- Killeevan Central Primary School is located between the Sarsfields pitch and Newbliss Childcare Services, out on the Clones road just outside Newbliss village

#### Projects in development:

Monaghan County Council and the Local Enterprise Office are currently working to transform the former courthouse building at the bottom of Main St into a remote working hub and enterprise centre.

#### Groups:

- **Killeevan Development Association** manages the Acorn Centre which is located on Main St. Newbliss. It is a sizeable community building combining sports facilities with meeting rooms. The Acorn Centre is held in trust by Killeevan Development Association and trustees for the people of the parish.
- **Newbliss Development Group** runs the Community Employment Scheme in the parish and has been going for over 20 years as a limited company. It has amalgamated with Clones CE scheme and is now known as Clones Newbliss District CE Scheme and is run by the Clones Chamber of Commerce.
- The **Union Hall** is managed by Newbliss Presbyterian Church.
- **Killeevan Gymnastics Club** operates from the Acorn Centre, in which they have a purpose-built hall with a sprung floor.
- **Killeevan Sarsfields GFC**, which fields both male and female teams from juvenile up to senior level

- **Killeevan National School Board of Management** manages the Central School
- **Newbliss Tidy Towns** operates in the village. Most of the work is carried out under the direction of the CE scheme. Newbliss last entered the National Tidy Towns competition in 2010, when it scored a mark of 208.
- **Killeevan Tidy Towns** operates around the two churches. Work is carried out by volunteers and the CE scheme workers. Killeevan made a return to the National Tidy Towns Competition in 2018 and scored 204 marks. They are making steady progress year on year, scoring 215 marks in 2021.
- **Greenan's Cross Tidy Towns** first entered the national Tidy Towns competition in 2010 and has been making steady gains every year since, scoring 259 points in 2018 and winning the County Endeavour award for the group which made the biggest improvement from one year to the next in both 2014 and 2015.
- **Newbliss branch, IFA**
- **Newbliss Macra**
- **Killeevan Heritage Group** is based in the Heritage House in Newbliss village and has been in existence for over twenty years, running music classes, storytelling nights etc. It has produced 3 volumes of 'From Carn to Clonfad', a series of books dealing with the history and folklore of the area.
- **Killeevan Foróige**
- **Vintage group**
- **Greenan's Cross Development Committee** restored the old school and now run it as a mini-community centre.
- **Lios Darach le Gaeilge** promotes the use of Gaeilge in the area. The Grúpa Leanaí is Tuistí was formed recently for parents of young children who want to practice their Irish and develop their children's Irish through play. It is based in The Acorn Community Centre. Lios Darach le Gaeilge also organizes the annual Corn Peile na Sairséalaigh, a Gaelic football tournament for local primary schools. Irish is the medium of communication both on and off the pitch for this competition. Lios Darach le Gaeilge hopes to organize a Campa Samhraidh for primary schools in 2022.
- **Oriel Athletics Club**, which uses a tarmac track developed around the perimeter of the grounds of Killeevan National School and the running track around Killeevan Sarsfields G.A.A. grounds. The club also uses the amenities provided at the Peace Link in nearby Clones.
- **Killeevan Catholic Church Parish Council**  
The committee looks after the running of the affairs of the congregation and assists with the running of St Livinius' Church in Killeevan
- **The select Vestry of the Church of Ireland**  
There are two Church of Ireland churches in the community, one in Newbliss and one in Killeevan. The Select Vestry looks after both.
- **Presbyterian Church Committee**  
The committee looks after the Presbyterian Church which is in Newbliss village



## Activities

There are a range of activities on offer through the local halls, including:

- The county's most successful gymnastics club is based at the Acorn Centre and benefits from a purpose-built gym at the rear of the facility. Club members have won many national titles.
- The snooker club has a dedicated room in the Acorn Centre. However, in recent times the club has become inactive and the room has fallen into disuse.
- Bowling at the Union Hall. There are bowling mats in the Acorn Centre, but they are not used often, with bowling mainly gravitating to the Union Hall.
- Foróige meets at the Acorn Centre, as does Macra.
- The newly formed Leanaí is Tuisti for parents and toddlers meets once a week in the Acorn Community Centre. This is a support for parents who wish to practice their Irish. All parents with toddlers are welcome to attend. However, there is still a need to support young parents who would prefer to attend an English medium parent and toddler group.

## Human Resources

There are 20 CE workers managed by Clones Newbliss District CE scheme under the auspices of Clones Chamber of Commerce. They assist groups all around the community, including:

- Tidy Towns / environmental maintenance
- Ground maintenance at the Churches, GAA ground and athletics club, as well as at a number of historic sites restored by Killeevan Heritage Group
- Maintenance at Greenan's Cross, Union Hall & Acorn community centres and the old school building in Killeevan village

## Attractions

The Tyrone Guthrie Centre is a retreat for artists, and the enjoyment of its facilities and grounds is confined to the artists in residence. The amenity is not open to the public, and despite the facility's proximity to the village, there is little benefit to the local people from its presence on a day-to-day basis. Killeevan Development Association has been in contact with the Tyrone Centre regarding raising awareness of Art in the community e.g. art exhibitions, talks night classes etc., so that the local community may benefit from the presence of the amenity.

The area is known for its unspoilt landscape and the quality of its coarse fishing. There are many lovely views across the landscape, as well as a rich tapestry of heritage which could be drawn upon to create tours and trails.

The old abbey at Killeevan and the ecclesiastical heritage of the site are worthy of exploration in their own right. Killeevan Heritage Group has been involved in restoration work to the Abbey walls and in a geophysical exploration of the site to try

to identify the original layout of the buildings on the site. More work to conserve what remains of the Abbey and to provide information on the site to visitors is planned.

The railway heritage of the area is still to be seen, with a railway bridge spanning the Clones road beside Newbliss Childcare Services. The former railway station is in private ownership and is being used as a residence, but perhaps occasional tours could be arranged with the owners' permission.

Monaghan County Council is currently working on a proposal to develop the route of the former Ulster Canal as a greenway. As the canal originally passed close to Killeevan village, the proposed greenway's proximity to the community would be of tremendous benefit to the area, both as an amenity for the locality, and to attract visitors to the area.

### **Festivals**

A St. Patrick's Day Parade used to be held in Newbliss, and after a lull it was revived and organized by Killeevan Parents Association in 2019. Up until 2016, a summer festival was held, but this fell victim to several years of bad weather and has also been discontinued. It is hoped to see it also back in the future.

### **Environment**

The landscape of the area is typified by rolling drumlins, offering spectacular views across the hills, with pockets of wetlands and small lakes laced in between. Outside of Newbliss village, the area is very rural, and agriculture – mainly dairy and beef farming – is the predominant feature. Fields are typically bordered by whitethorn hedges, and these are the typical boundary along the roads through the area, including on the approaches to Newbliss.

## Services

### Transport

The former railway line from Ballybay to Clones passed through Newbliss, and while the station remains, the area is these days totally reliant on its road network for all its transportation needs. There is a heavy reliance on the private motor car throughout

#### 176 Cavan - Monaghan

CAVAN - MONAGHAN VIA BALLYHAISE - SCOTSHOUSE - CLONES - NEWBLISS - THREEMILEHOUSE					
Pick Up Point	Monday - Saturday				
Cavan General	07:30	09:45	11:30	16:00	17:55
Cavan Bus Station	07:33	09:48	11:33	16:03	18:00
Cavan Institute	07:36	09:51	11:36	16:06	18:03
Ballyhaise	07:41	09:59	11:41	16:11	18:08
Scotshouse	07:53	10:13	11:53	16:23	18:20
Clones	08:05	10:25	12:05	16:35	18:32
Newbliss	08:16	10:39	12:16	16:46	18:43
Threemilehouse	08:26	10:51	12:26	16:56	18:53
Monaghan Dawson St	-	11:03	12:38	17:08	19:05
Monaghan Library	-	11:06	12:41	17:11	19:08
Monaghan Hospital	08:38	11:09	12:44	17:14	19:11
Monaghan Bus Station	08:40	11:11	12:46	17:16	19:13
Monaghan Institute	08:45	-	-	-	-

MONAGHAN - CAVAN VIA THREEMILEHOUSE - NEWBLISS - CLONES - SCOTSHOUSE - BALLYHAISE					
Pick Up Point	Monday - Saturday				
Monaghan Institute	-	-	-	16:15	17:30
Monaghan Bus Station	07:35	09:00	13:00	16:20	17:35
Monaghan Hospital	-	09:06	13:06	16:26	17:41
Monaghan Church Sq., Diamond	07:38	09:09	13:09	16:29	17:44
Threemilehouse	07:49	09:20	13:20	16:40	17:55
Newbliss	08:01	09:32	13:32	16:52	18:07
Clones	08:12	09:43	13:43	17:03	18:18
Scotshouse	08:25	09:56	13:56	17:16	18:31
Ballyhaise	08:37	10:08	14:08	17:28	18:43
Cavan Institute	08:47	10:18	14:18	17:38	18:53
Cavan Bus Station	08:51	10:22	14:22	17:42	18:57
Cavan Hospital	08:57	10:28	14:28	17:48	19:03

Co Monaghan, and the Newbliss Killeevan area is no exception in this regard. The fledgling rural transport bus service, Local Link, is developing routes from the villages to the main towns. A new daily commuter service between Cavan and Monaghan was introduced in September 2018. This service has made it easier for people without private transport to access employment and educational opportunities in nearby towns.

