Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin
Monaghan County Council

Age Friendly Monaghan

STRATEGY 2027-2031

Creating a County where we can all Live and Age Well









monaghan
Age Friendly County

Inclusive | **Respectful** | **Supportive** | **Connected**



Table of Contents

Foreword from Cathaoirleach	**Page 4**
Foreword from Chief Executive	**Page 5**
Welcome from the Older People's Councils	**Page 6**
A note from Monaghan Age Friendly Programme Manager	**Page 7**
Introduction	**Page 9**
Age Friendly Policy Framework	**Page 13**
Public Sector Duty	**Page 15**
Our Methodology	**Page 16**
Objectives and Themes	**Page 17**
Key Demographic Information	**Page 20**
Key Consultation Findings	**Page 25**
Our Vision and Values	**Page 32**
Our Age Friendly Action Plans 2027–2031	**Page 35**
Theme A: Health and Wellbeing	**Page 36**
Theme B: Safer Communities	**Page 44**
Theme C: Mobility and Accessibility	**Page 51**
Theme D: Information and Participation	**Page 55**
Monitoring Framework	**Page 60**
Key Achievements since 2020-2024 Strategy	**Page 62**
Age Friendly Alliance Membership	**Page 64**






true equality






monaghan
Age Friendly Hospital



Foreword from the Cathaoirleach,
Monaghan County Council

I am delighted to welcome the publication of the Monaghan Age Friendly Strategy 2027-2031. This strategy reflects Monaghan County Council commitment to ensuring that County Monaghan is a place where older people are valued, respected, and supported to live full and active lives.

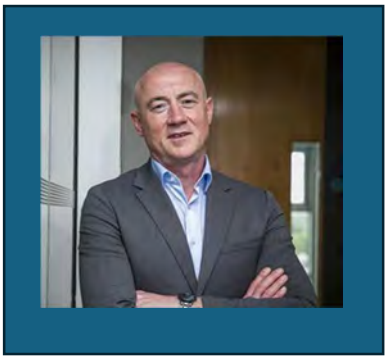
I wish to acknowledge the significant contribution of older people, community organisations, statutory agencies, and members of the Age Friendly Alliance and Monaghan Older Person's Council who helped shape this strategy. Together, we have identified priorities that will help make Monaghan a more inclusive, accessible, and age-friendly county for all.

I look forward to working with our partners to implement the actions outlined in this strategy and to continuing improving the quality of life and wellbeing of older people across County Monaghan.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank the Monaghan Age Friendly team for developing this strategy in-house. Their dedication and hard work have ensured the delivery of a strong and ambitious roadmap for the years ahead.

On behalf of the Elected Members, I wish the Monaghan Age Friendly Alliance, and the Age Friendly team best wishes in implementing the ambitious but achievable targets in this plan. I look forward to seeing the outcomes of these in the coming five years.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Aidan Campbell



Foreword from the Chief Executive

I am pleased to present the Monaghan Age Friendly Strategy 2027-2031, a shared commitment to ensuring that County Monaghan is a place where people can age positively, actively and with dignity.

Like many counties across Ireland, Monaghan is experiencing a significant demographic change. The number of older people living in our communities is increasing and, with this, comes both opportunities and responsibilities.

Older people make a vital contribution to the social, cultural, economic and civic life of our county. Their knowledge, experience and continued participation strengthen our communities and enrich the lives of all generations. The population aged 65 years and over increased by 21% between 2016 and 2022, highlighting the importance of planning now for an age-friendly future.

This strategy sets out a clear framework for action over the next five years. It reflects the priorities identified by older people themselves through an extensive programme of consultation and engagement. Their lived experiences have shaped the objectives and actions contained within this strategy and will continue to guide its implementation. The voice of older people remains central to everything we do.

The strategy recognises that becoming a truly Age Friendly County requires partnership and collaboration. Monaghan County Council cannot achieve this alone. Success will depend on the ongoing commitment of my colleagues on the Age Friendly Alliance, public service providers, community and voluntary organisations, businesses and local communities working together to create environments that support healthy ageing, independence, participation and inclusion.

The actions included within this strategy align with the Council's vision of creating a thriving, vibrant and sustainable county and complement wider local and national policy objectives. Through collective effort we will continue to improve access to services, support age-friendly communities, promote inclusion and wellbeing, and ensure that the needs of older people are considered across planning, policy and service delivery.

I would like to sincerely thank the members of the Older Persons Council, the Age Friendly Alliance, community groups, stakeholders and all those who contributed their time, expertise and experience to the development of this strategy. Your commitment has helped to create a shared vision for an inclusive county where everyone can age well.

I look forward to working with our partners and communities to deliver this strategy and to building a County Monaghan where older people are valued, respected, connected and empowered to continue playing a full and active role in community life.

Robert Burns, Chief Executive, Monaghan County Council





Welcome from the Monaghan Older People's Council

We, as joint Chairs of the Older People's Council in County Monaghan are delighted to introduce the new Age Friendly Strategy. This strategy is a combination of the voices of the older people in County Monaghan along with an action plan which will be implemented by our key stakeholders who form part of the Age Friendly Alliance which will continue to make County Monaghan a great place to live and age well.

The lived experience of the older people in county Monaghan, the challenges they face in their daily lives and their hopes and aspirations for the future have helped form this strategy and action plan. We would like to thank the group and individuals who took time to participate in our focus group and complete the surveys both online and in person.

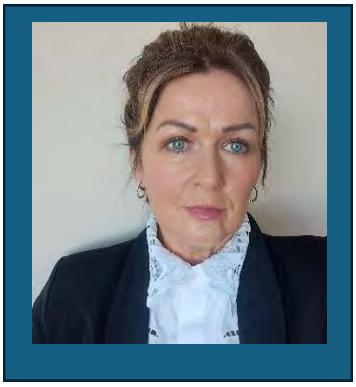
We would also like to thank and acknowledge the work of the Age Friendly Alliance who have taken the hopes, fears and challenges that face older people and helped to form a substantial action plan which will shape the future of the county and enhance the lives of older people.

We would also like to acknowledge all the work carried out by Monaghan County Council, the Age Friendly Alliance and all the partner agencies who have worked to bring this plan to fruition. To achieve lasting significant change these agencies have committed to embed Age Friendly principles into policy, services and planning throughout the county which is due to the input of the older people in County Monaghan.

Housing, transport and access to healthcare featured strongly in the feedback received and forms a part of our action plan which sets out achievable actions for stakeholders which will ultimately lead to a better quality of life and better services for the older people in County Monaghan.

"To age well is to be seen, heard, valued and included."

Joint Chairpersons Lorraine Cunningham and Paddy Gollogly



A Note from Leona Keenan

Age Friendly Programme Manager

On behalf of Age Friendly Monaghan and myself as Programme Manager I would like to acknowledge and thank all those who have contributed to develop this Age Friendly Strategy.

I would like to acknowledge the contribution of the following:

- Older people of County Monaghan,
- Members of the Older People's Council,
- The community and voluntary organisations,
- The statutory agencies, service providers, and elected representatives.

Your contribution and input have ensured this strategy reflects the priorities, issues and needs of our older people in our community which will ensure County Monaghan continues to develop into a county where people can age well.

I would also like to acknowledge the Age Friendly Alliance members whose contribution and willingness to take ownership of actions in our strategy shows the strong commitment they have in making our county a place where people can age well, feel seen and respected and continue to live independently with confidence and dignity.

To our various community groups who facilitated workshops and focus groups including WCI Blayney Blades, Ballybay ICA, Clones Hens Shed and WCI Monaghan amongst others your help and collaboration was essential for allowing the voice of older people to be front and centre.

This Age Friendly Strategy is truly a collaborative effort and is a great example of what can be achieved through partnership and with meaningful participation.

Leona Keenan,
Age Friendly Programme Manager, Monaghan

Survey Results

Key Statistics

30%
of respondents are aged 70–79 years

Our older population are actively engaging

92%
Are happy in their current home

72%
Have access to a walking track

39%
Would like to join an active retirement group

25%
of respondents are aged 60–69 years

A strong voice from younger older people

15%
of respondents are aged 80–89 years

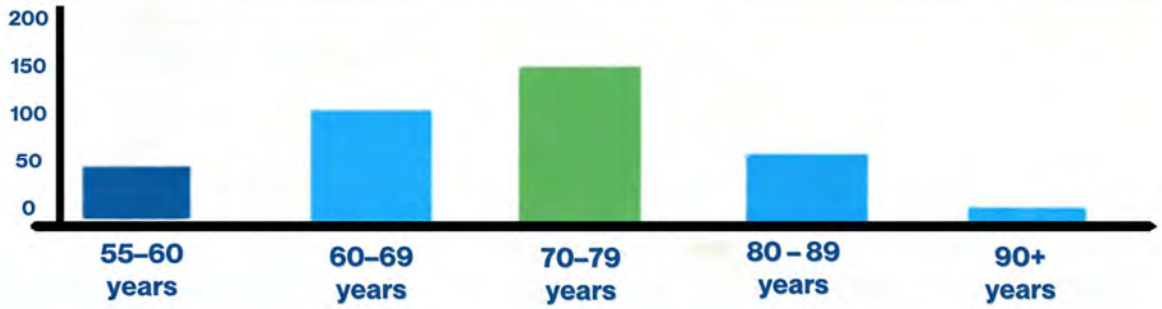
Valuable insights from our older residents

10%
of respondents are aged 90+ years

Ensuring the voices of our oldest residents are heard

Age Profile of Respondents

A wide range of ages contributed to the survey, with the highest level of response from those aged 70–79 years.



Breakdown by Municipal District

Monaghan, with strong participation in all three Municipal Districts



ARE YOU AWARE OF DEMENTIA SERVICES IN YOUR AREA



35%
65%

REGISTERED / SIGNED UP FOR COMMUNITY ALERTS



29%
71%

KEPT UP TO DATE BY FAMILY & FRIENDS

47% are kept up to date by family & friends



1. Introduction



Monaghan's Age Friendly Ambassador, Seamus McDermott.

This third Age Friendly Strategy for Monaghan County Council will build on the progress made since 2011, continuing to work towards the vision of making County Monaghan a great place to live and to age well. This strategy was developed in cooperation with service providers and members of the public in County Monaghan. By responding directly to the specific issues that most affect older people living in County Monaghan, this strategy will support the continuation and expansion of Age Friendly initiatives across the county, making it a better place to live for all residents.

1.1 Report Structure

The findings and actions in this report have been informed by a robust research process, including a review of national, regional and local policy objectives, a comprehensive socioeconomic analysis of the Municipal Districts and consultation with both the community and key stakeholders. The structure of the report is as follows:

1. Introduction
   – Outlines the purpose, scope, and structure of the strategy.

2. Age Friendly Policy Framework
   – Describes the National Age Friendly Shared Service, Monaghan Age Friendly Alliance, and the role of the Interdepartmental Team.

3. Our Methodology
   – Summarises the research and consultation process used to inform the strategy.

4. Key Demographic Information
   – Presents a detailed profile of the area's population, focusing on ageing trends and related characteristics.

5. Key Consultation Findings
   – Highlights insights gathered from public engagement, including barriers, challenges and suggestions for improvement.

