



# MULRANNY RENEWED COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2022 - 2027





# INTRODUCTION

## COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

The Mulranny community participated in the Mayo Community Futures programme in 2010 which resulted in the Mulranny Community Action Plan 2010 -2015. The 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

In 2016 the Mulranny community renewed their Action Plan for a further 5 years building on achievements from the previous plan.

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 2022 – 2027. The preparation of the renewed plan has been carried out by the Mulranny Community Futures Group with guidance and support from Mayo Community Futures.



## LOCAL PEOPLE HAVE THEIR SAY

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

<b>Progress Update:</b> we evaluated what we had achieved from our plan, what was no longer relevant and what we had left to achieve
<b>Community Household Survey:</b> a household survey was distributed to all the houses in the parish
<b>Business Survey and Youth consultation:</b> these were conducted to gather the specific views of our businesses and our youth
<b>Update Community Profile:</b> we had a look at the housing and population demographics to see what had changed since we last did our Action Plan
<b>Community Voting Event:</b> data from the household survey, the business survey, the youth consultation and the progress update were collated into themes. Everyone in the community was invited to a community event which facilitated the community to prioritise actions by voting with dots for what they thought was most important
<b>Renewed Action Plan:</b> the results of the Community Voting Event were devised into this Community Action Plan by Mayo Community Futures





## OUR COMMUNITY NOW

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

### MULRANNY COMMUNITY PROFILE 2022

#### Population

Local knowledge shows the population of Mulranny is 597 (493 adults and 104 minors).

#### Housing

The total number of houses in Mulranny is 441, of that 234 are residential and 169 are holiday homes (a further 38 unoccupied or classed 'Unknown/Derelict'). Planning permission for 16 new social housing units has been secured with construction imminent.

#### Education

The number of children in pre-school is 21 and the number of national school children is 59. Mulranny National School raised its seventh Green Flag in 2022 and participated in the European Erasmus programme for the first time with a cross-border schools initiative with south-Armagh.

#### Health and Care Services

Mulranny continues to be served by local GP services, Saint Brendan's Village and the HSE ambulance base. The Safe Home programme celebrated 25 years in Mulranny and the successful repatriation of 2,144 Irish expatriates.

#### Employment and the Local Economy

The Wild Atlantic Way and the Mulranny Promenade have significantly boosted tourism. The quality of broadband has improved significantly.

#### Roads and Transport

New rural link transport services have significantly improved Mulranny's connectivity. A community electric-bike fleet has been established at the Tourist Office. The Mulranny Dry Stone Wall Festival returned in 2022 to advance repair of the dry-stone walls on the Great Western Greenway.

#### Community Organisations, Clubs and Groups

Mulranny has been successful in securing significant LEADER funding during the course of the last Community Futures plan. The Gift of Hands and the Old Irish Goats Society have developed operational facilities on the Wild Atlantic Way. Mulranny Community Futures supported groups with the LEADER process.



#### Outdoor Facilities

A community playground has been opened.

#### Environment

Mulranny was selected as Mayo's Decarbonising Zone. Mulranny continues to perform strongly in the national Tidy Towns competition, having received national bronze medals. Efforts to conserve Old Irish Goats have been advanced with recognition as a Native Irish Breed with conservation status of "At Risk". Trials are underway to tackle the invasive species Gunnera Tinctoria using Old Irish Goats and several native tree planting projects have been completed. Mulranny retained its Blue Flag beach status.

#### Other Achievements

Mulranny won a silver medal in the 2019 Entente Florale Competition, with a European Best Practice and Certificate also awarded.



## Theme 1 Roads, Transport and Infrastructure

The village of Mulranny has evolved over the last number of years to become one of the most popular tourist spots in Mayo. The influx of so many people, cars, bicycles and motor homes has highlighted a number of issues. The community are anxious to ensure that traffic flows smoothly through the village, ample parking is available at key areas and pedestrians and cyclists' safety is addressed. The beaches and pier have continued to be popular attractions but safe access for pedestrians and cyclists has become a priority. On the N59 north and south of the village, improved access, traffic calming, off road parking along with addressing the Achill/Ballycroy junction are seen as key issues for the community. While an increase in public transport to local towns is called for, strategic planning is needed to support sustainable travel choices.