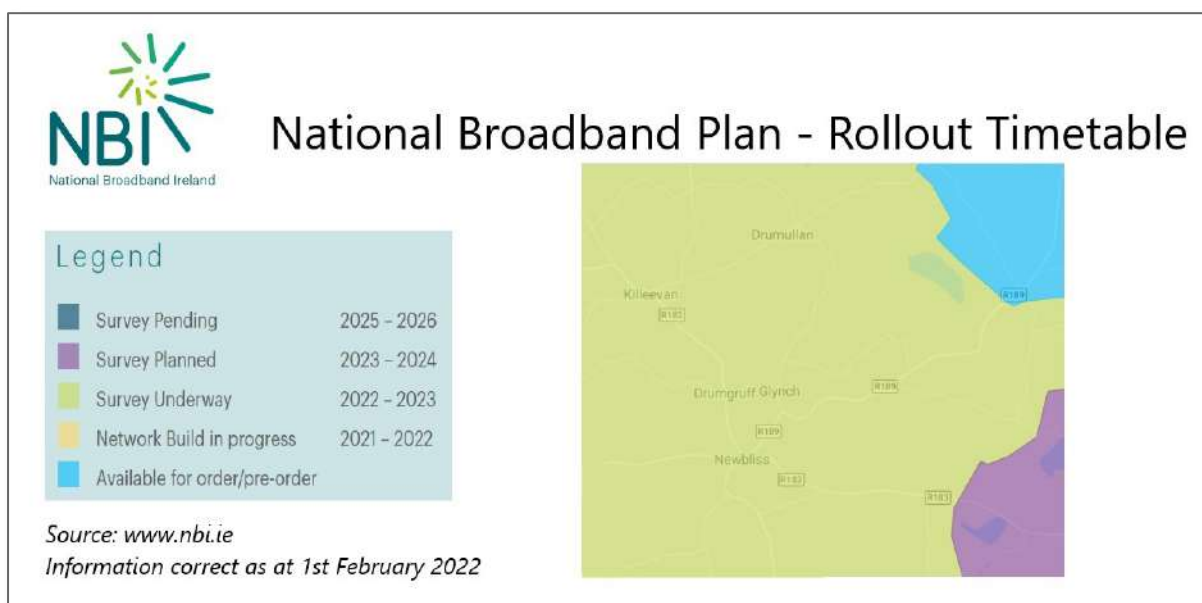
### Wi-Fi

During the making of this Plan, Monaghan County Council installed a public Wi-Fi point at the Acorn Centre as part of the WiFi4EU initiative. It is hoped that having a public Wi-Fi scheme in the village will promote the use of new technologies and enhance local connectivity.

## Broadband

230 households in Newbliss village can presently avail of fibre broad band with speeds of up to 100 mB/s. The National Broadband Plan is currently surveying the area. Until this work is completed, it is not known what broadband speeds will be available across the more rural parts of the community.

Monaghan County Council installed a Wi-Fi broadband connection point (BCP) under the European initiative Wifi4U in the Acorn Centre. This provides a free WIFI connection to the internet for any member of the community who comes into the Acorn Centre, and will facilitate the Centre to host events which require internet access such as computer training, online meetings etc.



## Childcare

Newbliss Childcare Services, housed in a modern, purpose-built facility, is located beside the national school. The facility offers a full range of preschool services from the age of 5 months upwards. The facility is one of the largest employers in the village.

## Services for Older People

Senior citizens attend day care services in neighbouring Threemilehouse village, which also runs a dementia day care service. A senior citizens party is organised in the Acorn Centre at Christmas.

More services and activities for older people are needed in Newbliss.

### 2.3 Area Character Assessment

The primary character of the area is rural, with a small cluster of dwellings around the churches at Killeevan, and the main centre of population being the village of Newbliss. The 'grand' past of the village, with its importance as a centre for the linen trade and as a stop on the Great Northern Railway route, has left the village with a legacy of many fine buildings and a wide, well laid out street scape.

The two main industrial entities in the community are no more: Darragh Boats once made fibreglass boats and even horseboxes, and a thriving jam factory once operated from the railway station after the railway closed its doors.

Works carried out by Monaghan County Council at the turn of the millennium have already provided Newbliss Main Street with a general face-lift, with the main high-cost infrastructural works already having been undertaken, such as the undergrounding of overhead wiring, resurfacing of pavements and installation of ornamental cast-iron street lighting. This has removed a lot of 'street clutter' and left a blank canvas for the community to stamp its personality on.

The village is mainly residential in nature, with a few small-scale retail properties, and one industrial enterprise of moderate scale (in comparison to the scale of the village). In general, the majority of properties are in good repair, appropriately designed for their surroundings and well presented. However, there are some vacant properties which are sliding towards dereliction, and this needs to be addressed.

The colour palette of the village tends towards greys and beiges. A co-ordinated colour scheme would bring much to the village and would pay homage to the creative influence of nearby Tyrone Guthrie Centre.

There are a number of potential themes which could be adopted by the community and developed into features which could be echoed throughout the area. For example:

- The railway & jam factory
- Sir Tyrone Guthrie & the contribution of the area to the arts
- The boat building tradition of the village
- The linen industry
- A translation of the Irish name for Newbliss & an association with the Oak and its meaning in the Brehon tradition
- Who were the Greenans after whom Greenan's Cross is named?
- More could be made of the ecclesiastical heritage of the area

This remains an area rich for exploration.

## 2.4 Gaps in Community Infrastructure

### Youth Services

Newbliss is lucky to have not one but three halls on its Main Street; hopefully one of which can find space to provide young people with a refuge where they can drop in to meet their friends, pick up youth information, avail of Wi-Fi etc. This should be discussed between the youth groups and hall committees.

### Young Parents

There are currently no supports for young parents in the area. The demographic profile indicates that there is a need for supports for this population cohort, who are at risk of becoming isolated in their homes. This was backed up by requests for activities such as parent and toddler group in the community needs survey. Perhaps some of the parents might come together with a little support, and start a group?

### Community Space

Both Newbliss and Killeevan are arranged along main roads, with limited public space available back from the verge side. This makes 'hanging out' in Newbliss a sometimes noisy and dusty occupation, and deters people from spending time engaging in social interaction with their neighbours in this casual way. This is a shame, as it is these small daily interactions which are the glue which hold a community together.

Killeevan Development Association intends to develop a community garden to the side of the Acorn Community Centre for patrons, which will provide a much-needed green space in a village which is lacking in natural elements, especially given its rural location.

The community would further benefit from having a Community Park in a location convenient to the village, to encourage people to drop by and pass time in each other's company. The park would also promote personal well-being, as well as serve as a space for community events such as summer barbeques, picnics, outdoor performances etc. The right site is crucial to the success of such a venture, however, so it may be some time before the opportunity presents itself to progress this project.

### Community Information

It was highlighted on several occasions in the public consultation that people were not always aware of all that is going on in the community, or of the various amenities, what is going on within them, and whether they are welcome to join in. In turn, some of the groups were not aware of all the supports that are available to them to develop their project ideas and apply for funding.

All groups are urged to join Monaghan Public Participation Network (PPN) so that they are kept in touch with training and funding supports available to them. Groups should also avail of the expertise within Monaghan County Council's Community Dept, who are there to support and advise.

One of the priority areas for the community to work on is to develop a communications strategy, which will include a central web portal for the community, connecting all things Newbliss and Killeevan- related, as well as a community notice board and events calendar, and a newsletter.

### *Community Safety*

There is no Community Alert group in the area, although a Facebook page tries to keep people updated of garda alerts. With rural crime a real worry for many people, especially vulnerable people living in isolated parts of the community, this is something that should be a priority.

Thankfully, Co Monaghan has a strong network of community alert groups, and two innovative crime prevention projects have started in the county recently. One is a property marking scheme, and the other is a county-wide garda alert service, which also enables local communities to send out local messages, giving communities a powerful way of communicating with the people in their area. Both schemes are run by Monaghan Co Co and should be of assistance to getting a strong Community Alert group started in Newbliss/ Killeevan. The messaging scheme should also help to address the need for improving communications locally.

## **2.5 Challenges to be Overcome**

### *Integration*

The community is sub-divided into the urban village of Newbliss and the rural community of Killeevan. The village saw an increase of population with new housing developments over the last twenty years. This was not seen to the same extent in the rest of the community.

Feedback from the community survey indicates that there is some level of disconnect between the newer arrivals and those who have lived a lifetime in the area. Some of this may be due to the fact that it is taken for granted in any rural community that 'everyone knows' where to book a hall, or who to contact about joining a class, but this can be a very confusing way of doing things for a newcomer to an area, and can be an unintended barrier to participation in community life for them.