6. Key Achievements since 2020-2024 Strategy
   – Reviews progress made under the previous Age Friendly Strategy.

7. Our Vision and Values – Sets out the shared vision and core values guiding the strategy.

8. Our Age Friendly Action Plans 2027-2031
Presents specific actions across the 8 thematic areas of the World Health Organisation Framework for developing Age Friendly communities.

9. Monitoring Framework
– Details the mechanisms for tracking progress, measuring impact, and ensuring accountability.

1.2 National Shared Service

Age Friendly Ireland (AFI) is a shared service of Local Government hosted by Meath County Council. The shared service manages the national Age Friendly Programme, affiliated to the World Health Organization's Age (WHO) Friendly Cities and Communities Network. The national programme is operated through a team-based framework of 35 local Age Friendly Programmes hosted in local government.

The AFI Shared Service supports cities, counties and towns across Ireland to prepare for the rapid ageing of our population by paying increased attention to the environmental, economic and social factors that influence the health and well-being of older people.

Derived from the WHO Global Age Friendly Framework, AFI is a Local Government led service in Ireland, working with multiple national stakeholders to prepare Ireland's infrastructure and services for the substantial increase in older age groups that is anticipated. In 2019, after a decade of work, Ireland was formally recognised by the WHO as an International leader and the first Age Friendly country in the world.

AFI works directly with older people nationwide to ensure that their voice is heard and valued when it comes to decision making at both policy and operational levels through active consultation.



1.3 Local Age Friendly Programme

National Programme Structure

National Advisory Group: 3 x Local Authority Chief Executives, 4 x Assistant Secretaries, HSE National Director, Assistant Commissioner, CEO Chambers Ireland				
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage	Department of Health	Department of An Taoiseach.	Department of Rural and Community Development and Gaeltacht	Department of Transport.
Department of Culture Communications and Sport	Health Service Executive (HSE)	Local Government County and City Management Association	An Garda Síochána	Chambers Ireland



Local Age Friendly Programmes work to provide walkable streets, housing and transportation options, access to key services, and opportunities for older people to participate in community activities.

By doing so, these communities are better equipped to become great places, and lifelong homes, for people of all ages.

Each local Age Friendly Programme also works to give a voice to older people in the decision-making processes that affect their ability to live full and active lives.

Each local Age Friendly Programme operates within the same structure, which relies on an active Older People's Council (OPC), Age Friendly Alliance, Age Friendly Programme Manager, Age Friendly Housing Technical Advisor and Interdepartmental Team within the Local Authority.

The OPCs are representative groups of older people, established by the Local Authority as part of the local Age Friendly Programme. Monaghan County Council has their own Older People's Council. The OPCs are two-tier structure with an elected Executive Committee and a wide membership base.

OPCs identify priority areas of need, raise issues of importance and influence the decision-making process of the local Age Friendly Programme, and participate in national level structures. The key purpose of the OPCs is to provide the authentic voice of older people representing the diversity that exists among our ageing population. OPC representatives are key collaborators and stakeholders who co-design the actions and objectives of the Age Friendly Strategy.

1.4 What is an 'Age Friendly' County?

Each Local Authority develops and implements an Age Friendly Strategy specific to their city and/or county.

An Age Friendly Monaghan is a County where...

- All older people have a say in how their communities develop.
- There is good access to local transport, that takes people where they need to go.
- Public spaces are clean, inviting, and comfortable.
- Everyone has access to good quality healthcare either at home or nearby.
- There are opportunities to socialise and stay in touch with friends, family and neighbours.
- Older people can continue working, set up a business, pursue further education or volunteer.
- People feel safe and secure, both at home and in public spaces.
- It's easy to stay up to date with what services are available and what social activities are being held in your county.

Therefore, Monaghan Age Friendly Alliance guided by this Strategy will prepare for the increasing ageing of its population by focusing on the environmental, economic and social factors that influence the health and well-being of older people.

Age Friendly Ireland Local Programme Structure.





2. Age Friendly Policy Framework

Monaghan's Age-Friendly Strategy 2027-2031 is informed by a network of interlinked international, national, regional and local strategies and policy frameworks, many of which are shaped by global trends and long-term drivers of change.



2.1 National Context

Population ageing is evident in global population statistics, which show a demographic trend that signifies an increasing proportion of older people worldwide. In response to population ageing at a global level the WHO's Age Friendly Framework was established in 2007 with the publication of the WHO Global Age Friendly Cities guide.

The aim of this programme is to encourage countries all over the world to become Age Friendly, to become places which encourage active ageing by optimising opportunities for people to live healthily, to feel secure and to have their participation in society enabled, and overall enhancing quality of life.

The WHO recognises that active ageing is dependent on "a variety of influences or determinants that surround individuals, families and nations. They include material conditions as well as social factors that affect individual types of behaviour and feelings. All these factors, and the interaction between them, play an important role in affecting how well individuals age".

2.2 Local Context



The goals, objectives and actions outlined in this Age Friendly Strategy are aligned with, and supportive of, regional and county plans.

The Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) 2020–2032 is a long-term regional planning framework to support the implementation of Project Ireland 2040 in the Northern and Western Region. It aims to strengthen the region by promoting balanced growth, economic diversification, and sustainable rural and urban development. It seeks to deliver this by supporting rural communities, addressing regional inequalities, and enhancing quality of life through inclusive placemaking.

The Monaghan County Development Plan 2025–2031 sets out the spatial planning frameworks to guide sustainable development across urban and rural areas of Monaghan over the lifetimes of the plan. This complies with the provisions of the RSES and implement its objectives at the Local Authority level.

In response to an ageing population, the County Development Plan includes specific objectives to deliver Age Friendly housing, promote Universal Design, and support independent living through accessible community services, transport as well as inclusive public spaces that encourage the participation of older people. Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) sets out the integrated frameworks to promote economic development and community wellbeing at the local level.

The Plan aims to build strong, inclusive, and sustainable communities by supporting social enterprise, employment, education, health, and cultural development.



In recognition of the needs of an ageing population, the LECP includes actions to support age-friendly initiatives, improve access to services and transport, and create supportive environments that enable older people to remain active, connected, and engaged in their communities.

These international, national and local strategic plans provide a broad policy framework for this Age Friendly Strategy. The goals highlighted in these plans, in conjunction with the consultation process, determine the actions identified in this Age Friendly Strategy.

3. Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty

Monaghan County Council and the agencies represented on the Age Friendly Alliance are committed to ensuring that the needs, rights and experiences of older people are considered in the planning and delivery of services. This commitment is supported by the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, which requires public bodies to promote equality, prevent discrimination and protect the human rights of the people they serve.

This Age Friendly Strategy recognises that older people are not a single, uniform group. People age differently and may face different opportunities and challenges depending on their circumstances, health, location, background and life experiences. Through this Strategy, stakeholders will try to ensure that all older people can access services, participate in their communities and have a voice in decisions that affect their lives.

In implementing the Strategy, Age Friendly partners will:

- Consider the diverse needs and experiences of older people when developing policies, programmes and services.
- Promote inclusion and participation, particularly for those who may be more vulnerable to isolation or disadvantage.
- Seek to remove barriers that can limit access to services, information and opportunities.
- Support the dignity, independence and wellbeing of older people in all aspects of community life.
- Listen to and engage with older people to ensure their views help shape future actions and priorities.

By embedding equality, inclusion and respect throughout the Age Friendly Programme, Monaghan County Council and its partners will continue to work towards creating communities where older people feel valued, connected and supported to live full and active lives.

4. Our Methodology

The following methodology was utilised for the development of the Age Friendly Strategy*:*

4.1 Research

A comprehensive demographic analysis, policy context analysis, and public consultation process was conducted. The consultation aimed for broad participation across public and key stakeholders, including marginalised and disadvantaged communities, through focus groups, surveys, and an online campaign. The process gathered 385 survey responses and active participation from key community groups.



4.2 Analysis

In this phase, the data from the policy context, consultation and demographic analysis was reviewed and organised under the four strategic priorities (identified below) to identify key trends and community needs.

4.3 Plan



Key Findings presentations and SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time - bound) action planning workshops were held for each of the eight WHO Age Friendly Themes under the four strategic priorities. This focused and strategic approach led to the development of detailed, realistic, achievable, and measurable actions, ensuring a structured and effective approach to the planning and delivery of the strategy.



5. Strategic Priorities: WHO Eight Domains.

The eight Strategic Priorities outlined by the WHO are as follows:

1. Outdoor Spaces & Public Buildings
2. Transport
3. Housing
4. Respect & Social Inclusion
5. Social Participation
6. Communication & Information
7. Civic Participation & Employment
8. Community Support & Health Services



These have been categorised into four themes:

- Theme A: Health and Wellbeing
- Theme B: Safer Communities.
- Theme C: Mobility and Accessibility
- Theme D: Information and Participation

Theme A: Health and Wellbeing

This theme recognises the links between health and wellbeing and the ability of older people to age in place and enable people to live independently in their own homes and communities for as long as possible. Many programmes are in place to fulfil this need from promotion talks from the HSE and programmes from the Sports Partnership and Healthy Monaghan to encourage older people to maintain physical strength and fitness.

Objective 1: Optimise Health Outcomes for Older people

Older people are now more than ever cognisant of ensuring they remain fit and healthy to allow them improved quality of life as they age. Our survey highlighted loneliness as a major issue for older people in Monaghan which ties with the European Commission's Joint Research report that 20% of older people felt lonely most or all the time. It is an area which requires attention as this is higher than the European Average of 13%.

Objective 2: Build Strong and Inclusive Communities

Building strong and inclusive communities is a priority for Monaghan County Council. Several Age Friendly Business Recognition Programmes are due to be rolled out over the next 12 months. Age Friendly Monaghan is working closely with other sections and stakeholders to ensure that Universal Design and Age Friendly principles are incorporated into future strategies and works.

Theme B: Safer Communities

This priority recognises that feeling safe and secure in your community is a key element in holistic wellbeing. Through this plan Monaghan Age Friendly aim to create a culture of inclusion and promote a sense of belonging throughout our housing estates, communities and workplaces.

Working with our stakeholders including the Gardaí and the newly established Local Community Safety Partnership it is intended to hold regular safety talks to advise and inform the older people in our communities on practical methods of crime prevention and personal security.



Objective 3: Improve Safety and Security in our communities for Older People

Concerns were expressed in the public consultation regarding the safety of older people both in their own homes and in public. There are a number of issues that were raised such as the increased use of e-scooters around the town including on the Ulster Canal Greenway (Monaghan Town Greenway section), dog fouling in public areas and the increasing move by businesses and banking to online has made many older people feel vulnerable and introduced new fears of clicking links and falling victim to a scam. Increasing amount of anti-social behaviour has also contributed to people feeling defenceless in public areas.

Objective 4: Enhance Accessibility in Public Spaces

In relation to public realm older people highlighted several issues affecting their enjoyment of and access to public spaces around the county. The lack of public seating and public toilets were highlighted as a major issue for older people.

Objective 5: Facilitate Provision of Age-Appropriate Housing

The results showed that 92% of our older people were happy to stay in their current home. Should they consider rightsizing some of the considerations would include being near to amenities, near public transport and in a village with communal areas and security. To facilitate the provision of age-appropriate housing Universal Design principles are being incorporated into plans and policies across the Council. The presence of an Age Friendly Homes Coordinator who can advise on the adaptations and grants available to help older people remain in their homes for longer is a valuable service in the county.

