



Communities Planning For Their Future

MULRANNY
COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN
2016 - 2021

Mulranny Community Futures

INTRODUCTION

MULRANNY COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

The Mulranny community participated in the Mayo Community Futures programme in 2009 which resulted in the Mulranny Community Action Plan 2010 -2015. This plan summarised our community's view on:

- What Mulranny was like then
- The vision for the future of our area
- The issues that mattered most
- The priorities for projects and action

The plan guided our community development over the 6 years since the plan was launched.

We have now finalised a process of renewing the action plan by identifying projects and actions which the community wishes to focus on over the next 5 years 2016 - 2021. The preparation of the renewed plan has been carried out by the Mulranny Community Futures with guidance and support from the Mayo Community Futures Programme.

LOCAL PEOPLE HAVE THEIR SAY

This Renewed Action Plan is the result of the following process:

Progress Update: we evaluated what we had achieved from our plan, what was no longer relevant and what we had left to achieve

Community Views Survey: a house to house survey was conducted and people were invited to give their views on what they think should be included in the renewed plan

Business Survey and Youth Survey: we conducted these surveys to gather the specific views of our businesses and our youth

Update Community Profile: we had a look at the housing and population demographics to see what had changed since we last did our plan

Workshop Event: data from the surveys, and the progress update were collated into themes. Everyone in the community was invited to a workshop event which facilitated the community to prioritise actions by voting with dots for what they thought was most important

Renewed Action Plan: the results of the workshop event were devised into this community action plan by the Mayo Community Futures

Community meets Agencies: an important aspect of the process is that communities and agencies meet to see how they can work together to deliver the actions in the plan. This event is organised by Mayo Community Futures

OUR COMMUNITY NOW

We have summarised below the main facts and figures from the **Community Profile**

MULRANNY COMMUNITY PROFILE 2016

Population

Local knowledge shows the population of Mulranny is 437; adults 364 and minors 73.

Housing

The total number of houses in Mulranny is 349 according to local knowledge. Of that number 197 are residential and 152 are holiday homes.

Employment and the Local Economy

A new mini-bus business, two cafés and two new B&B's have opened since the launch of the plan in 2009. Daly's premise is being refurbished and will include bar food.

Education

The number of children in pre-school is 18 and the number of national school children is 53.

Health and Care Services

A HSE ambulance base has been established in Mulranny that will service Mulranny, Achill and Ballycroy.

Community Organisations, Clubs and Groups

Many new groups have been established. These include a tourism group, a new Tourist Office run mainly by volunteers, the Environmental Group, the new Environmental Centre in the Garda barracks, Gift of Hands, Green Plan, Community Markets, Men's Shed, Grow It Yourself and the Old Irish Goat Society.

Roads and Transport

Footpaths have been provided through the village along with traffic calming measures and cycle lanes. A charging facility for electric cars is located in the centre of the village.

Environment

A rainwater harvesting system for watering flowers within the village has been established. The issue of invasive species is being addressed.

Other achievements

Mulranny has won many awards including the European Destination of Excellence EDEN award, a Silver Award Best Destination for Responsible Tourism and Best Small Tourism Towns award. Mulranny is the first Green Plan accredited village in Ireland and won the National Clean Coasts Ocean Hero Group Award. Mulranny is placed fourth in Mayo in the National Tidy Towns Competition. Mulranny Village Design Statement has been instrumental in the village having a state of the art promenade with seating and picnic tables.

Theme 1 - Environment and Outdoor Activities

Mulranny, by virtue of its location, has many advantages that lends itself to providing a variety of outdoor activities. One of the important projects the community have listed is to work on the extension of the pier and the development of a marina for multiuse. The upgrade of the Causeway and the provision of wheelchair access to the beach are other important projects. The facilities on the Blue Flag beach need to be updated. Building on existing tourism, Mulranny would like to develop trails between the shore, mountains and the Greenway. The community will need to decide whether to develop a pitch and putt course if the existing golf links cannot be extended. Now that Mulranny has established their Environment Centre, work will continue on their strategies to protect and sustain the coastal area.