This is why more ways of communication what is on, contact details for making a booking, and information on how to join a local group is such an important action for Newbliss and Killeevan.

### *Succession Planning*

Some of the local organisations have been active for many years, and their committees have remained largely unchanged over the years. This level of dedication to community is most admirable and Newbliss/ Killeevan have been very fortunate to have such dedicated, community-minded people willing to serve for such extended periods.



But everyone deserves a rest, and nobody can keep going forever. It is important for every organisation to always have an eye to bringing along the next generation of community leaders, so that their legacy is ensured to continue long after they themselves slip away.

Everyone should be encouraged to give back to their community – it's good for the person, and it's good for the community. New people must be encouraged to come forward to play their role and take their turn at the helm.



One of the community's many fine heritage buildings, Newbliss Church of Ireland

## Part II Interpreting the Data & Identifying the Needs

### 3. SWOT Analysis

Every community, and every place, has things which give it an advantage over its neighbours, and maybe a few things that are still a work in progress. Arranging the key attributes of an area under the headings of '*strength, weakness, opportunity, threat*' can help a community to decide how to harness the assets and tools it has at its disposal, and to get the best from them.

A SWOT analysis for Newbliss & Killeevan was prepared as part of the planning process:

Strengths	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Newbliss village is large enough to support shops, pubs, butchers, providing a good range of produce and services locally</li> <li>- Well laid-out village, with good street scape and some fine buildings</li> <li>- A growing population</li> <li>- A relatively young population</li> <li>- A well-established tradition in the area of community working together to deliver projects</li> <li>- Long established heritage group</li> <li>- Good community infrastructure – strong, active groups with the capacity to deliver large capital projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rich heritage could be made more accessible to the public</li> <li>- Opportunity to develop a 'brand' or theme for the area</li> <li>- While the majority of artists coming to the Tyrone Guthrie Centre wish to benefit from the seclusion offered by that facility, some may be interested in also participating in a cultural programme linked with the surrounding communities, so that the people of the area might benefit more from the talents of the people passing through the facility</li> <li>- Perhaps one of the gardens to the rear of a substantial property on Main St might become available to the community, to be developed as a park?</li> <li>- Strong local interest in the Irish language</li> </ul>
Weaknesses	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Some older buildings are in decline</li> <li>- Few public spaces in the community</li> <li>- Few public events during the year, where the community comes together</li> <li>- No Community Alert, which leaves older people living alone feeling especially vulnerable</li> <li>- Tidy Towns is left mostly to the CE workers rather than done by volunteers. Village doesn't enter the national Tidy Towns competition</li> <li>- Little activity for older people</li> <li>- Little support for young parents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Some vacant properties in danger of becoming derelict</li> <li>- Important to continue to strengthen cross community bonds, as well as reach out to new arrivals – failure to do so could lead to a breakdown in community spirit</li> <li>- Busy roads and high speeds of traffic create dangerous and unpleasant environments for those living in the village, and at Killeevan cross. Traffic calming is required.</li> </ul>

## 4. Community Views

A Needs Survey was distributed around the community and online, asking people's opinions of the village and the amenities, as well as asking them what they would like to see developed in the area. The information gathered by the survey was then considered as part of the issues to be addressed. It also helped to identify projects which were being undertaken which needed to be included as Actions in the Plan.

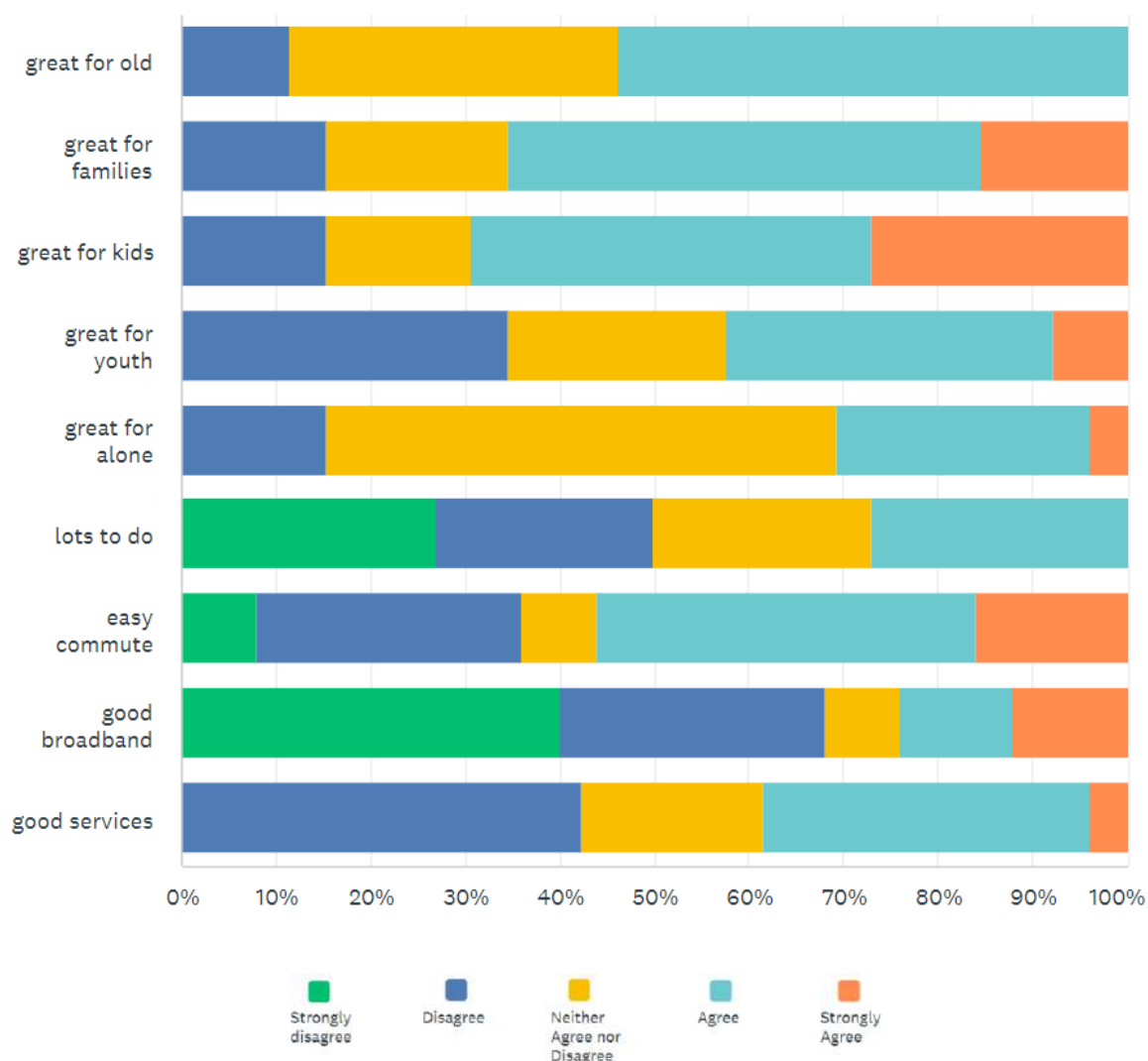
Some of the key information the community told us was:

- The people of Newbliss and Killeevan gave life in the area a score of 6.3 out of 10. This is not as strong a rating as people in some other communities in Co. Monaghan which have completed the same survey, and indicates that people feel there are things that could be better about living in Newbliss Killeevan.
- When we asked what people liked about living here, the single most popular answer was the friendly community. This is the best possible thing to hear, as it gives a solid foundation to build everything else on.
- We asked you what was NOT so good about living here. Your answers can be categorised into two broad areas:
  - Amenities, services and activities that we don't have
  - The appearance of the area
- You rated community spirit at the moment to be at around 67%, and said it could be improved by:
  - More community events
  - Everyone stepping up to play a role, and not leaving it to a few people
  - A focus on encouraging new arrivals to the community to join in
  - More opportunities for casual socialising, such as provided by a coffee shop. This would be well used you said, by parents waiting for children participating in activities, by young people as a 'youth café' drop in facility, and by older people after mass, as well as being an asset to the village in general.
- When we asked you what facilities you use most in the community, the importance of the village shop and butchers were highlighted, as was the children's playpark.
- Many of you had issues with the playpark, stemming from its location within a housing estate, which made you unsure whether the amenity was for the exclusive use of children of that estate. Monaghan County Council assures us

that the playground is open to all. You felt that the playpark needs an upgrade and that it could benefit from some car parking and seating for parents

- When asked to identify missing services or facilities, by far the most popular mention was given to a café. A medical centre/ pharmacy also featured.
- Rural transport was highlighted as an important need for the community
- We asked you if you felt connected to community life. Just over 40% of you responded that yes, you did feel connected. A further 55% felt 'a little connected'. There's work to be done here to improve that sense of connection for most people in your community.
- When we asked you what would help you to feel more connected, the most popular response was 'community events'. We have built in the creation of a few annual community events into the Community Plan with this in mind, as we feel that you are on the right track; the events will not only help you to feel more connected, but will help to boost community spirit and create a strong team of volunteers who can continue to plan ways to make improvements in the area which will in turn improve the quality of life for everyone.
- We asked you to agree or disagree with a range of questions. Your answers told us a lot about the needs of the community. For example, you told us that it's a great community to grow old in, but not so great if you're a teen. You feel that there isn't much to do in general, that it's hard to get about if you haven't got a car, and that the broadband is woeful.