Theme C: Mobility and Accessibility

Throughout our consultation the issues regarding accessibility and mobility were identified as affecting older people in the County. Together with our stakeholders we aim to provide several measures to improve accessibility and mobility around the county.

The need for additional Age Friendly Parking and more enforcement of parking in disability spaces was highlighted.

Objective 6: Improve Availability and Access to Public Transport for Older People

Only 52% of our respondents stated that access to public transport was good in County Monaghan stating that the lack of routes and covered bus shelters was an issue. 141 of our older people surveyed stated that they felt it was difficult for older people to get around County Monaghan. In response Monaghan County Council together with our stakeholders are reviewing Local Link routes and the option of a community car to help facilitate access to our older people.

Theme D: Information and Participation

Information and communication were highlighted as issues facing our older people in County Monaghan. Fear of succumbing to scams online or via text messages is a worry for people in our communities.

Older people feel valued, respected and included, with meaningful opportunities to engage in social, civic, cultural and community activities across Monaghan

Objective 7: Improve Access to Information for older people and strengthen their involvement in decision making

The active participation of older people within society is essential in terms of mental health, social inclusion and intergenerational information exchange. A challenge that was made clear to us during the public consultation is the issue of the digital divide. Many older people feel ill equipped to keep up with how fast digitalisation has impacted society from booking tickets to dealing with financial institutions. Monaghan Age Friendly recognise that many people want to be able to pay in cash and deal with people in various sectors of society. For those who wish to embrace digital technology Monaghan County Council Library Services along with CMETB have dedicated digital literacy classes for older people in the Monaghan area.

Objective 8: Strengthening engagement with older people through accessible information

The communication of information to older people in the Monaghan area was an area we examined in our survey. While 85% of our survey respondents confirmed they have access to the internet in their homes only 35% of people used the internet to keep up to date. Nearly 42% stated that they are kept up to date by local radio. To increase our reach Age Friendly Monaghan have set up a database of interested people who receive updates each week from the Age Friendly newsletter and this email also includes the various events that may be of interest to this group from cultural activities, statutory notices and general information.

6. Key Demographic Information

County Monaghan is approximately 1,295 km^2. It is the smallest of Ulster's nine counties by population and among the smallest in Ireland by area and population. It forms part of the Northern and Western Region and is in the province of Ulster. It is strategically located on the Donegal / Derry – Dublin corridor adjacent to the M1 corridor.

The county's strategic location along the border with Northern Ireland influences its economy, labour market, service provision and transport pattern.

The county is divided into three Municipal Districts (MD):

- Carrickmacross Castleblayney MD
- Monaghan Town MD
- Ballybay Clones MD

Monaghan Town is the largest urban centre and serves as the county town and primary service centre.

Monaghan has developed a resilient and diverse economy built around indigenous enterprise and small and medium sized businesses.

Key Economic Sectors

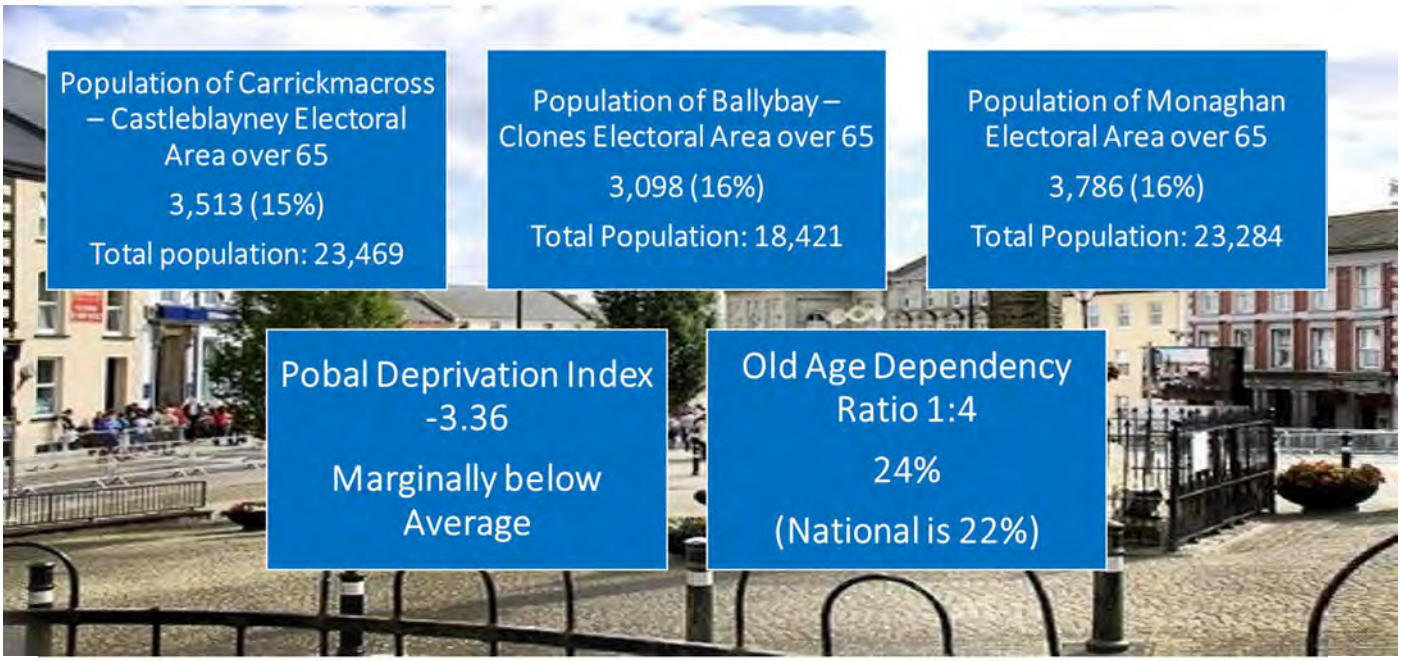
- Agri-food production
- Manufacturing
- Construction
- Engineering
- Retail and services
- Tourism and Hospitality

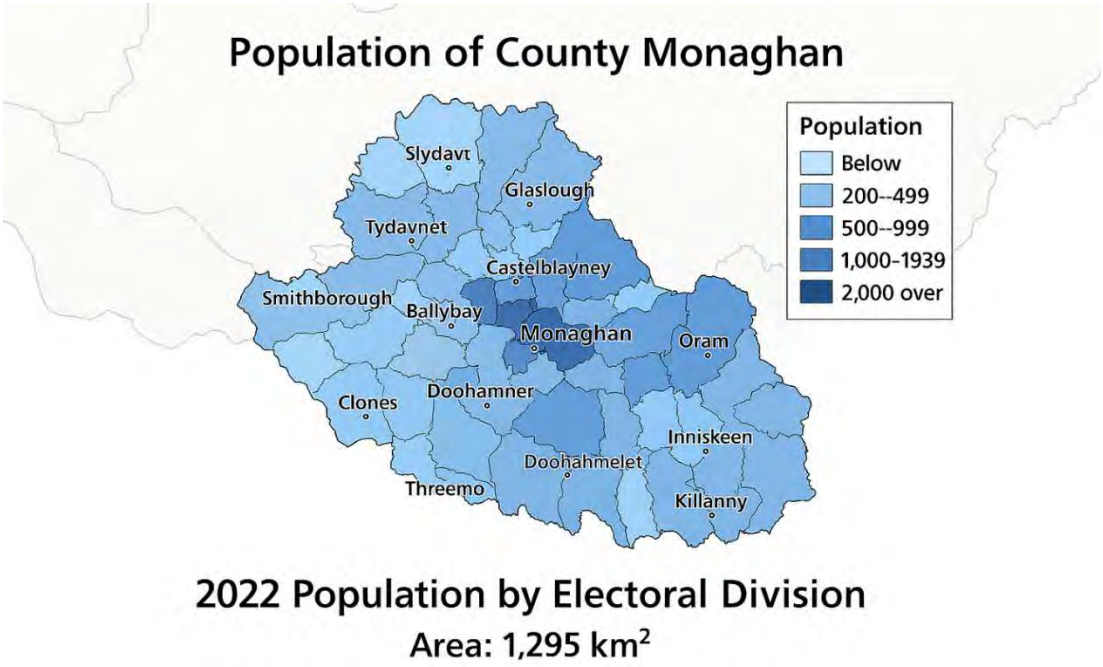
6.1 Population Overview

County Monaghan has a population of 65,288 people as of 2022. The population grew by 6% between 2016 and 2022. Population figures of people aged 65 and over increased by 21% since 2016.

Preparing for both the current and emerging ageing population is crucial. This demographic shift underscores the need for service providers to anticipate growing demand for age-related services and infrastructure. Strategic planning must account for these changes to ensure that the needs of the ageing population are met effectively and equitably.

Results from the survey have indicated that 39% live alone while 59% live with a spouse / partner or family member. 64% stated that they are moderately active and 72% of them have access to a walking track.


Population of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney Electoral Area over 65
3,513 (15%)
Total population: 23,469
Population of Ballybay – Clones Electoral Area over 65
3,098 (16%)
Total Population: 18,421
Population of Monaghan Electoral Area over 65
3,786 (16%)
Total Population: 23,284
Pobal Deprivation Index -3.36
Marginally below Average
Old Age Dependency Ratio 1:4
24%
(National is 22%)


Population of County Monaghan
Population
Below
200--499
500--999
1,000-1939
2,000 over
Slydavt
Glaslough
Tydavnet
Castelblayney
Smithborough
Ballybay
Monaghan
Oram
Clones
Doohamner
Inniskeen
Doohahmelet
Threemo
Killanny
2022 Population by Electoral Division
Area: 1,295 km²

6.2 Key trends – Built and Public Environment Distinct Urban and Rural Divide





County Monaghan has a predominantly rural population, with only 37% of residents living in urban areas. Census 2022 data show that Monaghan Town, the county's largest settlement, had a population of 7,894, highlighting the small scale of its urban centres and the continued preference for rural living. The population is widely dispersed, with 52% of residents born within the county and 67% of people who moved house relocating within Monaghan, reflecting strong local ties and rural settlement patterns.

While Ireland has experienced significant urban growth in recent decades, the urban-rural divide remains evident in Monaghan. The county has also become more diverse, with increasing numbers of new residents from outside Ireland. Overall, Monaghan's modest urban centres, dispersed population, and strong internal mobility reinforce its rural character. County Development Plans seeks to address urban-rural challenges by supporting sustainable livelihoods, community development, enterprise growth, and quality of life across both urban and rural communities.

For Older People, Monaghan's predominantly rural population can provide strong family and community support networks, but it can also create challenges in accessing healthcare, transport, and other essential services. This highlights the importance of Age-Friendly community planning and accessible local services.

6.3 Steady Growth in Housing Between 2016 and 2022

Monaghan’s housing stock reached 26,548 dwellings in Census 2022, an increase of 1,492 homes (4.9%) since 2016. While this was above the regional growth rate (4.2%), it remained below the national rate (6.0%).