The community has highlighted a number of priorities that they would like to see initiated as part of Environment and Outdoor Activities.

Main Priorities

Extend the pier and develop a marina

- Research options for the extension of the pier and draw up plans
- Look at options to develop a multiuse marina

Upgrade the Causeway and develop outdoor activities

- Create disability access to the Causeway and the beach
- Draw up a plan that will develop links and trails that connect the seashore, mountains and the Greenway
- Look to expand the variety of outdoor activities

Extend the golf links or develop a pitch and putt course

- Research options for extending the golf course or creating a pitch and putt course

Expand facilities on the Blue Flag beach

- Consult with Mayo County Council
- Upgrade toilets and provide outdoor shower facilities

Preserve and maintain coastal environment

- Continue to support and work on the environmental plans
- Continue to support and work on the Green Plan strategy
- Support the Old Irish Goat Project

Theme 2 - Village and Traffic

An extensive upgrade of the footpaths and the main thoroughfare in Mulranny village has taken place. However, the roads on either side of the village leading to the beach and golf course are in need of pedestrian/cycle ways and traffic calming. The upkeep and improvement of buildings by house owners and businesses in the village needs to be agreed and co-ordinated. Encouraging the youth and businesses to get involved in the TidyTowns campaign will be beneficial to the whole community. The revival of the Heritage group could help to develop Mulranny's cultural and heritage assets.

In the process of compiling this plan, the community has identified a number of steps they would like to see taken to improve the village appearance and traffic problems.

Main Priorities

Extend greenways and traffic calming

- Extend pedestrian/cycle ways along the Cuslecka and Murreveagh roads
- Create traffic calming areas on both sides of the village and on the Golf Course road
- Move speed limit signs past the Golf Course road
- Create a roundabout at the Achill/N59 junction
- Look at providing a pedestrian crossing from the Causeway to the hotel

Continue the TidyTowns/Green Plan campaign

- Expand the involvement of youth and business
- Work with property owners on appearance of buildings in the village
- Continue the good work of TidyTowns
- Continue Green Plan strategy

Revive the Heritage Group

- Look at developing Mulranny's cultural and heritage assets;-
 - place names
 - dry stone walls
 - listed buildings
 - railway
 - Spanish Armada
 - Grainne Uaile

Theme 3 - Tourism and Promotion

Mulranny has benefited from an increase in tourists. The Mulranny Park Hotel and Leisure Centre, tourism accommodation providers and tourism service providers along with the Greenway and promenade have all been central to this. Work needs to continue in tourism development; through support in keeping the hotel open all year round, encouraging businesses to become involved, implementing the Village Design statement in relation to tourism and strategies to promote Mulranny. The creation of a centrally located community notice board would help to advertise events for locals and tourists.

Here are some of the priorities the community have put forward to help to support and promote tourism in Mulranny.

Main Priorities

Continue to promote Mulranny as an important tourism destination and brand

Encourage the hotel to remain open all year round

- Work with management and identify areas of co-operation which could help the hotel to stay open all year round

Tourism and businesses co-operation

- Support tourism enterprises in the Mulranny area
- Encourage businesses to become involved in Mulranny Tourism and link into their website and maps
- Implement fully the Village Design Statement
- Continue to promote Mulranny and build on past achievements

Community notice board

- Create a community notice board in a central location that will give information to both locals and tourists

Theme 4 - Community Facilities and Services

Creating a community playground and developing a multi-purpose community pitch with an outdoor gym are two of the priorities that the Mulranny community have been working towards for some time. Making better use of the Amenity Centre as well as the tennis court would add to the range of activities available for locals and tourists. Improving the bus service from Mulranny to Westport and Castlebar would help people to connect to the train service and expand options for medical appointments or employment. The creation of a Youth Centre or café is important to allow youth to have their own place in the community and their involvement in existing groups would be beneficial to all. There is a need to raise awareness of the availability of the existing health services for the community in St. Brendan's and the Health Centre.