In the process of compiling this plan, the community has identified a number of steps they would like to see taken in relation to economy and infrastructure.



### Main Priorities

#### Safe Access for Pedestrians, Wheelchair Users and Cyclists

- Review the courtesy and pedestrian crossings in the centre of the village
- Create a pedestrian/cycle way to the beach and pier from the National School along the Cushleacka Road
- Develop a footpath from Bunnahowna to the village
- Look at providing a pedestrian crossing at the hotel to the Causeway



#### Roads and Parking

- Improve parking in the centre of the village, at the beach and playground
- Extend speed limit to the Old Irish Goat Centre
- Create a roundabout at the Achill/Ballycroy junction on the N59
- Create traffic calming measures from the Church to the Amenity Centre
- Improve access from the graveyard road onto the N59 and create more parking
- Realign the crash barrier at the junction at Bunnahowna bridge
- Upgrade the road from the Golf Links Club House to the beach



#### Local Transport

- Provide Electric Car Charging points
- Create a Master Plan for integrated smarter travel
- Encourage the use of e-bikes, carpooling and bike sharing
- Improve public transport to local towns

## Theme 2 Tourism and Recreation

Mulranny has become a place of interest for tourists and the numbers have grown year on year. The community would like to expand the variety of outdoor activities and water-based activities they can offer people in the area. The community does not have a community sports pitch, and they would like to develop an open space for all groups to use. There is opportunity to expand in areas of retail and hospitality, all the while retaining the uniqueness of what makes Mulranny special. The development of a business hub in the village could attract a wide range of businesses.

The following priorities have been identified to develop tourism and recreation in the area.

### Main Priorities

#### Develop Community and Tourism Facilities

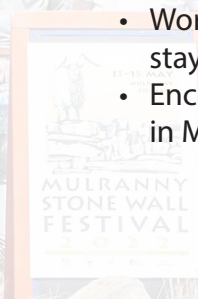
- Upgrade the Causeway – improve surface and add lighting
- Develop the pier to allow boats to dock and create moorings and a small jetty.
- Expand facilities on the Blue flag beach
- Create seating points along the Greenway
- Public Toilets in the village and on Murreveagh Beach
- Develop an 18-hole golf links, driving range and create connection to the sand dunes
- Create an Emergency Helipad

#### Develop Sports Facilities and Outdoor Activities

- Upgrade, extend and maintain existing loop walk and develop more trails that connect the seashore, mountains and Greenway. Complete the Greenway link to Rosturk
- Agree a site for a community sports pitch and outdoor gym
- Look at ways to make more use of the tennis court
- Develop a water sports facility and seawater pool/wave pool
- Develop an outdoor pursuits centre
- Develop pony trekking up the mountains

#### Enterprise and Tourism Development

- Create a business hub in the village
- Develop Retail and Restaurants and covered outdoor eating area
- Develop a campsite with facilities for caravans and tents
- Work with Hotel management to identify areas of co-operation which could help the hotel to stay open all year round
- Encourage businesses to form a network, run a "shop local" campaign and become involved in Mulranny Tourism





## Theme 3 Community Facilities and Services

The Amenity Centre in Mulranny has for many years been a focal point in the community for activities and events. The community would like to see the centre upgraded and an expansion of events and activities taking place there. Young people in the community would like to have a designated space to meet and make their own. Older people in the community would like to see the establishment of a group that could bring people together to enjoy a range of activities. The construction of an Alzheimer's Unit near to the Mulranny Day Centre Housing (St. Brendan's) would allow people to stay in their community and near to family. People would like to have a central information point displaying services and events taking place in the community and encourage people to become involved.

Here are some of the priorities the community have put forward in relation to community facilities and services.