In 2022, 71% of households owned their home and 24% rented, compared with 66% ownership and 28% renting nationally. People moving within Monaghan were more likely to move to a detached house (46%) than nationally (23%), while fewer moved to apartments/flats (13%) compared with the national figure of 34%.

There were 167 households with people aged 65+ renting privately in 2022, representing an 80% increase since 2016, indicating a growing reliance on private rental accommodation among older people highlighting potential concerns around housing affordability, security and the need for age-friendly accommodation.



6.4 Distances to access services:

According to CSO data the diagram below outlines on average the distance to travel to access services.

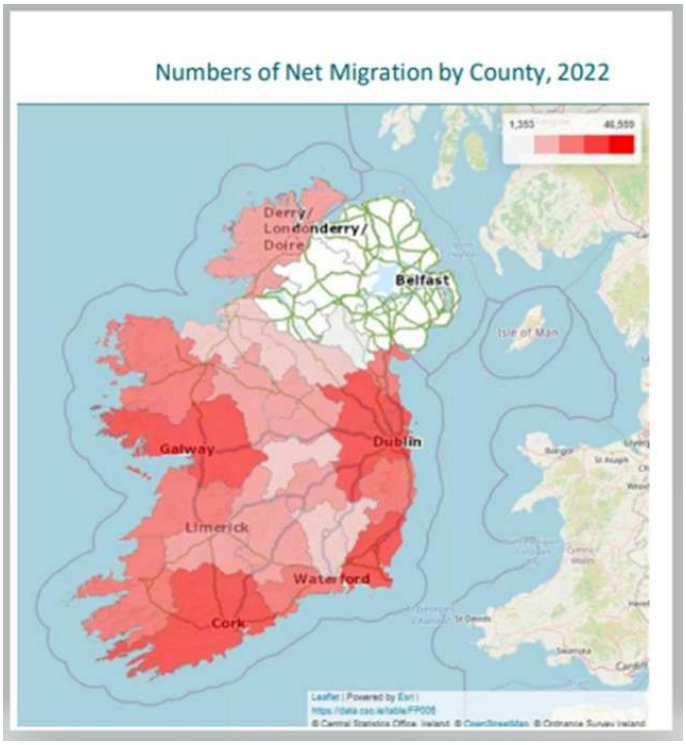
Average Distance to Amenities in County Monaghan	
Pharmacy	4.1km
Bank	7.7km
Supermarket	3.1km
Post Office	3.5km
Fire Station	6.0km
Library	5.5km
GP	4.6km
Emergency Department	43.1km

Older people in County Monaghan generally have reasonable access to local amenities such as shops, pharmacies and GP services, which are located within approximately 3–5 km on average. However, access to key services such as banking and emergency healthcare requires significantly longer travel distances, highlighting the importance of accessible transport options and community-based service provision to support ageing in place.

6.5 Other Key Indicator Highlights. Emerging Diversity in Over 55s

The drivers of population change are due to natural increase (births minus deaths) and net migration (immigration minus emigration). Ireland's population increase between 2016 and 2022 came 47.4% from natural increase and 52.6% from net migration.

In County Monaghan over the same period, net migration was responsible for only 39.3% of the population increase, one of the lowest rates in the state.



County Monaghan has a lower proportion (2.48%) of those born outside of the European Union than the National average (5.1%) and a much greater rate of people born in the UK (11.0%), which is typical for a border county. According to the 2022 Census, there were a total of 7,182 'Non-Irish' people in County Monaghan (the figure is based on citizenship). In general, the highest concentration of non-Irish nationals is in the Northern part of the county and in the larger urban areas. It is also the case that within towns, there can be concentrations of diverse nationalities.

In the age range of over 65 there isn't exact data available from the CSO however using the information available that there are 10,397 people over the age of 65 a low estimate of the number working would be 8% and a high estimate would be 12% which tells us that there are an estimated 800-1,250 people over the age of 65 working in County Monaghan.

7. Key Consultation Findings

Consultation for this strategy was centred on ensuring that the voices, concerns, needs, and lived experiences of older people in County Monaghan were actively listened to and meaningfully reflected throughout the process.

7.1 The Consultation Process



An extensive public consultation process was held to capture public and agency input on the Age Friendly Strategy.
To ensure an inclusive consultation process, a combination of in-person and online methods were utilised, including the following approaches.

A dedicated information session was carried out with the Older People's Council Executive to inform them of the process of creating the new strategy, to get some feedback on the previous strategy and also to get them to encourage members of their groups and community to complete the survey to ensure the voice of the older people was front and centre of the strategy.

Focus groups were arranged with community groups and day centres. Hard copies of the survey were available at various events and information sessions run by Monaghan County Council. A social media campaign was launched along with emails sent to the relevant groups.

Age Friendly Action planning workshops were conducted online and in person, with agency representatives in attendance, engaging across the eight strategic priorities.

For analytical purposes, the following consultation insights are organised by four overarching themes: Health and Wellbeing, Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods Mobility and Accessibility and Information and Participation. This allows for a multidimensional analysis of the eight Age Friendly themes.

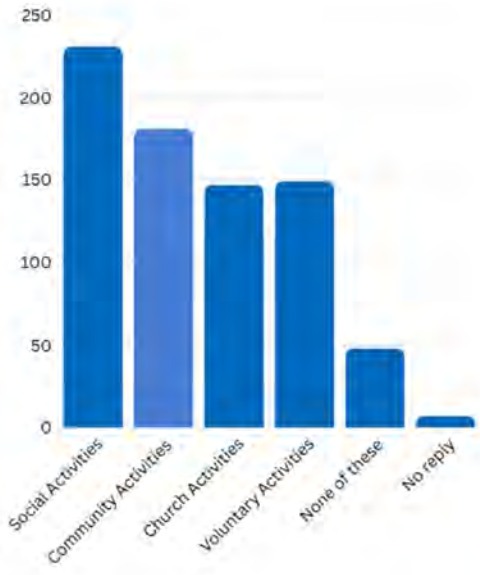
- Theme A: Health and Wellbeing
- Theme B: Safer Communities
- Theme C: Mobility and Accessibility.
- Theme D: Information and Participation



Theme A: Health and Wellbeing

Objective 1: Optimise Health Outcomes for Older People.

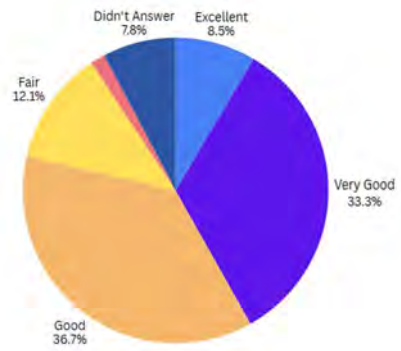
For this objective we aimed to find out the current level of perceived health from our survey participants. 63% of our respondents stated that they are moderately active. Our group participates in the following activities:



From the responses we can see that social and community activities have the highest level of participation while church and voluntary activities are somewhat lower.

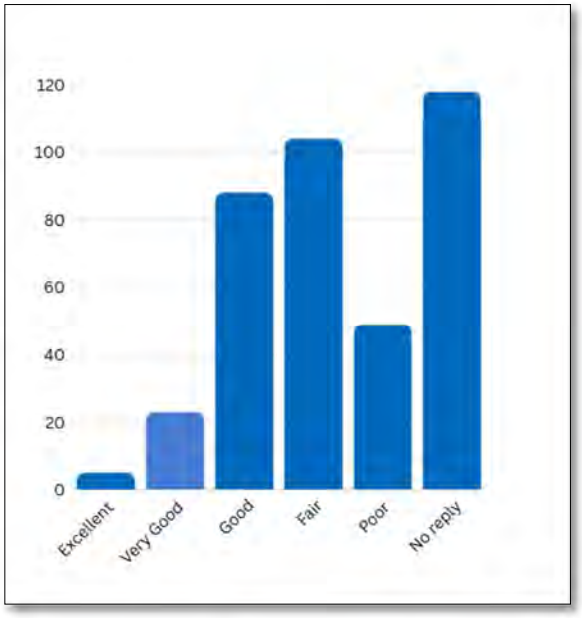
Objective 2: Build Strong and Inclusive Services

We asked our participants "how would you rate the overall "Age Friendliness" of local businesses in Monaghan? Overall, our respondents stated that the service provided to older people by the local businesses was "Good".



The responses received indicated that the majority of our older people were not interested in participating in either full time or part-time employment.

How would you rate access to employment opportunities for older people in Monaghan?



Would you like to participate in paid employment on a part time or full-time basis?



As part of our survey, we also wanted to check how safe our older people felt in different situations, their feedback is presented below. Older people reported high feelings of safety in their own homes and the community, but their sense of safety dropped in relation to using public services, walking and cycling on public roads.

Do you feel safe in the following situations please respond yes / no?



Theme B: Safer Communities

Objective 3: Improve Safety and Security in our communities for older people.

We asked our older people:

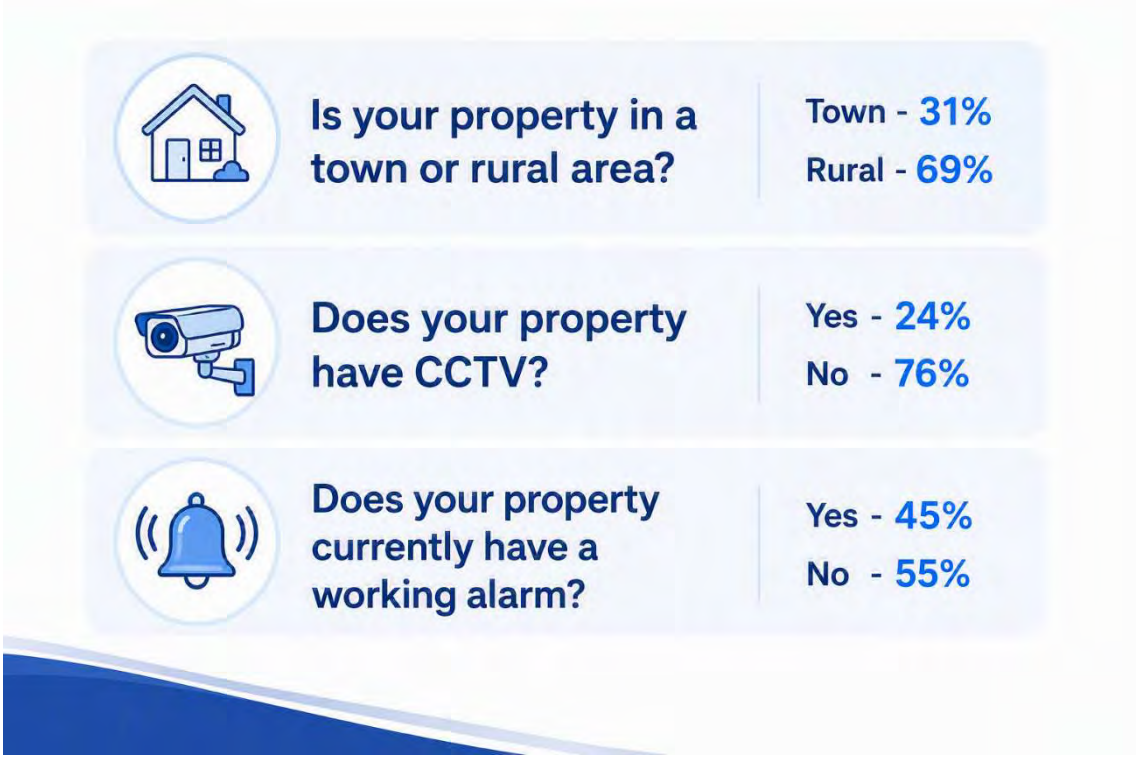
"What actions could Monaghan County Council take in order to improve the opportunities for older people to enjoy our public spaces?"