The following priorities have been identified as factors that would expand the range of community facilities and services to the community and make Mulranny a better place to live in.

Main Priorities

Community playground

- Continue to work with Mayo County Council and the community to agree a site
- Draw up plans for the playground that will include multi-use and intergenerational activities and structures

Creation of a community sports pitch with outdoor gym

- Research other communities that have developed similar projects
- Agree on a site for a community sports pitch and outdoor gym
- Consult with Mayo County Council and Mayo Sports Partnership

Expand the use of existing facilities

- Research how best the Amenity Centre's activities could be expanded so that locals and tourists could avail of them
- Look at ways of making more use of the tennis court. Setting up a tournament or using the court in connection with the activities in the Amenity Centre are some of the possibilities

Improve the bus service to Westport and Castlebar

- Look at expanding the service to facilitate connection to train services, hospital appointments and workers commuting to jobs

Youth Centre and involvement in community

- Consider a Youth Centre or Youth Café as a focal point for youth
- Encourage their involvement in existing groups

Theme 5 - Local Economy

The provision of better broadband and developing a link to the fibre-optic cable is seen as essential for the community to prosper. More affordable family homes are vital to the continued population growth of the area. A new Community Employment Scheme /Solas Scheme would be beneficial to support various voluntary groups. Businesses would like to network more and encourage people to shop locally. The establishment of enterprise/retail units in the village centre would encourage the expansion of services e.g. coffee shop/small restaurant and more retail-craft shops.

The following priorities have been identified as factors to be worked on that will benefit all in the community.

Main Priorities

Better broadband

- Consult with current providers to see what improvements can be made
- Look at possibility of linking into fibre-optic services
- Explore what other communities have done

Housing

- Explore what can be done to promote affordable family housing in the area

New Community Employment Scheme/Solas Scheme

- Access the needs of voluntary groups and prepare a report
- Meet with the relevant agencies to discuss the findings

New services, enterprise and a business network

- Encourage start up businesses e.g. coffee shop/small restaurant, retail and craft shops
- Establish enterprise/retail units in the village centre
- Encourage businesses to form a network and run a “shop local” campaign

MULRANNY COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2016 - 2021

This plan guides our community and our organisations on the actions to be implemented over the next five years.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO TOOK PART IN THE PROCESS THE RESPONSES HELPED TO INFORM THE PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED IN THIS PLAN

MAKING IT HAPPEN!

The Mulranny Community Futures will take responsibility for overseeing the delivery of the plan as a whole. We are keen to work in a coordinated and inclusive manner and we are anxious not to duplicate or overlap the good work that is being done at present by a variety of active voluntary groups. We will continually strive to ensure that we are a truly representative community organisation, open and transparent and that we adhere to good governance practices.

REVIEWING THE ACTION PLAN

We will, from time to time, look at how we are all doing at implementing this plan. We will convene a REVIEW meeting annually to take stock of what has been achieved to date, as well as agreeing on updated actions for the next year. This will be incorporated in an Annual Progress Report for the Mayo Community Futures Programme.

FOR GENERAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

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MAYO COMMUNITY FUTURES

The Community Futures programme assists communities to prepare their own action plans in a way that is inclusive and participatory. The process not only leads to good action planning that really reflect the priorities of communities but also encourages people to get involved in making things happen locally. Plans prepared in this way strengthens the communities ability to access funding for their priority projects and effectively represent their interests at area, county and national levels.

The programme is managed by a partnership of community based organisations and agencies who are committed to supporting communities in having a say in their own future.

Mayo Community Futures is funded and supported by Mayo County Council. If you would like to know more about Mayo Community Futures please contact;

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