Please tick whether you agree or disagree with the following statements:
Newbliss/ Killeevan is a great place for older people
Newbliss/ Killeevan is a great place for families
Newbliss/ Killeevan is a great place for children
Newbliss/ Killeevan is a great place for young people
Newbliss/ Killeevan is a great place to live alone
There is lots to do in the area
I can easily get to work/ school from Newbliss/ Killeevan
I have as much access to broadband as I need
I have as much access to services as I need



So, in all, you gave us a lot to think about, and a lot to take on board. There is much in this information for the active groups to digest, and there is some information which suggests that certain activities and groups, were they to start up, would be popular and would be well supported.

For example, there appears to be an appetite for activities aimed at young people, particularly non-sports related, more socially oriented activities.

It is heartening to see that older people and people living alone feel that the community is good for them. They feel safe and supported, which is not always the case in these times of heightened rural crime. This is wonderful news and is a strength which the community must take care not to lose as we move forward.

## 5. Key Issues to be Addressed

Once the SWOT analysis and the data from the area overview were reviewed, the following issues emerged as being the most important to be addressed:

- The need for activities and a space for young people
- The continued improvement of facilities and activities at the community centre, particularly activities for adults, and activities for children who are not interested in sport
- The creation of spaces for the community to use, mix and meet
- The creation of events and activities to bring the community together more often
- Improvement of rural transport
- Improvement of broadband
- The need to create an identity for the area, both to develop the tourism potential of the area, but also to use it to promote a sense of place and community amongst those who live here.

Within these issues, several projects were identified, and ways forward were suggested. Some of these have already been acted upon, and are already in progress, which is wonderful to see. Others will take a little longer to achieve.

The most critical element of all, however, to progressing the Plan, is animation of the community itself. It is vital that everybody contributes to the community in whatever way they can. Your community needs you to GET INVOLVED. So, ask yourself how you can help, and get stuck in!

## 6. 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 Newbliss Killeevan 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 Newbliss Killeevan'.

Our Community Plan for Newbliss Killeevan focuses on building opportunities for the community to come together as often as possible, so that the people of the area can strengthen their connection to each other, and on building the social infrastructure that provides the support which enables this to happen. This is reflected strongly in the Vision:



## A Vision for Newbliss Killeevan in 2028:

*"Everybody feels welcome in Newbliss Killeevan, and everyone has a part to play in the community. There is always something going on, and nobody is left out, young or old.*

*When you enter Newbliss village, you are greeted with a sense of welcome and happiness. The village is well kept and has its heritage proudly on display. This extends out to Killeevan, where the area around the Churches is lovingly maintained.*

*The community spaces are well used by all in the community, and are hubs of community life, where people from the area regularly come together for organised social gatherings, as well as for informal drop-ins, training events and to access a range of services.*

*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. The **connections** which are made and maintained by the 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.



## 7. Main Strategies & Priorities

### 7.1 Addressing the Physical Appearance of the Area

The rural part of the community in general is well kept and does not need much attention, beyond bringing out a little of its heritage and creating some welcome features.

There are two main issues to be addressed in Newbliss village:

- A general air of disrepair on lower Main St
- The overly 'hard' landscaping of the urban area

The first will be addressed by working with the property owners. The second will be addressed by a combination of planting to soften the visual appearance of the street, and a colour scheme project to break up the present grey/ monotone scheme.

Welcome features will be installed at entrance points and at the centre of both Newbliss and Killeevan. The features will draw from the heritage of the area, e.g. the linen trade or the railway, oak leaf to reference the 'darach' in the Irish language version of the village's name. The theme for these features will be developed by the Heritage Committee, with the assistance of a public consultation process. It is important that in developing the theme, as much discussion as possible is enabled by the development process, so that the process of choosing a theme becomes a tool by which the community buys into the concept, are more aware of the heritage of the area, and more committed to the development of their community.

#### **The Courthouse Building – A Transformational Project for Newbliss**

One of the most prominent buildings in the lower end of the village is the former courthouse. Its site facing down the Cootehill road gives it added prominence, and hence it has a very strong impact on the appearance of the village from this direction. In recent times, the building has lain unoccupied, and while Monaghan County Council has done its best to keep the building's façade in good repair, the lack of general activity around the building adds an air of desolation to this end of the village.

It is with great excitement that we can announce that a future has been secured for the building. It is to become a Remote Working and Enterprise Hub, which will hopefully facilitate people living in the area to work from home, and also encourage people to move to the area by providing suitable work space and high speed broadband connectivity which will enable them to work remotely.

Part 8 planning permission for this regeneration project was received in February 2021. In April 2021, funding of €1,396,132 inc VAT was approved through the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund, with additional funding being confirmed in October 2021, bringing the total budget for the project to €1,852,258 inc VAT.

A Design Team, led by Hall Black Douglas Architects, has been appointed to oversee the detailed design, tendering and construction stages. It is intended to go to construction in April 2022 with substantial completion scheduled for August 2023.



The former Courthouse, soon to be a Remote Working & Enterprise Hub

### Tidy Towns

There is an active Tidy Towns committee in Killeevan, which enters the national Tidy Towns competition annually. Whilst there is great work going on in Newbliss village, particularly by the CE workers, the village has not entered the national competition in recent years, and therefore is not being rewarded for its efforts.

It is difficult to motivate volunteers to come out week after week when they have nothing to work towards, and the national competition provides this focus. It is therefore highly recommended that Newbliss Tidy Towns begins to engage again with the National Tidy Towns competition. Monaghan County Council provides support also through its Tidy Towns Network and through funding.

Funding was awarded by the Dept of Community & Rural Affairs to every group which entered the national competition in 2021, so groups which do not engage are losing out.

## 7.2 Improving Community Amenities

### Upgrading Existing Facilities at Acorn Centre

The Acorn Centre on Main St is a well-used facility by those who are engaging in organised activities and events. However, its present layout and management arrangements have historically made it more difficult for it to offer drop-in facilities, and thus limited its ability to serve as a social hub for the community.

With the recent purchase of the adjacent property, the Committee now hopes to have the ability to develop space in the Centre which will serve as a social hub, so that members of the community may pop in and hang out, either just to meet up with friends, or to check out the information on offer, borrow a book or make a coffee while they wait to collect the kids from activities.

### **Maintenance of Union Hall and Masonic Hall Buildings**

These buildings play important roles in the life of the community, and must be maintained, both internally and externally. Usage of the buildings by the whole community should be actively encouraged, so that a sense of shared heritage is fostered. Perhaps activities could be moved around between the buildings on a rota, so that everyone gets used to visiting each hall as a matter of routine.

A few respondents to the community survey expressed the view that they weren't sure what activities took place in these amenities and if they were welcome to attend. Perhaps the committees of all halls should be mindful that not everyone may be familiar with the procedures regarding their facilities, and that over-promotion is better than under-promotion always.

Committees might also have an understanding that they help each other out with large events, and that all the venues are used during large community festivals such as the St Patrick's Day festivities.

### **Upgrading GAA Facilities**

Much work has been undertaken already at the GAA grounds, and the core infrastructure is there, with a state-of-the-art main pitch and all-weather pitch. New dressing rooms are currently being constructed. Gym equipment is to be added also. A walking track, which joins up with the tarmac track around the perimeter of the adjacent Central School grounds, is in place. A new fence has been erected between the school and the GAA facilities.

Car parking and traffic flow on match days are issues which require further attention. The club will work with the engineering staff of Monaghan County Council to maximise the space available and put a traffic management plan in place.

### **Youth Facilities**

There is an opportunity for the young people of the area to come forward and work with the local halls to develop a dedicated youth space. The Acorn Centre, for example, has recently purchased the building next door, which may offer an opportunity to develop something special for the youth of the area. Whatever is one needs to be developed in consultation with young people, who should be given as much control over the design process as possible, as well as responsibility for running the facility once complete.

## Playground Enhancement

The community survey carried out by the Council in Spring 2018 revealed that many users felt uncomfortable using the playground as they didn't know if it was for the use of the whole community or for the use of the residents of the estate only. To clarify, the playground is for the whole community. Some car parking and signage will be added to the playground, to clarify that it is an all-community facility. Additional equipment will also be added to extend the amenity.



A small pull-in area to facilitate visiting cars to be added at playground, as well as additional play equipment

## Community Garden/ Park

There is limited public space which can be used by the whole community, and this is something that many people have highlighted during the consultation. People have expressed that they would like to have access to a community garden or park, but suitable sites are limited at this time. This project may need to wait until the right opportunity presents itself before the community's ambitions can be realised.