Their responses were as follows:

Make places safer.	Ensure footpaths are well lit and not uneven.
More traffic/dog patrols.	More Gardai presence needed.

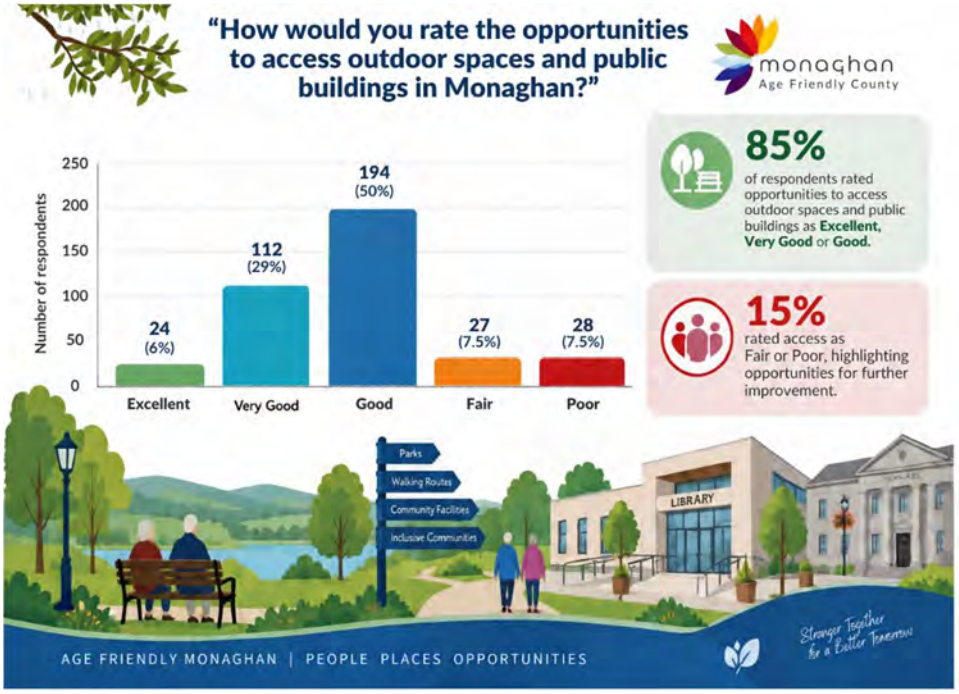


This survey provided an insight of respondent's properties and what security measures they have around the home. There appears to be a high degree of home safety awareness among older householders in Monaghan, as 45% have a working house alarm and almost a quarter have CCTV.



Objective 4: Enhance Accessibility in Public Spaces

In our survey we asked: "How would you rate the opportunities to access outdoor spaces and public buildings in Monaghan?"
85% of respondents rated access to outdoor spaces and public buildings between good and excellent, while only 7% rated this as poor.



Objective 5: Facilitate Provision of Age-Appropriate Housing

This topic is very sensitive for many older people. Many have built their own properties, raised their children in them and have a network of support around them which makes the idea of moving on, even to housing that may suit their needs better, extremely unsettling.

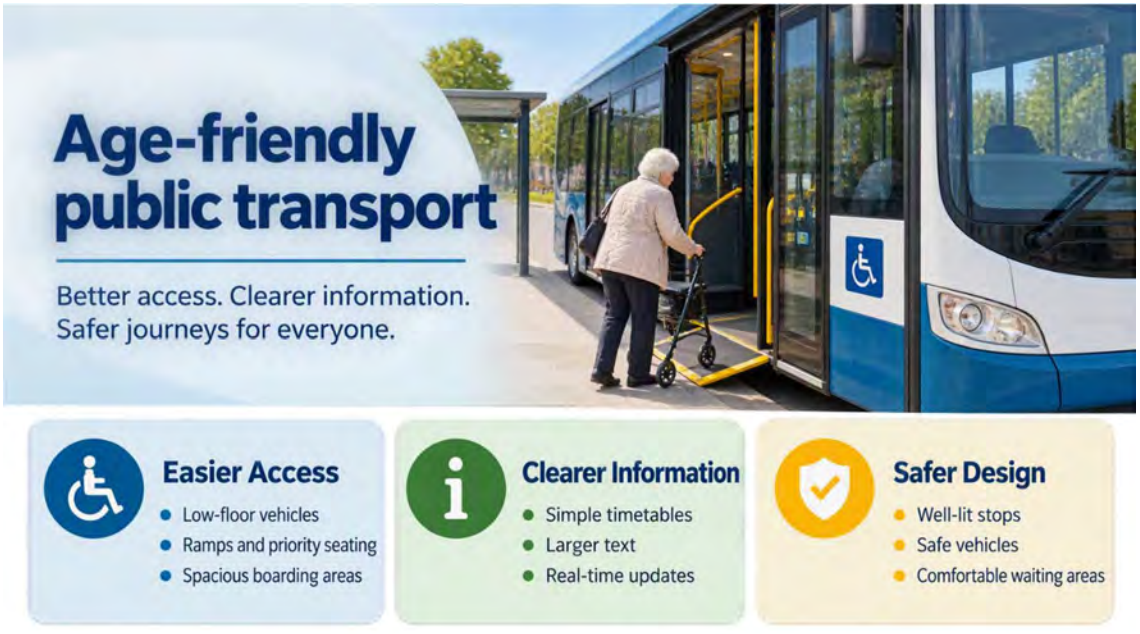
From our research we discovered that 92% of respondents are happy in their current homes. 69% felt there wasn't enough information about rightsizing their homes with only 69% aware that there were Housing Adaptation Grants available from Monaghan County Council.

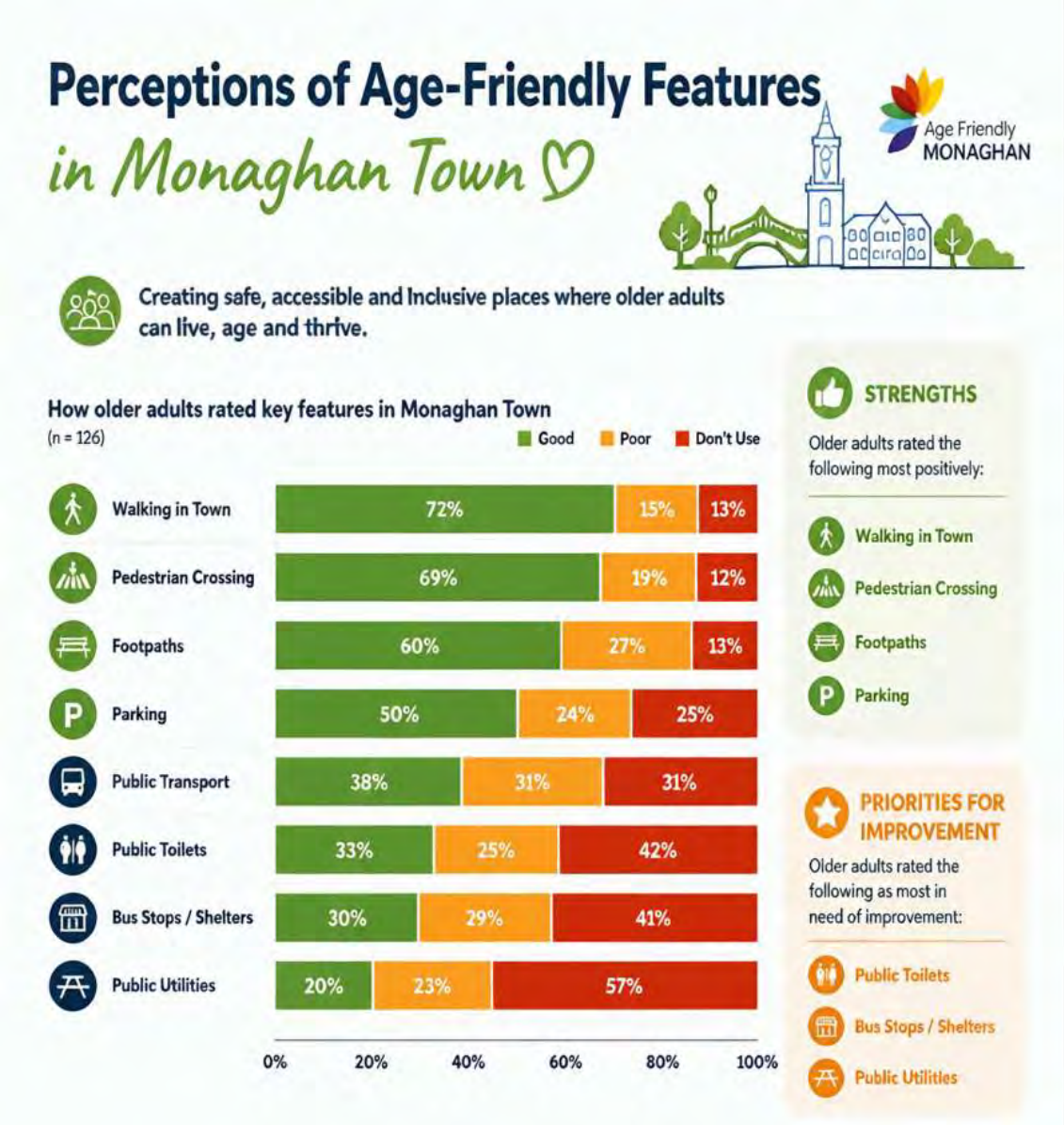
Theme C: Mobility and Accessibility

Objective 6: Improve Availability and Access to Public Transport for Older People.

Access to public transport was identified as a main concern from the people that participated in our survey. This issue was raised in several sections including as a reason for not being able to participate in social groups.

Our groups identified how easy it was to get around and the level of facilities available. We can see that walking in town has been identified as good while public toilets have been identified as poor while a large number don't use them at all.





Theme D: Information and Participation.

Objective 7: Embrace Active Participation of Older People in Society.

