Leitrim PEACE III Partnership

Cross Border Community Plans
Rossinver-Garrison, Kiltyclogher-Cashel and Glenfarne-Blacklion-Belcoo

Leitrim County Council, West Cavan West Fermanagh Regeneration Project & Broadmore Research

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INTRODUCTION
The small towns/villages along the Border and the local communities suffered enormously both economically and socially during The Troubles. Recent decades and in particular the re-opening of border roads have brought a return to normality in these areas. However, these areas still suffer from a level of advantage and could benefit from focused community, social and economic development initiatives. The development of Community Plans for these areas provides an opportunity for local communities to get involved in preparing plans for their own areas and prioritises the aspects for development. The plans have been developed as an initiative under the Leitrim PEACE III Programme. The plans give the communities of Rossinver, Garrison, Kiltyclogher, Cashel, Glenfarne, Blacklion and Belcoo a template from which to initiate actions to revitalise their own areas and communities.

BACKGROUND TO THE PEACE III PROGRAMME
The County Leitrim Peace III Partnership Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan is based upon six guiding principles: equality; respect; integration; social inclusion; poverty; and sustainability. The Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan aims to address the negative impacts of the troubles and the border on individuals, families and communities. It is evident that the presence of the border has had a detrimental consequence for community interaction and relations particularly cross border between Leitrim, Cavan and Fermanagh. The legacy is that the links between neighbouring communities were fractured or widened over a number of decades. The advent of peace has allowed for communities to initiate joint actions and to commence the process of reconnection (as has happened in communities on both sides of the border). However, lack of integration and coordination between/within communities can also occur internally in a county (without the border influence) and may also need specific focus to encourage these communities to work together to proactively develop initiatives which can enhance the area in which they live.

As a result, one of the key aims of the Co. Leitrim Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan is to Build the Capacity of Communities and Target Groups to Enable Positive Relationships. Included in the specific objectives for this aim is ‘to enhance and develop those communities affected by Border Closures’.

The process undertaken in developing these plans is rooted in consultation and the development of plans in conjunction with the local communities, voluntary sector and statutory agencies. The consultation process is a fundamental component in the process of establishing the foundation for developing a programme of action, based on a collective vision of the desired outcomes (ADM/CPA, 2004).
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

This project under the PEACE III programme involves the development of community plans in 3 areas. The project is an action under the aims of:

- Building the capacity of communities and target groups to enable positive relationships; and
- Enhancing and developing those communities affected by border closures.

The three target areas are:
- Rossinver, Garrison;
- Kiltyclogher, Cashel; and
- Glenfarne, Blacklion, Belcoo.

The specific aims of the project are:
- To develop cross border community plans (building on work done) for the regeneration and integration of the areas.
- To build positive relations and develop a common vision for these areas through the planning process with the local communities.

A community plan is a vision for the future of a local area. It involves all aspects including: the people; community spirit and involvement; the environment; and local infrastructure. The most important element is ‘the people’ for community is defined as ‘the people living in one locality’.

The development of the Cross Border Community Plans was part of a larger project which also involved the development of an Integrated Community Plan for Tullaghan Kinlough.

SETTING THE SCENE FOR THE COMMUNITY PLANS

Small towns/villages are now less self-sufficient than they were 20 or 30 years ago and as a result have a greater dependence on larger towns for the provision of goods and services as well as for employment. Small towns have lost or are in danger of losing many of their functions including shopping. The closure of a single shop/business can lead to significant decline in rural areas and increase the dependence on larger towns for goods and services. Village shops and post offices play a vital role in rural areas by providing essential day-to-day needs of local people, particularly older people, those with disabilities, people without access to a car, or who are poorly served by public transport. These businesses can also assist in anchoring the surrounding rural economy (LCC, 2009). Many of the towns and villages in border areas are small and have suffered in the past from the presence of the border and a decline in population, but also because of the increased mobility of rural residents, changed shopping habits and increased competition from larger urban outlets. Nonetheless, the loss of local shops can still have a serious impact on these communities.

The biggest impact on the counties in the border region has without doubt been the Border and The Troubles in past decades. The Emerald Curtain Report (2005) identifies the social impacts of the border and concluded that there was a deep impact on social connections among the border communities. The main cause of the fracturing of the social relationships was the road closures. An entire generation of contact and social intercourse was broken. For most of the past 100 years, the border has had a negative impact on general life through conflict, fear, violence and threats. This resulted in isolation, fear, marginalisation and social deprivation (Harvey, 2010).