## Enhancing Services and Activities

### Rural Transport

Cavan Monaghan Rural Transport Co-Ordination Unit (CMTCU) operates a service on Fridays at 10.15 to Clones via Scotshouse. It returns at 12.15. From 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018, a daily commuter service between Cavan and Monaghan has been introduced which provides a service passing through Newbliss six times a day in both directions.

It is important that people use these services if they are to be sustainable. Otherwise, there is a danger that the resources will be pulled and deployed to other parts of the county/country.

A rural hackney service would provide a complementary response to those whose needs are not being met by the main commuter service.

### Community Childcare

A significant investment is to be made in outdoor play amenities at Newbliss Childcare Services. The landscape design staff in Monaghan County Council will assist the staff in the Childcare Centre to design an area to suit the needs of the children, based on the principles of natural play.

### Community Alert

A new Community Alert group to be started, or else Kilmore Swanns Cross group to be invited to extend their service to cover the Newbliss Killeevan area, so that the community can avail of the county-wide Text Alert service, Monaghan Community Alerts. The Scotshouse Community Text alert group has agreed to cover the Ture area

of Killeevan after being approached by residents there. This service provides a powerful tool for community groups to reach out to local residents, so it is important that the area is in a position to take advantage of it. Property Marking events to be carried out in the community, availing of Monaghan County Council's free property marking scheme.

## Enhancing Community Capacity

### *Group Mentoring Programme*

Monaghan County Council has selected Newbliss Killeevan to participate in a pilot initiative: **Committees Mentoring Tomorrow's Leaders**. Groups which agree to participate will be asked to recruit new volunteers onto their committee, and then a Mentor will be appointed to work alongside the augmented committee to support them in:

- Carrying out a group health check
- Agreeing the key things they wish to work on over the next twelve months
- Setting out a work plan
- Identifying the key actions & setting tasks
- Identifying avenues to progress various initiatives
- Making funding applications
- Managing budgets
- Reviewing progress

Groups will receive committee skills training as part of the support package, as well as an overview of writing a development plan, and the steps involved in planning out a large-scale capital project.

This support programme will simultaneously increase the number of well-trained, capable committee members at the disposal of the Group whilst helping the Group to develop their project ideas and gain momentum on their workplan.

It is hoped that this programme will give the community sector of Newbliss and Killeevan a power boost, and ensure that great things are achieved over the next few years.

## 7.3 Looking Forward & Future Proofing the Area

There are certain things that we know are coming down the line towards our community. We may not know the exact shape they will take, or the challenges and opportunities they will present when they arrive, but we have a fair idea of what lies ahead, and we can begin planning now and be a step ahead of the game.

### *Climate Adaptation*

We know that world leaders agree that climate change is the biggest challenge facing the world today. Global, European and National policy all aligns to drive a reduction in carbon emissions and to reduce energy consumption. In Ireland, local

authorities have all prepared Climate Adaptation Plans which identify the effects that the changing climate is likely to have, and identifies strategies to cope with things like severe weather events, flooding etc.

The community of Newbliss Killeevan needs also to plan for a future where energy is more expensive to consume, and where the weather is more disruptive more often. As was revealed in the Census information, the majority of homes in our community are of older construction, and are therefore likely to be less energy efficient. Can the community band together to help individual homeowners to deep retrofit their houses through the SEAI's Better Energy Communities programme perhaps?

There are some older trees in the area which may be vulnerable to high wind events. Taking action before they become damaged might prolong their lives, as well as avoid damage to property. Saving seeds from these trees would enable their genes to continue in the area should anything happen to some of the older trees during a storm.

### *The Ulster Canal Greenway*

Monaghan County Council, in collaboration with Waterways Ireland, intends to develop a greenway along the entire length of the Ulster Canal through Co. Monaghan before the end of 2030. Already, an initial scoping study has been carried out on the section between Smithboro and Clones and a report was presented to the public at the end of 2021. Cavan County Council is currently working to develop the section of abandoned railway line from Cavan town up towards Butlersbridge, with the intention of connecting to the Ulster Canal, which is to be re-watered from Castlesaunderson to Clones. Eventually, it is hoped that a network of greenways extending across central Ulster will reach over 200km in length and will enable a visitor to enter Ireland at Belfast or Larne and travel to the west of Ireland on foot or bike via greenway.

It is therefore fortunate indeed that Killeevan is located not far from the Ulster Canal. The community should stay alert as the route is developed, and ensure that an entry point is designed at the closest point to Killeevan, to facilitate access by local people to the greenway, and also to enable the area to benefit economically from visitors who may deviate off the greenway to explore the wider countryside, stay overnight, and dine in local establishments, amongst other services which may be of interest to the weary traveller.





Location of Killeevan and Newbliss relative to the route of the Ulster Canal

## 7.4 Building Community Spirit

### Community Festivals

Strong communities come together often, and we need to create those opportunities. Many people said during the community consultation that they missed the old Newbliss Festival, and it is recommended that an event of that nature be re-instated. A family day, with a bit of craic, food and music, and which may even raise a bit of money towards the next community project.

The proposed event will focus on showcasing the many activities which go on in the community and will be billed as a **'Connect with your Community'** day, with each group putting on displays and offering samples of what they have been doing all year. It will be an opportunity to show the community the progress that has been made over the year, what has been done with any money that was raised and gather feedback from them on what they would like to see done over the next twelve months.

In fact, it is planned to hold TWO community-wide events each year; one summer festival, and one at Christmas. The summer festival will showcase what is happening in the community and get people's feedback.

The second event will take place near Christmas and will focus on celebrating and being thankful. It will look to build a sense of pride in being part of this community, and pride in what we have achieved together during the past twelve months and longer.



The events will also be about thanking those who make all the activity in the community happen; the volunteers. Those who have served on committees, the parents who have brought kids along to litter-picks, the people who have done little thankless jobs behind the scenes week after week which enable a club to continue to run.

### **Pulling Together**

Sometimes, people simply don't realise that their help is needed, and would be more than willing to give a few hours if asked.

A '**Give your Community 10-minutes a Month**' notice board is to be started in the Community Centre where groups needing a particular task done can post it up and ask for support from the community. This initiative should also be run through social media channels.

## **7.5 Improving Community Connectivity**

### **Community Council**

It is proposed to set up a new structure, on which each of the groups which are active in the community will have one seat. The new structure will be called Newbliss/Killeevan Community Council, and its purpose will be to enable all the groups to work together on developing the area and overcoming issues which face the community.

This Community Plan will provide the Community Council with a framework for action. The Council will meet twice a year to look at how the Plan is going. Where actions are stalled, the Council will put their collective minds to the task to try to find a way to 'unstick' the action again.

Monaghan County Council will provide a mentoring resource to the Community Council for its initial year, to help it to get up and running. The Community Council should also consider inviting the Ballybay Clones Municipal District co-ordinator to attend a meeting occasionally, to help identify ways in which Monaghan County Council can assist the Community Council to deliver its objectives.

### **Newbliss.net**

A simple website is to be set up, with links to each of the local groups' existing social media platforms, to make it easier to keep abreast of what is going on in the community. It will act as a one-stop-shop for all things Newbliss and Killeevan. Each club/ group will be given 'contributor' username and passwords so that they can add content. The site will also feature an events calendar.

It will enable clubs and committees to be contactable much more easily, and quickly, also, and thus significantly improve one of the biggest barriers to participation in local activities which was expressed in the community survey.

### Improving Communication

A Community Noticeboard should be considered. This should take both a physical form, e.g. a place in the village where people can check for news, and a digital form, such as the community website, with all local organisations contributing to the one site to ensure regular and current content.

Consideration should also be given to investing in a community newsletter which is distributed around the houses, and to joining Monaghan County Council's new county-wide Community Alert scheme, which will enable communities to send free texts to subscribers.

## 7.6 The Main Objectives Behind the Priority Themes

- *The 'why' behind the Plan*

### Addressing Isolation & Promoting Integration

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 Newbliss Killeevan, 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 Newbliss Killeevan. Everyone will be asked to identify what part they play, and what gifts they bring to the community, and to pledge '10 Minutes a Month', where they put something back into their community.

As previously mentioned, two reward / community-wide events will be introduced, to motivate and thank those who volunteer in whatever capacity throughout the community.

### **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.

### **Looking to the Future**

We are facing different challenges as a community than we did fifty years ago – or even five years ago. And we need to respond and prepare. We need to think about how climate change is going to affect our community – what challenges it will bring, but also what opportunities it may create for jobs, perhaps in the area of sustainable tourism.

We also need to look at trends in society, and think about how our community can take advantage of these. Could organic farming offer a more sustainable solution for farming our drumlin soils whilst protecting our vulnerable waters from pollution, and still offer our farmers a higher profit, for example?

The time to start thinking about the future is now.

## Part III: The Actions – What is going to be done, and who will do it

### 8. The Actions & Actors

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 we've set out for Newbliss Killeevan.