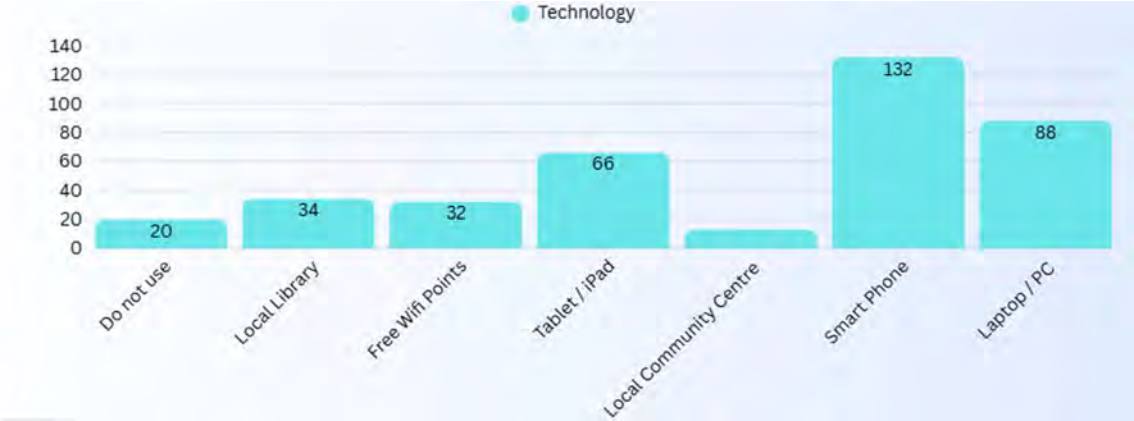
This area is extremely important due to the large number of older people in our society feeling "invisible" or "unseen" in different circumstances. We asked our respondents for feedback on what services and supports would help them if they felt lonely or isolated?



Objective 8: Communication of Information

In this digital age we were curious to know what our older people thought of various forms of communication and the locations they get their information from. Mis / dis information is a concern, and many older people shy away from some forms of technology citing a fear of being scammed or forceful sales techniques.
We established that 82% use a smart phone, 47% use an iPad or tablet and 37% use zoom or facetime as part of their day-to-day life. 85% of older people in Monaghan have access to the internet at home.

We asked "Where do you mostly access the internet?"



Technology has made many advances and it's not only phones and laptops now. Technology plays a large part in health and social inclusion. However, 83% of our group didn't have any form of fall / assistance alert technology and 71% are not signed up for Community Alerts. As a local authority / Age Friendly Alliance there is a body of work to be carried out to promote and educate our older people on the types of technology available.

Our Vision

Monaghan County Council's vision of **"**a thriving, entrepreneurial, and vibrant community supported by a prosperous economy and a sustainable environment" aligns strongly with the principles of the Age Friendly Strategy.

Creating an Age Friendly County means ensuring that people of all ages can live healthy, active, connected, and fulfilling lives within their communities so they can age well.

Older people play a vital role in the social, cultural, and economic life of County Monaghan. Their experience, knowledge, and continued participation contribute significantly to the county. As Monaghan continues to grow and develop, it is important that the needs, hopes, voices and contributions of older people are recognised and supported.



A vibrant community is one that fosters strong social connections and combats isolation. Working together with community organisations, public agencies, businesses, and local groups, the Age Friendly Programme seeks to create welcoming environments where older people can access services, participate in activities, and maintain meaningful relationships.

The Council's commitment to a sustainable environment supports Age Friendly objectives by promoting accessible public spaces, walkable communities, sustainable transport options, and quality housing that enables people to age well in place. A sustainable county is one where current and future generations can enjoy safe, inclusive, and resilient communities.

Through the implementation of the Age Friendly Strategy, Monaghan County Council will continue to place older people at the heart of planning and service delivery, ensuring that their voices are heard and actioned in decision-making and that the county remains a place where people can age well, actively, and with dignity.
In doing so, the Council's vision becomes a reality for residents of all ages, creating a stronger, more inclusive and age-friendly Monaghan for everyone.







Our Values

The Age Friendly Strategy is guided by Monaghan County Council's values, which help us create a county where older people should feel respected, included and supported.

Dignity & Respect We will value older people and treat everyone with kindness and respect.

People-Centred – We put the needs of people at the heart of our decisions and services.

Integrity – We act honestly, fairly and in the best interests of our communities.

Innovation & Excellence – We continually look for better ways to support older people and improve services.

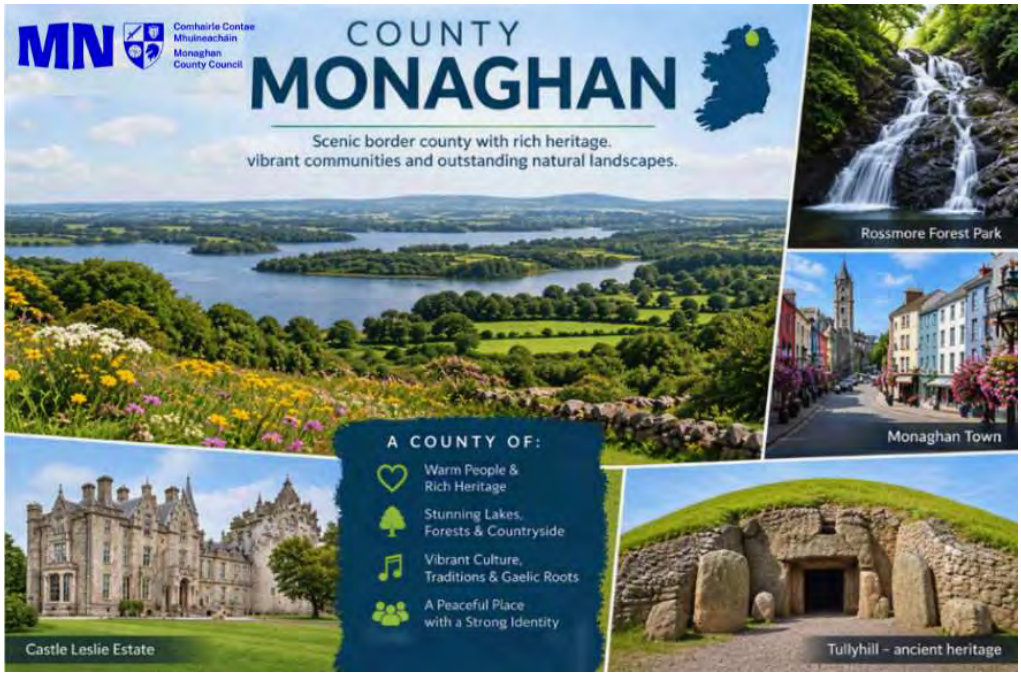
Leadership – We work with partners and communities to make Monaghan a better place for all ages.

Democracy – We listen to older people and ensure their voices help shape decisions.

Sustainability – We support communities and environments where people can age well now and into the future.

Wellbeing – We promote health, independence, social connection and quality of life for older people.

Together, these values support our vision of an Age Friendly Monaghan where everyone can live, participate and age well.



Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin
Monaghan County Council

COUNTY MONAGHAN

AGE FRIENDLY STRATEGY

ACTION PLAN

2027 - 2031



Health and Wellbeing

Safer Communities

Mobility and Accessibility

Information and Participation

COUNTY Monaghan Age Friendly

Making County Monaghan a great place to live and age well.

Theme A Health and Wellbeing						
Objective 1: Optimise Health Outcomes for Older People						
No.	**Action**	**Description**	**Lead**	**Supporting Agency**	**Timescale**	**Indicators**
1.1	Strengthen health and wellbeing outcomes for older people through coordinated prevention, awareness and community engagement initiatives.	Use National Positive Ageing Week as a countywide platform to improve awareness, encourage healthy ageing behaviours, strengthen community connections and support ageing outcomes for older people.	Healthy Monaghan	Monaghan County Libraries	2027-2031	No. of activities delivered annually. No. of older people participating.
1.2	Improve access to information, services and supports through the provision of accessible and inclusive information channels to include review and update of Monaghan Older Persons Information booklet.	Maintain an up to date, accessible source of information to improve awareness of services, supports and opportunities available to older people, enabling informed decision making and greater independence.	Monaghan Age Friendly Programme	Monaghan Integrated Development (MID) Cavan Monaghan Integrated Care Programme for Older People (ICPOP)	2027-2031	Booklet reviewed and updated. No. of booklets distributed annually. Increase in awareness of available supports.

Theme A Health and Wellbeing						
Objective 1 Optimise Health Outcomes for Older People.						
No.	**Action**	**Description**	**Lead**	**Supporting Agency**	**Timescale**	**Indicators**
1.3	Increase participation in inclusive physical activity opportunities that support healthy ageing and independent living.	Provide inclusive and accessible opportunities for physical activity that support healthy ageing, improve physical and mental wellbeing, reduce social isolation and enable older people of all abilities remain active and independent.	Monaghan Sports Partnership	Healthy Monaghan Monaghan Age Friendly Programme	2027-2031	No. of activities delivered annually. No. of older people participating.
1.4	Develop an evidence-based approach to strengthening the accessibility and sustainability of community food support services.	Develop an evidence base on the availability, accessibility and sustainability of Meals on Wheels services to inform future service planning and identify priority areas for intervention.	Monaghan Integrated Development	HSE All Meals on Wheels Suppliers	2027-2028	Countywide mapping exercise completed. No. of service gaps identified and addressed.
1.5	Advocate for age friendly healthcare infrastructure that improve accessibility and reduces barriers to healthcare services.	Improve access to healthcare services by enhancing parking capacity and reducing barriers for older people, families and carers attending Monaghan General Hospital.	HSE Estates Senior Management Cavan Monaghan Hospitals	N/A	2027-2028	No. of parking spaces provided.

Theme A Health and Wellbeing						
Objective 1 Optimise Health Outcomes for Older People						
No.	**Action**	**Description**	**Lead**	**Supporting Agency**	**Timescale**	**Indicators**
1.6	Support the development of age friendly healthcare environments that promote dignity, compassion and family centred care.	Provide a compassionate, accessible and age friendly environment that supports patients and families during end-of-life care, clinical consultations and during periods of extended hospital attendance.	HSE Estates / Senior Management Cavan Monaghan Hospitals	Irish Hospice Foundation in partnership with HSE Estates.	2027	New suite opened. Additional Age Friendly Parking/Disability parking space provided.
1.7	Build organisational and community capacity to embed Age Friendly and Dementia Inclusive practices across County Monaghan.	Build community and organisational capacity to better understand and respond to the needs of older people and those living with dementia, creating more inclusive, supportive and dementia friendly environments.	Monaghan Age Friendly Programme	Alzheimer Society of Ireland Monaghan Integrated Development Cavan Monaghan Integrated Care Programme for Older People (ICPOP)	2027-2031	No. of training sessions delivered. No. of participants trained. No. of organisations achieving Dementia Inclusive or Age Friendly status.

Theme A Health and Wellbeing						
Objective 1 Optimise Health Outcomes for Older People						
No.	**Action**	**Description**	**Lead**	**Supporting Agency**	**Timescale**	**Indicators**
1.8	Provide additional parking spaces at Monaghan General Hospital.	Support growing healthcare demand by improving accessibility and convenience for service users, visitors and staff through expanded parking infrastructure.	HSE Estates / Senior Management Cavan Monaghan General Hospital	Monaghan County Council	2028	Additional Parking available.
1.9	Support the creation of healthier and cleaner communities through environmental improvement initiatives.	Support healthier and more attractive communities through environmental improvement initiatives that enhance quality of life, encourage outdoor activity and promote civic participation.	Monaghan County Council Environment Section.	Monaghan County Council Climate Action Team Monaghan Tidy Towns Network	2027-2031	Percentage of Litter Management Plan actions completed. No. of older people involved in environmental activities.
1.10	Increase awareness of environmental health issues and support positive behaviour change.	Increase awareness of environmental health risks and encourage behaviour change that contributes to improved air quality and healthier living environments.	Monaghan County Council Environment Section.	Monaghan County Council Climate Action Team Monaghan Public Participation Network	2027-2031	No. of workshops delivered. No. of participants.