The challenge for border areas has been compounded by the recent economic decline. The Western Development Commission (WDC, 2009) identified that the small towns and dispersed population in the western region would make economic recovery more difficult, particularly as the focus of national policy for recovery seems to be mainly concentrated on sectors which tend to favour larger urban centres.

Creamer et al (2008) identified that border areas face unique challenges including retardation of trade, disruption of natural hinterlands and back-to-back policy development. The lack of policy coordination between the two
jurisdictions has hampered the development of the border areas for decades. They identified that the viability of rural communities along the border have become precarious. This was due to a number of factors: out-migration; depletion of human resources; persistent structural weaknesses in the rural economy, and the severance of economic, social and cultural connections by decades of conflict.

Harvey (2010) also cited the research carried out by Dundalk IT which found that the Leitrim/Fermanagh area had fewer community development groups than other areas in Northern Ireland (especially urban areas). This reflects the low population density in these areas but nonetheless highlights one of the challenges for these areas. The challenge of encouraging development in the border regions of Co. Leitrim related to the frontier with another jurisdiction and also the fact that these areas have suffered economic decline for a number of decades.

The SWOT Analysis of the Border Region provided by the Border Regional Authority gives a worthwhile snapshot of the attributes of the region (Table 1) (Border Regional Authority, 2010).

### Table 1  Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats of the Border Region

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<td>High quality natural environment</td>
<td>Physical barriers to east west movement</td>
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<td>Landscape</td>
<td>Poor road network</td>
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<td>Abundance of water ways</td>
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<td>Significant Gaeltacht area</td>
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<td>Strong entrepreneurial spirit</td>
<td>Low population density</td>
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<td>Strong arts and culture sector</td>
<td>Competition rather than complimentary</td>
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<td>Cultural distinctiveness</td>
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<th>Opportunities</th>
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<td>Sustainable development of natural resources</td>
<td>Decline of agriculture, construction, manufacturing, public sector</td>
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<td>Further weakening of the urban structure and dispersal of population</td>
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Source: Border Regional Authority, 2010

The reformed EU structural funds in 1989 brought opportunities for the border region to attract EU funding for Economic Development by way of the INTEREG Programme. The subsequent introduction of the EU PEACE programme in 1994 provided for substantial investment in voluntary and community organisations in the border counties. The introduction of supporting programmes was based on the belief of former EU President Jacques Delors that the absence of violence alone was not sufficient to lead to recovery in the border regions. Therefore he envisaged pro-active measures and investment as necessary for these areas (Harvey, 2010).

Creamer et al (2008) concluded that the best way to address border region issues is through a combination of ‘hard’ and ‘soft’ measures which address economic, social and physical elements.
The Local/Regional Policy Context

While the Border Regions suffer from economic and social disadvantage, the regional and local authorities have been striving to address this, particularly in recent decades. In order to set the context for the Community Plans, a summary is presented of some of the key actions from the: Border Regional Authority Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022; Regional Development Strategy for Northern Ireland 2025; Leitrim County Development Plan; Leitrim County Development Board Strategy; Fermanagh Local Development Strategy; Fermanagh Community Support Plan; and Cavan County Development Plan.

Border Regional Authority Vision for the Border Region

The Border Regional Authority set out a vision for the area that: By 2022 the Border Region will be a competitive area recognised as, and prospering from, its unique interface between two economies, where economic success will benefit all, through the building of distinct sub-regional identities, in an outstanding natural environment, with innovative people, which in themselves, will be our most valuable asset (Border Regional Authority, 2010).

A number of strategic goals were identified for achieving this vision, while all are relevant to these areas, those most pertinent to the community plans include:

- To foster the development of the people by providing an improved quality of life for all people and communities living, working and visiting the region;
- To promote economic growth, competitiveness and the development potential of the region and to facilitate emerging sectors in the region that will provide sustainable jobs for the future;
- To protect and enhance the quality of the natural environment and built heritage of the region; and
- To exploit the regions unique location at the interface between two economies (Border Regional Authority, 2010).

A strong network of towns and villages, have a significant role in the border areas, as these centres help sustain local services, amenities and businesses and serve the wider rural hinterland. Diversification of the local economy should be nurtured through supports for indigenous enterprise and the fostering of both creativity and entrepreneurship. By conserving and utilising natural resources and amenities, the potential of local and endogenous resources, should be identified and enabled, by local stakeholders (Border Regional Authority, 2010).