### Main Priorities

#### Upgrade and develop the Amenity Centre

- Reinststate the weekend market selling fresh local produce and crafts
- Improve Handball/Squash Court
- Create a climbing Wall
- Meals on Wheels Scheme
- Develop a Community Library



#### Increase participation, activities and events

- Make more use of the Amenity Centre for community events and run a wide variety of classes. Community hosted events e.g. Bingo, Sports Day, Summer Camps, Céilís and events for children
- Set up a Parent & Toddler Group

#### Youth services and facilities

- Youth café/place to meet
- Create more activities for youth
- Set up a Foróige group
- Encourage involvement in existing groups

#### Facilities and services for older people

- Develop an Alzheimer's Unit near St. Brendan's
- Weekly meeting place for older people

#### Develop a central information area

- Create a central information point on activities and services and how to access them

## Theme 4 Environment, Biodiversity and Heritage

There has been a lot of work done in the community to try to preserve the environment, however it is a continuous effort. Now more than ever people are aware that they must make changes in order to reduce waste, recycle more, change practices that damage habitats and pollute water. At the same time there are opportunities to educate and promote sustainability and this can be done by encouraging participation in activities and events. There are many alternative energy systems that could be used as part of a community-led project and work is currently underway to research some of these. The revival of the Heritage group will help to develop Mulranny's cultural and heritage assets.

The community has highlighted a number of priorities that they would like to see initiated to raise awareness of the environment, biodiversity and Mulranny's heritage.

### Main Priorities

#### Environment

- Keep erosion at the beach under control, protect the shoreline
- Increase planting of native and beneficial species
- Ensure Dark Skies policies are part of any lighting plan for the village
- Increase recycling facilities (plastic, glass, clothes), expand bins on beach to encourage recycling
- Make people aware of environmentally friendly practices (less chemical usage, reduce gorse fires, less mowing and hedge trimming, water conservation and use of spring wells, minimise waste)
- Look at ways to improve our river water quality
- Encourage Green Farming Practices: BRIDE and REAP schemes
- Encourage the preservation of stone walls

#### Alternative Energy

- Look at establishing a solar farm, erecting wind turbines
- Encourage retrofitting homes, heating options
- Encourage energy conservation measures

#### Support biodiversity and conservation schemes

- Educate and promote sustainability
- Establish a community space for allotments and community composting
- Set up a Beekeeping Club
- Implement The Green Plan
- Encourage people to reduce turf cutting
- Continue work already started to save Old Irish Goats
- Protect the Curlew, link in with Irish Wildlife Trust and Birdwatch Ireland

#### Revive the Heritage Group

- Develop the community's cultural and heritage assets



### Theme 5 Village Enhancement and Housing

The village of Mulranny has seen a major transformation in the last ten years as part of the Village Design Statement and works by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). However, work remains to be done to implement the Village Design Statement completely and develop Mulranny as planned. The availability of affordable housing and tourist accommodation has become a growing concern in the community. People from the community would like to be able to afford to buy a house there, whilst the growing popularity of Mulranny means that there is not enough tourist accommodation. Mulranny Tidy Towns has achieved many awards and they would like the community to work together to achieve the top award in the Tidy Towns competition.

The community has a number of priorities that they would like to see implemented that will enhance their community and address housing.

#### Main Priorities

##### Village Enhancement

- Implement the Village Design Statement fully
- Increase landscaping, seating around the village and at playground
- Look at having a variety of bins (recycle and litter, dog fouling)
- Develop Public water stations – encourage reuse of water bottles
- Look for solution to wild goats' and sheep entering village gardens

##### Housing

- Conduct a housing needs assessment for the area that will address the needs of current and future residents along with tourist accommodation
- Encourage owners of local derelict houses to upgrade and reinstate them as rentals

##### Tidy Towns

- Encourage all residents to help win top award for Mulranny
- Look at having monthly tidy-ups of byroads
- Continue work already stated with Green Plan campaign
- Arrange Tidy Town events that include the involvement of youth and businesses

### MULRANNY COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2022 – 2027

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!

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 Mayo Community Futures.

#### 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 reflects 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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