Theme A Health and Wellbeing						
Objective 1 Optimise Health Outcomes for Older People						
No.	**Action**	**Description**	**Lead**	**Supporting Agency**	**Timescale**	**licators**
1.11	Increase opportunities for older people to participate in cultural, environmental and lifelong learning activities.	Enhance wellbeing, lifelong learning and social participation by increasing opportunities for older people to engage with local heritage, biodiversity, culture and natural environment.	Monaghan County Council Biodiversity section. Monaghan County Council Cultural Team	Monaghan County Libraries Monaghan Age Friendly Programme.	2027-2031	No. of events that actively engage with older people annually. No. of intergenerational activities. No. of participants.
1.12	Support older people to improve household sustainability, energy efficiency and climate resilience.	Support older people to improve household energy efficiency, reduce energy costs and increase awareness of climate action through accessible information, resources and practical supports.	Monaghan Age Friendly Programme	Monaghan County Libraries Monaghan County Council Climate Action Team	2027-2031	No. of Energy Saving Kits borrowed annually. No. of training sessions delivered.

Theme A Health and Wellbeing						
Objective 2 Build Strong and Inclusive Communities						
No.	**Action**	**Description**	**Lead**	**Supporting Agency**	**Timescale**	**Indicators**
2.1	Strengthen capacity and resilience of community and voluntary sector supporting older people.	Strengthen the resilience and effectiveness of community organisations supporting older people through training, networking and access to funding opportunities.	Monaghan County Council Community Department.	Cavan Monaghan Education Training Board (CMETB) Monaghan Integrated Development Monaghan Public Participation Network	2027-2031	No. of groups supported annually. Increase in number of funding applications submitted.
2.2	Advance the development of the Age Friendly Towns Initiative.	Support the phased development of Age Friendly Towns across the county, embedding age friendly principles within local planning, service delivery and community development.	Monaghan Age Friendly Programme	Municipal Districts Town Teams	2027-2031	No. of towns designated. No. of Age Friendly Town action plans implemented. % of priority actions completed within agreed timescales.

Theme A Health and Wellbeing						
Objective 2 Build Strong and Inclusive Communities						
No.	**Action**	**Description**	**Lead**	**Supporting Agency**	**Timescale**	**Indicators**
2.3	Increase the adoption of age friendly practices across business and services.	Encourage businesses to adopt age friendly practices that improve accessibility, customer experience and inclusion.	Monaghan Age Friendly Programme.	Monaghan Local Enterprise Office Town Teams	2027-2031	No. of businesses accredited. % of accredited businesses maintaining standards at review. Customer satisfaction feedback from older people.
2.4	Enhance social inclusion and community connection through participation in cultural, heritage and creative initiatives.	Promote social inclusion, cultural participation and community connection by enabling older people to engage with and celebrate Monaghan's rich heritage and traditions.	Monaghan County Council Cultural Team	Monaghan County Council Heritage section Monaghan Public Participation Network (PPN)	2027-2031	Under serviced audiences engaged.

Theme B Safer Communities						
Objective 3 Improve Safety and Security in our communities for Older People.						
No.	**Action**	**Description**	**Lead**	**Supporting Agency**	**Timescale**	**Indicators**
3.1	Embed the needs and experiences of older people within local community safety planning and implementation.	Implement a coordinated multi-agency approach to improving community safety and resilience, ensuring that the needs and experiences of older people are reflected in local safety planning.	Monaghan Local Community Safety Partnership.	An Garda Síochána Tusla HSE Monaghan County Council	2027-2028	Publication of Plan in 2026-2027. No. of actions delivered.
3.2	Improve access to community safety information, supports and services.	Improve awareness of community safety resources and supports through publication of a Community Safety Information Booklet. This will help older people make informed decisions and feel secure in their home and community.	Monaghan Local Community Safety Partnership	Monaghan Age Friendly Programme	2027-2031	Publication of booklet in 2026.

Theme B Safer Communities						
Objective 3 Improve Safety and Security in our communities for Older People.						
No.	**Action**	**Description**	**Lead**	**Supporting Agency**	**Timescale**	**Indicators**
3.3	Enhance home safety and support independent living through preventative safety interventions.	Reduce risks within the home and support independent living by providing preventative fire safety advice, education and practical safety interventions for older people.	Monaghan Fire & Civil Protection	Healthy Age Friendly Homes programme HSE Cavan Monaghan Integrated Care Programme for Older People (ICPOP)	2027-2031	No. of visits completed. % of identified risks addressed. % of participants reporting increased feelings of safety at home.
3.4	Strengthen community resilience and preparedness through collaborative preventative approaches.	Strengthen community resilience through collaborative engagement, awareness raising and preventative initiatives that help older people remain safe, informed and connected.	Monaghan Fire & Civil Protection An Garda Síochána	An Garda Síochána Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme HSE Muintir na Tire, Monaghan Age Friendly Programme	2027-2031	No. of community visits per year.

Theme B Safer Communities						
Objective 3 Improve Safety in our Communities for Older People						
No.	**Action**	**Description**	**Lead**	**Supporting Agency**	**Timescale**	**Indicators**
3.5	Promote safe and accessible mobility for older people through targeted road safety initiatives.	Promote safer travel and mobility by increasing awareness of road safety issues affecting older drivers, pedestrians and cyclists.	Monaghan Age Friendly Programme	Monaghan Road Safety Officer Monaghan Local Community Safety Partnership	2027-2031	2 no. information sessions to be held over lifetime of plan.
3.6	Improve digital confidence, cyber awareness and online safety among older people.	Improve digital confidence and resilience by increasing awareness of online risks, cyber security including artificial intelligence.	Cavan Monaghan Education Training Board	Monaghan County Libraries Monaghan Local Community Safety Partnership	2027-2031	No. of digital and AI awareness sessions delivered No. of participants.

Theme B Safer Communities						
Objective 4 Enhance Accessibility in Public Spaces						
No.	**Action**	**Description**	**Lead**	**Supporting Agency**	**Timescale**	**Indicators**
4.1	Improve accessibility to services, amenities and town centres through age friendly infrastructure provision.	Improve access to public services, amenities and town centres through provision of age friendly parking in each of our towns.	Monaghan Age Friendly Programme	Monaghan Older Persons Council Municipal District Town Teams	2027-2031	No. of locations assessed. No. of Age Friendly Parking Spaces installed.
4.2	Embed accessibility and age friendly design standards within the planning and enhancement of public spaces.	Identify and prioritise improvements to the pedestrian environment, supporting safer, more accessible and age friendly towns that encourage active travel and independent mobility.	Monaghan County Council	Monaghan Older Persons Council Monaghan Disability Network Municipal District Town Teams	2027-2031	No. of audits completed. No. of actions implemented.

Theme B Safer Communities						
Objective 4 Enhance Accessibility in Public Spaces						
No.	**Action**	**Description**	**Lead**	**Supporting Agency**	**Timescale**	**Indicators**
4.3	Secure investment to improve accessibility infrastructure and inclusive public amenities.	Support the development of inclusive public spaces by identifying and securing investment to address key accessibility infrastructure that enables older people to fully participate in community life.	Monaghan County Council	Monaghan Older Persons Council Municipal District Town Teams	2027-2031	No. audits completed. No. accessibility improvements implemented. % of audit recommendations actioned.
4.4	Mainstream Universal Design and Age Friendly Principles across public realm planning and investment decisions.	Embed universal design and age friendly principles within the planning and delivery of public realm projects to ensure accessibility and inclusion for people of all ages and abilities.	Monaghan County Council	Monaghan Older Persons Council Monaghan Integrated Development	2027-2031	No. and percentage of projects assessed using Age Friendly /Universal Design criteria. No. of projects incorporating recommendations.

Theme B Safer Communities						
Objective 5 Facilitate Provision of Age-Appropriate Housing						
No.	**Action**	**Description**	**Lead**	**Supporting Agency**	**Timescale**	**Indicators**
5.1	Develop evidence-based options from other Local Authorities for development of a Rightsizing Policy.	Evaluate housing needs and best practice approaches to support older people who wish to transition to more suitable accommodation while remaining connected to their communities.	Monaghan County Council	Approved Housing Bodies	2027-2031	Complete Rightsizing Review. Rightsizing policy drafted and adopted.
5.2	Increase supply of accessible, adaptable and Age Friendly housing.	Monaghan County Council to continue to provide UD/ age-friendly adaptable dwellings in all social housing developments with the aim of a minimum of 20% of social housing to be accessible / adaptable / suitable for older people / people with diminished mobility / disabilities.	Monaghan County Council Housing Section	N/A	2027-2031	20% of social housing units meet Universal Design standards. Continue to deliver accessible/adaptable homes annually.

Theme B Safer Communities						
Objective 5 Facilitate Provision of Age-Appropriate Housing						
No.	**Action**	**Description**	**Lead**	**Supporting Agency**	**Timescale**	**Indicators**
5.3	Ensure new residential developments incorporate Age Friendly measures and Universal Design principles in accordance with the Monaghan County Development Plan.	Promote and support the delivery of age friendly, adaptable and lifetime housing through the implementation of relevant objectives and policies contained within the Monaghan County Development Plan 2025-2031. Encourage residential developments that provide a diverse mix of housing types, tenures and supports that enable older people to remain living independently and connected within their communities.	Monaghan County Council Planning Section	Monaghan County Council	2027-2031	Compliance with the stated Development Plan objectives and policies.

Theme C Mobility and Accessibility						
Objective 6 Improve Availability and Access to Public Transport for Older People						
No.	**Action**	**Description**	**Lead**	**Supporting Agency**	**Timescale**	**Indicators**
6.1	Explore the need for Community Car.	Assess transport barriers experienced by older people and develop evidence to support the need for a Community Car.	Monaghan Integrated Development	HSE Rural Social Scheme	2027-2031	Needs assessment completed. Funding opportunities identified.
6.2	Embed Age Friendly, Universal Design and Road Safety Principles across transport and mobility schemes.	Ensure that all Active Travel, road safety and transport infrastructure schemes designed and delivered by Monaghan County Council apply Universal Design and Age Friendly principles to support safe, comfortable and independent mobility for people of all ages and abilities. This will include consideration of pedestrian safety, crossing points, footpaths, traffic calming measures and road safety interventions in accordance with national guidance and technical standards. Quality audits will be carried out at design stage, to ensure schemes meet the need of all users' needs regardless of age and abilities.	Monaghan County Council – Active Travel / Roads & Transportation Section	Monaghan Age Friendly Programme	2027-2031	% of Active Travel, transport and road safety schemes assessed against Universal Design and Age Friendly criteria.

Theme C Mobility and Accessibility						
Objective 6 Improve Availability and Access to Public Transport for Older People						
No.	**Action**	**Description**	**Lead**	**Supporting Agency**	**Timescale**	**Indicators**
6.3	Improve accessibility, connectivity and user experience within the public transport network.	Develop and deliver a phased programme of accessibility and road safety improvements across County Monaghan including the upgrading of bus stops, shelters and transport facilities, while identifying opportunities to enhance pedestrian access, safe crossing points, signage, seating, lighting and connections between transport services and community facilities. Improvements will support safer access to public transport and encourage greater mobility and encourage greater mobility and independence for older people.	Monaghan County Council – Active Travel / Roads & Transportation Section/Road Safety Officer.	National Transport Authority (NTA) Local Link Bus Eireann Community and Disability Groups Monaghan Local Community Safety Partnership	2027-2031	No. of bus stops/shelters upgraded. No. of accessibility and road safety improvements delivered. % of upgraded infrastructure compliant with accessibility standards.