## 8.1 Action Plan

Project Detail	Who	How
<b>1. Address the physical appearance of Newbliss village and Killeevan</b>		
1.1 Address dereliction at lower Main St	Monaghan County Council & Property Owners	Council to work with property owners to develop a scheme & secure funding to carry out works
1.2 Revive Tidy Towns movement in Newbliss village & enter the national competition annually	Newbliss CE scheme to lead, until a Tidy Towns group is established.	Recruit new volunteers. Start a Junior Tidy Towns. Prepare a simple 3-year workplan to help direct the work. Post tasks to the '10 Minute Tasks' board. Incentivise and reward effort with a local competition. Enter the national tidy towns competition each year. Incorporate any recommended work from the Judges' Report into future community plans
1.3 Improve the streetscape by 'greening' it	Monaghan County Council / CE Scheme	Streetscape design to be drawn up & agreed with the community. Funding to be sought to carry out the work. Oak trees ('Darach') to be planted along Main Street to replace some of the brick paving. Native hedging and pollinator friendly planting to be used throughout the village
1.4 Bring colour to the village by engaging an artist to design a colour scheme for the streetscape, then implement the scheme	Monaghan County Council/ property owners	Council to issue invitation to artists to tender for contract to design a colour scheme. Consultation with property owners to secure their participation, with a view to securing funding for a village enhancement scheme
1.5 Seek to address structural issues of older buildings on Main St, such as untidy external wiring, poor energy efficiency and rising damp	Co-ordinated approach supported by Monaghan County Council	Examine potential for 'better energy communities' group project to cover deep retrofit upgrades, or village enhancement project.
1.6 Sort out Japanese Knotweed problem at back of some properties along Main St	Tidy Towns/ County Council	Commission a village-wide survey & treatment plan.
1.7 Road safety measures on approach roads	Monaghan County Council	Council to commission a Road Safety Audit. Implement the measures recommended in the report

<p>1.8 Develop the 'village feel' of Killeevan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Erect heritage village nameplates on all approaches to Killeevan village</li> <li>- Design and install sculpture piece and place it to create a focal point in the village</li> <li>- Install public lighting throughout the village</li> </ul> <p>Place directional signs outlining historic sites in area</p> <p>Continue efforts to deal with derelict sites</p>	<p>Monaghan County Council Newbliss &amp; Killeevan Tidy Towns, Killeevan Heritage</p> <p>Monaghan County Council</p>	<p>Signage design to be agreed with Tidy Towns and Heritage Group</p> <p>Engage with property owners. Develop a village enhancement scheme for Newbliss, and secure funding to implement it</p>
<p>1.9 Combine Actions 1.2, 1.4, 1.5, 1.7 and 1.8 into a Village Enhancement Scheme proposal and seek funding to implement it</p>	<p>Monaghan County Council</p>	<p>Draw up the scheme. Make funding application. Oversee the delivery of the scheme once funding has been secured</p>
<p>1.10 Improve access to ecclesiastical sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Upgrade laneway to St Luke's Graveyard</li> <li>- Upgrade Parking area at St Luke's Graveyard</li> <li>- Upgrade car park at St Laebhains Church &amp; upgrade fence on adjacent wall</li> <li>- Upgrade parking area along Abbey Graveyard, replace gate with traditional style</li> </ul>	<p>Killeevan Tidy Towns Church committees Killeevan Heritage Group</p>	<p>Agree work to be done with property owners Discuss any road access issues with Monaghan County Council Prepare conservation plan where appropriate Source funds</p>
<p>1.11 Carry out restoration work to traditional features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Repair all stone walls</li> <li>- Conserve bell tower at St. Luke's Church of Ireland</li> <li>- Plant suitable hedging along field and erect gates /Refurbish stonewall along laneway at St Luke's</li> </ul>	<p>Killeevan Heritage / Killeevan Tidy Towns</p>	<p>Funding to be sought</p> <p>Conservation plan to be developed for bell tower and turret</p> <p>Take expert advice on suitable planting for hedging at abbey</p> <p>Access any required training in order to ensure stonework repairs are appropriate and to a high standard</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expose stonework on entrance walls to Abbey</li> <li>- Conserve turret at Latroe</li> </ul>		
<b>2. Enhancement of Activities, Services and Amenities</b>		
<p>2.1 Continue to improve the Acorn Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- install triple glazing to windows on western side of building</li> <li>- construct retaining wall to rear of building to address unstable bank at rear of Centre</li> <li>- upgrade heating system throughout the Centre</li> <li>- insulate all external walls (pumped cavity insulation)</li> <li>- paint exterior</li> <li>- improve the design of the street side façade of the building,</li> </ul> <p>Develop the recently purchased house next door to provide additional amenities for the community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Redesign the stage area to improve storage</li> <li>- Upgrade the first-floor areas</li> <li>- develop courtyard garden to rear</li> </ul>	Killeevan Development Association	Research other community centres to look at successful social hubs & how to generate activities which work for all members of the community. Build partnerships. Commission drawings. Apply for funding. Carry out works.
2.2 Develop a youth drop in zone & resource area, to include library, Wi-Fi, and youth information	Newbliss Foróige/ Macra	Consult with young people about their needs. Help them to plan their area. Apply to LEADER for funding under their Rural Youth measure
2.3 Develop the former Courthouse at bottom of Main St into a remote working facility and enterprise centre	Monaghan County Council/ Local Enterprise Office	Secure funding from Rural Regeneration Scheme Prepare drawings of building & secure planning permission Award contract for construction & manage the build
<p>2.4 Continue to develop the facilities at the GAA grounds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- floodlighting</li> <li>- full sized training field</li> <li>- develop an indoor training area</li> </ul>	Killeevan Sarsfields GFC	Secure land Commission design Raise funds Source funding



- upgrade the seating in the spectator stand - shop - off-road car park		Negotiate with neighbouring facilities regarding common need for car parking
2.5 Develop off-road parking facilities for school staff and parents	Board of Management Killeevan National School	Acquire land Design scheme Source funding Construct car park
2.6 Upgrade playground & improve layout, to make more obvious that the amenity is for the use of the entire community rather than just those living in the estate	Monaghan County Council	Council to consult with local children on what they would like to see in the playground, then design improvements & seek funding.
2.7 Investigate the feasibility of constructing a footpath from Newbliss village to Killeevan	Monaghan County Council	Provision of path to be evaluated by the Council in the light of new Walking & Cycling Strategy, and the desire to link the villages to the Ulster Canal Greenway when it passes the community
2.8 Create a community park	Monaghan County Council & Community Council	Community to identify and secure a suitable location. Council to assist community to secure services of a landscape designer, consult with community on proposed design & location, secure funding and oversee development phase of project
2.9 Create a heritage trail, including information points, signage and an app - Erect heritage information board in Killeevan village	Killeevan Heritage Group & County Council Killeevan Tidy Towns	Gather information Script the brochures, information boards etc Edit the information down, down down! Put most of it online, and keep the paper/ onsite versions clutter-free and easy to read
2.10 Enhance activities for older people	Acorn Centre Activities Committee	Carry out a needs survey of older people Create a base of operations at Acorn Centre & build activities around it.
2.11 Work with Cavan Monaghan Local Link to enhance rural transport links between Newbliss and surrounding towns	Newbliss Killeevan Community Council/ Cavan Monaghan Local Link	Underway... Important to promote its use or it could be discontinued

2.12 Run a 'come and try it' series of taster activity sessions, then continue to offer the ones which prove most popular	Community Council	Activities to be sourced from various agencies and run in every venue. To be promoted using the enhanced 'community noticeboards'
2.13 Set up a Community Alert group in the area	Newbliss Killeevan Community Council	Interested parties to be invited to a meeting to discuss how to proceed. Support given by Monaghan Co Co, An Garda Siochana and Muintir na Tire
2.14 Provide training opportunities locally, both for individuals and for committees	Community Council	Outreach courses to be sourced from the ETB and Monaghan Integrated Development, amongst others. Committee skills training and other training to assist groups to develop will also be sourced
2.15 Organise summer camps for children, involving a range of activities - Campa Samhradh - Creative Kids camp (linked to Creative Monaghan programme) - Active Kids camp (linked to Healthy Monaghan programme)	Lios Darach le Gaeilge Community Council	Source funding to help keep fees down for participants Contact Creative Monaghan team in Clones Library to discuss a programme and funding Contact Healthy Monaghan co-ordinator in Community section of Monaghan County Council to discuss
2.16 Improve the outdoor play facilities at Newbliss Childcare Services	Newbliss Childcare Services	Monaghan County Council Horticulturalist to support in the design of the amenity. Access funding to construct the amenity – if open to the whole community and not limited to users of the childcare service, more sources of funding will be available
2.17 Upgrade and develop car – parking facilities at St Livinius Church Killeevan	Killeevan Catholic Church Parish Council	Source funding
2.18 Continue conservation work at the Abbey Graveyard and Church ruins - produce 'how to' guide to encourage other groups to take on similar projects	Killeevan Heritage Group	Continue to work with Monaghan County Council Heritage Office

<p>2.19 Continue to upgrade Greenan's Cross old school as a community venue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- move the boundary wall back from the road to create safer access</li> <li>- upgrade car parking</li> <li>- restore original toilet block</li> <li>- build storage shed</li> <li>- upgrade kitchen</li> <li>- repair guttering &amp; barges &amp; replaster building</li> </ul>	Greenan's Cross Development Committee	<p>Prepare drawings and costings for each piece of work</p> <p>Source funding for the work in phases, to allow the required amount match funding to be raised locally</p>
<p>2.20 Organize computer/ device training at the Acorn Centre using the free Wi-Fi point, to encourage its use, and to show people what they can use it to do</p>	Acorn Centre Committee, with help from WiFi4U coordinators in Monaghan County Council	<p>Organise various classes aimed at different people, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- show farmers how to register a calf online</li> <li>- invite library staff to demonstrate how to access books online</li> <li>- invite housing staff to show how to pay Council rent online</li> </ul>
<b>3. Build Community Spirit</b>		
<p>3.1 Introduce two Community Celebration events - 'Community Check-In' in summer, and 'Community Thank you' at Christmas</p>	Newbliss Development	To be organised by the new Community Council (a refocused Newbliss Development), with support from Monaghan County Council
<p>3.2 Create a 'brand' for the area, drawing from local heritage and the area's association with nearby Tyrone Guthrie Centre. Use the brand on welcome signage</p>	Killeevan Heritage Committee	Run a local competition to find the brand. Engage an artist to design feature signs to welcome visitors to the area. Secure funding to erect signs
<p>3.3 Improve communication in the village:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- digital noticeboard</li> <li>- website: Newbliss.net</li> </ul>	Community Council	<p>Erect digital community noticeboard outside the community centre</p> <p>Link noticeboard to an online page – all groups to use the page to post their news &amp; events</p> <p>Create a website, to which all local group pages to be linked. Everyone to post to this central site, to make it easy to find out what's going on in Newbliss/Killeevan</p>

3.4 Increase the amount of engagement in the community	Community Council	Start a 'Ten Minutes a Month' campaign, asking people to give 10 minutes of their time each month to some local group or cause. Groups to list jobs that need doing on the digital noticeboard. People can pick job, do it, remove it from board. <b>IDEA: Person who does most jobs in a year could become Mayor of Killeevan?</b>
3.5 Strengthen community participation in Newbliss Tidy Towns and re-engage with the National Tidy Towns competition	Newbliss Tidy Towns Newbliss CE	List tasks such as 'Saturday morning litter pick' on the 'ten minutes a month' noticeboard Enter the National Tidy Towns competition
<b>4. Future Proof our Community</b>		
4.1 Set up a Climate Action Group & resource them to develop a work programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consider how to improve the energy efficiency of the local buildings</li> <li>- Consider how to improve the use of water resources in the area</li> <li>- Consider how to protect our water sources from pollution</li> <li>- Consider how to provide more habitats for wildlife</li> <li>- Carry out a survey of the area's large trees, to determine their condition, and whether they are at risk from high wind incidents. Take action where necessary</li> </ul> Consider how to provide more food sources all year round for wildlife	Community Council	Funding sourced to secure the services of a mentor, devise a work plan and to carry out some small start-up activities  Tie the work into the Tidy Towns groups, who will benefit from any initiatives under the Biodiversity and Sustainable Development categories in the national competition.  Avail of funding from the LEADER programme, SEAI's Sustainable Energy Communities, LAWCO and Monaghan County Council
4.2 Ensure that there are adequate and suitable homes in our community to meet the needs of people at all stages of their lives	Monaghan County Council & Community Council	Identification of those in need Identification of suitable sites Design & build schemes

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide affordable homes suited to young people starting out and wishing to remain in our community</li> <li>- Provide smaller homes suited to the needs of older people looking to downsize yet remain in the community</li> </ul>		
<p>4.3 Prepare the community to take full advantage of the economic opportunities presented by the Ulster Canal Greenway, when complete</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Construct on-road cycle link from Newbliss and Killeevan to connect with the greenway</li> <li>- Ensure that a high-profile exit point is designed into the greenway at Killeevan to facilitate greenway users to depart from the greenway and explore Killeevan and Newbliss</li> <li>- Ensure that local sites of note are clearly signposted and develop trails and information points so that the local heritage is easily accessed</li> <li>- Support local businesses and property owners to prepare for an increase in visitors to the area</li> </ul>	<p>Monaghan County Council</p> <p>Monaghan County Council</p> <p>Killeevan Heritage Group</p> <p>Community Council</p>	<p>Cycle scheme to be designed. Approval &amp; funding to be secured from TII.</p> <p>Input by community required at the design stages of the greenway route</p> <p>Care to be taken to imagine how a visitor leaving the greenway on foot or bike will experience the area, and to design local guides with this in mind.</p> <p>Opportunities to offer accommodation, food, entertainment, bike repairs, transport, access to email, tour guide and other services to those who use the greenway.</p>
<p>4.4 Develop biodiversity value of Killeevan village:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Create a Nature Reserve at the foot of Killeevan Catholic Church Graveyard</li> </ul>	<p>Killeevan Catholic Church Parish Council</p>	<p>Use the Fossitt habitat classification system to determine what type of habitats are present on the site, then carry out surveys to determine what species are already present. Devise a habitat management plan to guide us in improving the habitats to support the species that are there already, and to attract in</p>

- Plant Biodiversity hedging along bog land and install appropriate gates	Killeevan Tidy Towns	others without risking the displacement of those which are already there. Funding is available from LEADER.
<b>5. Co-Ordination &amp; Implementation</b>		
5.1 Re-focus Newbliss Development to serve as a Community Council to facilitate communication between all the groups in the area & oversee delivery of this Community Plan	All groups supported by Monaghan County Council	Monaghan County Council to host initial meetings. Each group to have a seat. First year's programme to be agreed at first meeting
5.2 Run a pilot <b>Communities Mentoring Tomorrow's Leaders</b> programme, to help build the capacity of local committees and plan the succession of committees with members who wish to retire	Monaghan County Council/ Monaghan PPN	Interested Committees to Sign Up with the Council Committees to recruit new members Council to organise mentoring
5.3 Investigate the feasibility of a Shared Fundraiser  Options to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All groups share in the funds raised</li> <li>- The fundraising goes on continually at a moderate level, meeting all the needs of all the groups, without creating a drain on the community, or overburdening any one group</li> </ul>	Community Council	Discuss the idea Identify each group's funding needs to meet normal running costs Identify each group's projected needs for special projects for the next five years Calculate the total amount of funding needed by the community for all. Calculate how much per month is required Investigate fundraising ideas which provide a yield above the monthly amount required. Examine the risk involved, the manpower involved, the setup costs, overheads etc. Agree on a fundraiser, how & when to divide the funds raised, what to do if it under/ overperforms



5.4 Review the Community Plan & Update as needs evolve & actions are achieved	Community Council	<p>As the years go by, some actions will be achieved, and will need to be replaced with new ones. Others may stall, and the reasons need to be explored and decisions taken around what to do about it.</p> <p>Community Council to meet every six months</p> <p>Community Council to meet with County Council once a year</p>
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## 9. Implementation

Unless a task is assigned to someone, it doesn't get done, and unless the task has a deadline, it never moves forward. So, against each Action, an organisation(s) is listed who will take the initiative to make that project happen.

To make sure that the Plan is progressed, we have built an Implementation process into the Plan. Every group in Newbliss/ Killeevan is a Stakeholder in making the community the best it can be, so every group will be invited to sit on a new Community Council. This body will be tasked with making sure that the Community Plan is put into action. They will be responsible for a number of actions themselves, and as they bed into their role, they no doubt will take on more responsibility and identify more actions that they wish to take on.

The Community Council will meet every three months to drive progress locally, and will meet once a year with Monaghan County Council to go over the Community Plan, and discuss progress on each action. They will look particularly at:

- actions which have gone well
  - what lessons can we learn from them?
  - can we replicate the success in other areas?
  - if the action is now complete, does it need to be replaced with a follow-up action?
- actions that have stalled
  - reason for lack of progress – can it be rectified
  - decision on what to do – amend the action/ remove the action/ replace the action
- changes in the community
  - are there emerging needs that we have to respond to?
  - are there some needs which are in the Plan, but which are no longer a priority?

Based on the outcome of the above discussion, the Community Council and County Council will prepare a Project List, with projects sorted into Short, Medium- and Long-Term priorities. This will help to form the basis of any funding applications that the Council makes on the community's behalf.

When prioritising projects, the following criteria will 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 far-reaching impact through facilitating people accessing personal development opportunities
- their potential to improve the quality of life for people in the village through improved services, access to opportunities etc

Plans work best when they stay flexible and respond as local circumstances change.