Theme D Information and Participation						
Objective 7 Improve Access to Information for Older People and strengthen their involvement in decision making						
No.	**Action**	**Description**	**Lead**	**Supporting Agency**	**Timescale**	**Indicators**
7.1	Establish an Interdepartmental team in Monaghan County Council.	Embed Age Friendly Principles across policy development, service planning and capital investment programmes through a coordinated whole of council approach.	Monaghan County Council	Monaghan Age Friendly Programme	2027-2031	Interdepartmental team established 2027. No. of cross departmental Age Friendly projects completed.
7.2	Provide capacity building supports to community and voluntary sector.	Strengthen the ability of community and voluntary organisations to engage, support and advocate for older people through skills development, networking and funding awareness.	Monaghan County Council Community Department	Monaghan Integrated Development Cavan Monaghan Education Training Board	2027-2031	Number of groups are supported annually.

Theme D Information and Participation						
Objective 7 Improve Access to Information for older people and strengthen their involvement in decision making						
No.	**Action**	**Description**	**Lead**	**Supporting Agency**	**Timescale**	**Indicators**
7.3	Increase opportunities for cultural participation, creativity and lifelong learning.	Deliver an annual programme of cultural, creative and arts activities through collaborative partnerships, with older people meaningfully represented in programme design, decision-making and evaluation. Source funding annually through the Creative Ireland Programme and annual Bealtaine Festival to enrich the lives of older people in the community and care settings.	Monaghan County Council Cultural Section Monaghan Age Friendly Programme	Monaghan County Libraries Creative Monaghan	2027-2031	No. of programmes delivered.

Theme D Information and Participation						
Objective 7 Improve Access to Information for older people and strengthen their involvement in decision making						
No.	**Action**	**Description**	**Lead**	**Supporting Agency**	**Timescale**	**Indicators**
7.4	Promote social participation and connectedness through community-based activities.	Support coordinated approaches to the delivery of sustainable social opportunities that reduce isolation and enhance quality of life.	Monaghan Age Friendly Programme	Monaghan County Council	2027-2031	No. of new supports provided.
7.5	Foster inclusive communities that value and support positive ageing.	Foster inclusive communities that value the contribution of older people while challenging ageism through intergenerational, intercultural and community based initiatives.	Monaghan County Council	Monaghan Older Person's Council Monaghan Integrated Development	2027-2031	No. of activities organised.

Theme D Information and Participation						
Objective 7 Improve Access to Information for older people and strengthen their involvement in decision making						
No.	**Action**	**Description**	**Lead**	**Supporting Agency**	**Timescale**	**Indicators**
7.6	Provide administrative and development support to the Monaghan Older Person's Council.	Support the Older Persons Council to act as a key consultative mechanism enabling older people to influence policy, service delivery and decision making across the county.	Monaghan Age Friendly Programme	N/A	2027-2031	No. of meetings held. Attendance rate at meetings. No. of recommendations submitted to decision-makers. % of recommendations acted upon.
7.7	Increase civic participation and volunteering opportunities for older people.	Encourage and support older people including those recently retired to contribute their skills, experience and knowledge through meaningful volunteering opportunities.	Monaghan Volunteer Centre Monaghan Age Friendly Programme	Monaghan Integrated Development Monaghan Age Friendly Programme Monaghan Public Participation Network	2027-2031	No. of new volunteers registered with Monaghan Volunteer Centre. No. of retirees who engage with the programme.

Theme D Information and Participation						
Objective 7 Improve Access to Information for older people and strengthen their involvement in decision making						
No.	**Action**	**Description**	**Lead**	**Supporting Agency**	**Timescale**	**Indicators**
7.8	Develop an evidence-based understanding of social participation gaps and target interventions to reduce isolation.	Develop a countywide evidence base on access to social, recreational and support services for older people, identifying geographic inequalities and informing targeted interventions to reduce social isolation and improve community participation.	Monaghan County Council Community Section	Monaghan Integrated Development HSE Monaghan Sports Partnership Healthy Monaghan Cavan Monaghan Education Training Board Monaghan County Libraries	2027-2031	Mapping exercise completed. No. of underserved areas identified and meetings held with relevant groups to provide dedicated supports in that community.

Theme D Information and Participation						
Objective 7 Improve Access to Information for older people and strengthen their involvement in decision making						
No.	**Action**	**Description**	**Lead**	**Supporting Agency**	**Timescale**	**Indicators**
7.9	Develop a communications plan to increase awareness and opportunities for participation of the Monaghan Age Friendly Programme.	Increase awareness, visibility and participation in the Age Friendly Programme to encourage engagement and representation of older people in decision making.	Monaghan Age Friendly Programme	Monaghan Older Persons Council	2027-2031	Communications plan implemented. No. new members recruited. % increase in awareness of the Age Friendly Programme.
7.10	Promote accessible, inclusive and age friendly communications across all environmental services and activities.	Information will be accessible and inclusive to everyone.	Monaghan County Council	Monaghan Age Friendly Programme	2027-2031	Public information is clear in all communications.

Theme D Information and Participation						
Objective 7 Improve Access to Information for older people and strengthen their involvement in decision making						
No.	**Action**	**Description**	**Lead**	**Supporting Agency**	**Timescale**	**Indicators**
7.11	Support and promote participation of older people in Climate Action, Biodiversity and Community Sustainability Initiatives.	Encourage and support older people to participate in community climate action projects, biodiversity initiatives, environmental volunteering, community gardens, Climate Action Week activities and intergenerational sustainability programmes.	Monaghan Age Friendly Programme	Environmental Awareness Officer Biodiversity Officer Monaghan County Council Community Development Department	2027-2031	No. of initiatives held annually. No. of older people participating. No. of intergenerational or community sustainability projects delivered.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Performance Framework

The Monaghan Age Friendly Strategy will be monitored through a SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-Bound) performance framework. This framework will ensure actions are delivered effectively and achieve meaningful outcomes for older people.

Each action within the Strategy identifies:

- Specific actions to be delivered.
- Measurable indicators to track progress and performance.
- Achievable targets that can be delivered through partnership working.
- Relevant outcomes aligned with the Strategy's objectives.
- Clear milestones and completion dates aligned with the Strategy timeframe.

Monitoring Arrangements

Monaghan County Council will monitor progress against agreed indicators and submit updates to the Monaghan Age Friendly Alliance on a biannual basis. Progress will be reviewed by the Monaghan Age Friendly Alliance to identify achievements, address challenges and support continuous improvement.

Reporting Activity	**Frequency**
Action Progress Updates	Biannually
Age Friendly Alliance Review	Biannually
Annual Progress Report	Annually
Mid-Term Review	2029
Final Evaluation	2031

Performance Assessment

Actions will be assessed using a traffic-light reporting system:

Status	Definition
🟢 Green	On target to achieve agreed objectives and indicators within timescale.
🟡 Amber	Progress being made but some risks or delays identified.
🔴 Red	Significant challenges affecting delivery and requiring intervention.
🔵 Complete	Action fully achieved.

Measuring Success

Success will be measured through the achievement of action-specific indicators, including participation levels, services delivered, infrastructure improvements, accessibility measures, training programmes, community engagement and policy development outcomes.

Annual reporting will assess progress against the Strategy's objectives and provide evidence of improvements in health and wellbeing, safety, accessibility, mobility, social participation and the involvement of older people in decision-making across County Monaghan.

This framework will provide a clear basis for monitoring progress, evaluating outcomes and demonstrating the positive impact of the Strategy on the lives of older people.



Success Stories: Working together to achieve shared goals

Age Friendly Monaghan are very proud of what our previous plans have achieved and look forward to continuing to empower the older people in our communities through this strategy. We are also fortunate to be supported by other departments, stakeholders and colleagues such as Healthy Ireland, Women's Collective Ireland Monaghan, the Monaghan County Libraries Network and Monaghan Sports Partnership.

Working closely with colleagues, departments, and partner agencies has enabled us to achieve shared goals and deliver successful outcomes that could not have been accomplished alone









The images above show the successful programmes delivered by Age Friendly Monaghan in collaboration with other stakeholders. Intergenerational programme between the Older People's Council and Beech Hill School has previously won National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Award 2023 - Judges Special Recognition Award. The project involves two groups of Transition Year students at the college recording news stories from the local news and broadcasting a regular news programme to the residents at local Nursing Homes in Monaghan



Some of the actions from our previous strategy have been completed and we can see the success of these throughout the County for example under Theme 3 Housing Support for people at home we now have our Age Friendly Homes Coordinators who are available to meet with clients in their own homes and advise them on what improvements can be made and what grants are available. This move is essential to help people live longer and independently in their own homes.



Acknowledgement of the Member of the Age Friendly Alliance Monaghan.

Robert Burns	Chief Executive Monaghan County Council
Nicola Payne	Director of Services Monaghan County Council
Dr. Fiona McGrath	Chief Executive Cavan Monaghan Education Training Board
Pat O'Connell	Superintendent An Garda Síochána
Dervila Eyres	Integrated Healthcare Area Manager HSE
Leona Keenan	Monaghan Age Friendly Programme Manager
Seamus McDermott	Monaghan Age Friendly Ambassador
Lynda McGrory	Corporate Business Manager Monaghan Hospital /HSE
Killian Cawley	CEO Monaghan Integrated Development (MID)
Finbarr Daly	CEO Enterprising Monaghan
Padraic Smyth	General Manager Cavan/Monaghan Local Link
Dermot McGuinness	People Operations Manager Bus Eireann
Lorraine Cunningham	Chairperson Older People's Council
Paddy Gollogly	Vice Chairperson Chair of the Older People's Council
Aprilanna Barker	Monaghan Town Team/Business Sector
Linda Lennon	Monaghan Age Friendly Programme Administrator

Appendix A Abbreviations

- AFA — Age Friendly Alliance
- AFI — Age Friendly Ireland
- AFHC — Age Friendly Homes Coordinator
- AI — Artificial Intelligence
- ED — Electoral District
- FRC — Family Resource Centre
- CMETB — Cavan Monaghan Education Training Board
- MSP — Monaghan Sports Partnership
- GP — General Practitioner
- HSE — Health Service Executive
- ICPOP — Integrated Care Programme for Older People
- KPI — Key Performance Indicator
- LA — Local Authority
- LDCs — Local Development Companies
- LCDC — Local Community Development Committee
- LCSP — Local Community Safety Partnership
- LDC — Local Development Company
- LDS — Local Development Services
- LECP — Local Economic and Community Plan
- LEO — Local Enterprise Office
- MABS — Money Advice and Budgeting Service
- MD — Municipal District
- NTA — National Transport Authority
- OPC — Older Persons Council
- PPN — Public Participation Network
- RSES — Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy
- SICAP — Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme
- SPC — Strategic Policy Committee
- TFI — Transport for Ireland
- WHO — World Health Organisation