This Plan is a Working Document, which means that it is designed to change over time;

- as we achieve one action, we cross it off, then replace it with whatever needs to follow it.
- If one thing isn't working, we review it and find out why. Then we either remove the blockage and get it back on track, or remove the action and replace it with something that will work
- Sometimes needs change; technological advances could make broadband obsolete, and we might find ourselves removing it as an Action from the Plan and replacing it with something else

There are three important steps to ensuring the Plan is the **right plan, and that it happens**:

- Agreement at the outset – the whole community is consulted and buys in to the set of actions which are proposed
- A structure is put in place to facilitate everyone's involvement in implementing the Plan, so everyone is invested in making it happen – the Community Council
- We review progress regularly, talk about what's working/ not working, and identify anything that needs to be changed in the Plan

## 10. Making it Happen

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

### 1: Commitment from the Community

- From groups, from families and from individuals
- And also from Monaghan County Council and other agencies, who will support you in your work to make your community better

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

- This agreed Plan, with the improved channels of communication for keeping in touch with what's going on in the community – the Facebook page and the Komeer app - is your process

- The Community Council and volunteering noticeboard is your structure

### 3: Resources

- You, the people of Newbliss/Killeevan are the most important resource that your community has. As you proved with the playground, there's little you can't achieve together when united behind a cause!
- With projects identified in this Plan, and worked up with design drawings and costings, Monaghan County Council will help the community to identify funding opportunities to take project proposals forward to apply for the resources necessary to get projects completed.

We would like to energise the whole community to get 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.

To help give this new approach the shape and structure it will need, the new 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.

Commitment is also required at an individual level from every person living in Newbliss/Killeevan. Your time and skills are needed, and you are urged to play your part. Get into the habit of dropping into the Community Centre and looking for something you can help with. The Community Notice Board will be a good place to start.

Together, we will ensure that Newbliss and Killeevan remains a vibrant community that people are proud to live in and love to call home.

## 11. A Partnership Process

The making of this Community Plan was a partnership process between the people of Newbliss/ Killeevan and Monaghan County Council. The realisation of the Plan will also be achieved through community/ Council partnership.

The journey towards achieving our goals can sometimes be the most important part of what we do, and this is never truer than in community work, where the process makes all the difference to where the journey ultimately ends.

For this journey to end in a strong, sustainable community, where people of all ages are thriving, we need more people in the Newbliss/ Killeevan of today to step up into leadership roles, and to be willing to say, 'I'll give that a go'.

So, what are you going to do for your community today?



## Appendix B:

### Development Constraints Map from County Development Plan 2019-2025

#### *A quick explanation of what it is and why it's important to have a look at it:*

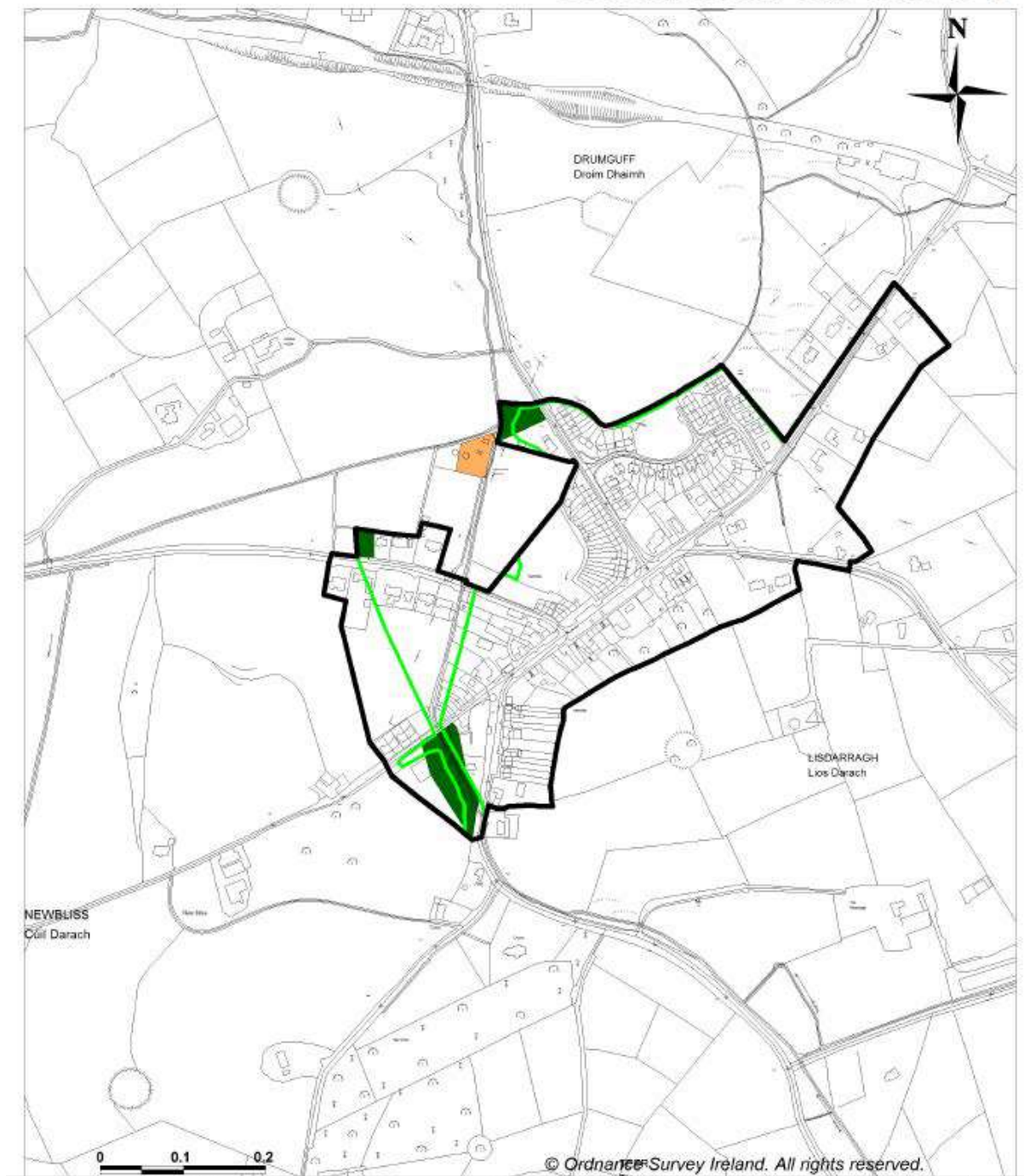
The County Development Plan is a statutory document. It is used by Monaghan County Council to determine what is, and is not, permissible when you apply for planning permission.

Each urban area (which includes villages) in the County is given a 'development envelope', and planning permission is more straightforward to achieve within this envelope than outside it. Land can also be 'zoned' for different purposes. Land may be zoned for 'residential', 'commercial', 'amenity', 'industrial' or 'agricultural' use, for example. If you are seeking permission to put a noisy nightclub in an area that is zoned 'residential', expect a few eyebrows to be raised!



# Newbliss

## Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025



## Appendix C: List of Protected Structures

Structures listed in Monaghan County Development Plan as Protected, with Regional Importance are:

41401220	Killeevan Folly - Freestanding hexagonal folly with vaulted roof	Killeevan, Newbliss
41401221	Killeevan Rectory - Detached five bay two storey rectory	Killeevan, Newbliss
41401223	St. Laebhan's Church of Ireland	Killeevan, Newbliss
41401227	Killygorman House - Detached three bay two storey house	Newbliss
41401228	Wright's Mill View Corn Mill - Irregular bay four storey mill	Killeevan, Newbliss
41401701	Scarvey House Gatelodge - Detached three bay single storey gatelodge	Killeevan, Newbliss
41401702	Scarvey House – detached three bay single storey house over basement with Greek revival tetrastyle portico	Killeevan, Newbliss
41401706	Glinch House – Detached three bay two storey house above basement.	Newbliss
41401707	Newbliss Presbyterian Church	Newbliss
41401708	Market House - Five bay two storey former market house	Newbliss
41401709	The Inn - Three bay three storey house	Main Street, Newbliss
41401711	Church of Ireland - Three bay cruciform plan	Newbliss
41401712	The Parsonage - Detached three bay two storey house	Lisdarragh, Newbliss
41401713	Aghabog Church of Ireland - Five bay single cell church	Newbliss
41401716	Annaghmakerrig House - Three bay two storey Tudor revival house	The Tyrone Guthrie Centre, Newbliss
41401717	Lake Lodge - Detached three bay single storey red brick gatelodge	The Tyrone Guthrie Centre, Newbliss
41401718	Scarvey House - Farmyard buildings	Killeevan
41401801	Soupy Mills - Corn and flax mill	Aghnaskew, Newbliss
41401802	W. Sloan - Detached three bay two storey house	Swan's Cross

A further six structures are recorded as being of Local Importance and given Protected status under the Plan:

- St Livinius Catholic Church, Killeevan
- Annalore Mill
- County Council Offices, Main St, Newbliss
- The Lodge at Church of Ireland, Newbliss
- Water Pump, Main St, Newbliss
- Millennium Pole, Main St, Newbliss