In order to achieve development in this area, the Border Regional Authority (2010) recognised that the focus needs to turn from considering solely the ‘hard’ infrastructure and services available in rural areas, to working with and enhancing, the governance structures through community and stakeholder engagement – the ‘soft’ element of development.

The provision of community facilities and the maintenance of key services locally, are critical to ensuring that communities and neighbourhoods within the Region, are places that offer a good quality of life and are attractive places to live and work. The basic services include local shops, post offices, public houses, and places of worship, but the additional provision of childcare facilities, sports and leisure centres, arts and cultural centres and activities, youth clubs, libraries and local halls, are all facilities which can clearly indicate the vibrancy and sustainability of a community (Border Regional Authority, 2010).

Regional Development Strategy for Northern Ireland 2025

The Regional Development Strategy is a guide to the development of Northern Ireland to 2025. The overall aim of the Strategy is ‘to develop an attractive and prosperous rural area, based on a balanced and integrated approach to the development of town, village and countryside, in order to sustain a strong and vibrant rural community, contributing to the overall well-being of the Region as a whole’ (DRD, 2001). Some of the key specific objectives of relevance include:
• Build the capacity of the rural community to develop and avail itself of new economic opportunities by facilitating high quality training in skills for the future;
• Enhance the range of opportunities for leisure in the countryside based around the use of land, water and air;
• Maintain a welcoming countryside accessible on foot or cycle by means of countryside trails, including waymarked ways, riverside walks and coastal paths, supported by visitor information and hospitality infrastructure;
• Develop natural resource rural tourism to capitalise in an environmentally sensitive way on the many distinctive rural assets in town, village and countryside;
• Help rural communities to develop strategies for economic and social regeneration;
• Continue to develop a partnership approach to tackling complex rural issues based on community participation;
• Revitalise small towns and villages particularly those which have been static or declining;
• Explore the potential within a cluster of small settlements to form local alliances to exploit complementary resources and facilities for the benefit of the rural community;
• Capitalise on the rural tourism base, the network of distinctive assets built up by local economic development activity in villages and the countryside; and
• Improve access to the natural, built and cultural landscape.

**Leitrim County Development Plan 2009-2015**

The most recent Leitrim County Development Plan sets out a vision for the future of the county and how it can be achieved. The plan ‘seeks to establish a framework for the future development of the County as a thriving rural community, with a beautiful, clean environment, a rich and varied heritage and a vibrant and diverse social, cultural and economic life’ (LCC, 2009).

Some of the key actions within the Leitrim County Development Plan (LCC, 2009) of particular relevance to the Community Plans include:

• To make the best use of existing infrastructure;
• To embrace the principles of sustainable development in its widest sense;
• To ensure that the natural resources of the County are developed where the County enjoys a natural advantage, including the development of downstream activities, such as, within the Forestry Industry;
• To develop tourism by encouraging the sustainable use of natural attractions, and facilitating the provision of appropriate infrastructure, accommodation and facilities which will extend, consolidate and diversify the tourism industry;
• To co-operate with neighbouring county councils and other regional authorities (both North and South) in developing the economy of the Region;
• To co-operate with the relevant agencies operating in the region with a remit for economic development (such as the I.D.A., Enterprise Ireland, County Enterprise Board, Leitrim Integrated Development Company Ltd. and similar bodies);
• To promote the development of a viable public transport network to serve the needs of all the county’s residents;
• To ensure that the county is well serviced by modern telecommunications to support its sustainable economic, educational, cultural and social development;
• To enhance physical linkages with County Fermanagh and the other Northern counties;
• To promote the use of broadband technology;
• Co-operate with neighbouring counties, including County Fermanagh, in the provision of social services;
• To promote the provision of recreational facilities throughout the County; and
• To provide and facilitate the provision of services of a nature and extent appropriate to the needs of each community.
Leitrim County Development Board Strategy 2002-2012

The Social, Economic and Cultural Strategy for County Leitrim 2002-2012 (LCDB, 2002) and the more recent Review and Action Plan (LCDB, 2009) set out a broad framework for development in the county. The main focus is on economic development, social inclusion and cultural development. Some of the key actions include:

- To increase the availability of bus services both within the county to and from other regions;
- To ensure that there is a comparable telecommunications infrastructure available in terms of cost, quality and access in Leitrim and the North West to that available along the East coast to meet the needs of potential investors, large commercial users, educational users, business parks, SMEs and residential users;
- To make community based training and lifelong learning more available to everyone;
- To make Leitrim an area where people would be attracted to work;
- To develop increased trade, communication and economic efficiency through the integration of economies North and South of Ireland;
- To highlight the natural attractions which Leitrim has to offer to the visitor;
- To encourage rural tourism as a way of improving the viability of small communities;
- Maximise the tourism potential of Leitrim;
- To ensure greater co-ordination of services which provide for a more socially inclusive Leitrim;
- To promote healthy sustainable communities through supporting community activities and social interaction;
- To ensure there is increased co-ordination in delivery of services to older people in County Leitrim;
- To promote the development of rurally based services to meet the needs of older people in the county;
- To enable and empower young people to develop their role in society;
- Develop supports and facilities for young people;
- To give young people the opportunity to participate in decisions that affect their life;
- To put in place policies and structures to encourage young people to live in Leitrim;
- To recognise and accept cultural diversity in Leitrim;
- Promote cultural diversity awareness and acceptance;
- To encourage participation in voluntary activities by everyone; and
- To encourage communities to interact and learn from one another.

Fermanagh Local Economic Development Strategy 2008-2013

The aim of the Fermanagh Local Economic Development Strategy 2008-2013 is ‘to improve the quality of life for Fermanagh’s citizens and the prosperity of the county as a whole through the successful implementation of the strategy’ (FDC, 2008). Some of the key actions of relevance to the Community Plans include:

- Support the development of the social economy sector and investigate opportunities for social enterprises particularly in the field of ancillary and child care;
- Support the development of programmes to upskill economically inactive and long-term unemployed to meet the skills needs of the county;
- Lobby for improved broadband provision in Fermanagh;
- Establish a Destination Fermanagh interdepartmental consultative group;
- Establish a destination management approach to tourism in Fermanagh and raise the profile of Fermanagh as a tourism destination;
- Lobby for product development support and associated marketing activity as well as for financial assistance for private sector tourism initiatives;
- Improve product offering for walking and cycling;
- Raise profile of region as Lakeland capital of Ireland through enhancement of water and landbased activities;
- Maximise the potential benefits of culinary and health/wellbeing products as well as eco-tourism; and
- Support the development of an enhanced events and festivals strategy including the development of new and existing festivals and events.
**Fermanagh District Council Community Support Plan**

The Fermanagh District Council Community Support Plan sets out to enhance partnership, develop cohesion and foster an integrated approach to the implementation of services in the community. The overall aim is to enhance community infrastructure throughout the county, through programme support, project development and strategic initiatives. The objectives which are of direct relevance to the community plans are:

- Build community capacity;
- Promote community regeneration;
- Effect positive change and share policy development;
- Promote the effectiveness and sustainability of community sector; and
- Promote inter agency co-ordination and collaborative approaches at regional and county level (FDC, 2007).

**Cavan County Development Plan 2008-2014**

The most recent Cavan County Development Plan sets out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the county (CCC, 2008). Some of the key actions within the Cavan County Development Plan of particular relevance to the Community Plans include:

- To promote, strengthen and protect the retail function of all towns and villages in the County;
- To encourage and facilitate the retail role of corner shops and small towns and villages around the County;
- Promote equality of access to community infrastructure for all members of society;
- Promote provision of community infrastructure in areas which may experience a deficit;
- Promote local employment opportunities to enable people to live and work locally;
- To continue to work with health and other service providers to promote the well being of the older generation in the community;
- Ensure the protection of areas of amenity, leisure and social value within our towns and villages;
- To promote cultural tourism in Cavan and to fully recognise the potential of the County’s architectural heritage in this role;
- Conserve, protect and manage the County’s natural heritage assets for future generations while encouraging appreciation/understanding and enjoyment of the amenity value for the present generation;
- Maximise the social and environmental benefits that may be derived from conservation of the environment, as well as to foster the enjoyment and understanding of the natural amenity;
- To encourage the promotion of public awareness of water, energy and biodiversity;
- Seek to protect, conserve and enhance the biodiversity and natural heritage of County Cavan;
- Co-operate with other Planning Authorities and relevant agencies in relation to Cross-County and Cross-Border sites and waterways to ensure a coherent and strategic approach to their sustainable development and conservation;
- To encourage the provision of linear parks or walkways along rivers and lakes in towns and villages and the retention of existing walkways along lakes and rivers, to maintain their distinctive character;
- To promote the provision of access to lakes of County Cavan;
- Increase the geotourism and recreational potential of County Cavan through increased social use of the landscape, with attendant conservation, economic, social and community benefits with the region;
- Co-ordinate the continuing development of strategic walking routes (including new routes), trails and other countryside recreational opportunities;
- Promote, strengthen and stimulate interest and pride in the heritage and culture of the region;
- To facilitate the protection, development and maintenance of walking and cycling routes within the county;
- To protect those areas of outstanding landscape, the natural and built environment and cultural heritage that forms the County’s tourism resource;
- To encourage and assist areas, where tourism is currently underdeveloped and where there is a need for local tourism development initiatives to realise their full tourism potential;
• To support and promote sustainable tourism through the encouragement of development that enhances as well as protects the County’s landscape and other elements of the natural and built heritage;
• To improve existing Local Authority recreational and amenity facilities, and provide new facilities where considered necessary;
• To facilitate the provision of tourist facilities and the protection of the environment; and
• It is the objective of the Council to develop tourism initiatives across the county and in particular the extension of the Cross-Border Geopark/Mountain Park (Marble Arch Caves).
Leitrim

County Leitrim is the smallest of the six counties in the Border Region. The county experienced a decline in population for over a century. In 1996, the population was 25,057 persons, a decline of 7.6% over a 10 year period. However, the population increased by 15.5% between 1996 and 2006 to 28,950 people (CSO, 2007).

The population is unevenly distributed, 91% of the population are located in rural areas. Carrick-on-Shannon is the biggest centre of population. Leitrim has the lowest population density in the state at 18 persons per square km compared to the average for the state of 60 persons per square km (LPP, 2008). County Leitrim also has a higher than average age dependency rate of 34.9% (31.4% for the state), indicating a high proportion of the population aged over 45 years (CSO, 2007). Construction (15.5%) and agriculture (9%) were the most significant sources of employment in the county with a lower than average proportion working in other sectors, including manufacturing, commerce, wholesale and retail and transport than other areas in the state (LPP, 2008).

County Leitrim has a border of 17.9 miles with Northern Ireland. Many communities close to the border suffered economic and social disadvantage over the last 30+ years. All roads between Leitrim and Fermanagh were severed. These closures reduced traffic, trade and tourism which in turn led people to leave the area. In this way, the community infrastructure was weakened (LPP, 2008).

Fermanagh

Fermanagh has the greatest border with the Irish Republic of the six counties, sharing boundaries with Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan and Donegal (and Tyrone in Northern Ireland). The landscape of the county features lakes and mountains (one fifth of the land area is covered by water). The county is bisected by Upper and Lower Lough Erne which restricts travel and natural interaction within the region (FDC, 2011).

Some 70% of the population of 57,600 people live in rural areas (population increased by 7% between 1990 and 2000). The population density in the county is 31 persons per square kilometre (FDC, 2011). However, the population was estimated to have increased to 60,600 in 2006 (density of 34 people per sq km) (FDC, 2008). One of the challenges for Fermanagh was that there is a proportionately high number of people employed in the lower paid sectors such as manufacturing (16.8%), hospitality (7.8%), transport, storage and communications (5.6%) and agriculture (FDC, 2008).

Cavan

Cavan is a predominantly rural county in the North-East of Ireland. It is bordered by Monaghan, Leitrim, Longford, Meath, Westmeath and Fermanagh. Some 74% of the total population of 64,000 live in rural areas. The population of the county increased by 13.2% between 2002 and 2006, the highest rate of increase in the border region (CCC, 2008). The average population density of the county is 29.9 persons per square kilometre (compared to a national population density of 60 persons/km²). Cavan is characterised by drumlin countryside dotted with many lakes and small hills. The main sources of employment in Cavan (Census 2006) were: Commerce and Trade (21%); Manufacturing Industries (17%); Professional Services (14%); Building and Construction (14%); and Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (10%) (CCPP, 2008).

County Cavan shares 45 miles of border with Northern Ireland (Fermanagh). Its location is perceived as being one of the gateways to Northern Ireland (CCC, 2008). The border has had a significant impact on the county as 7 of the 11 border crossings in the county were closed for over 20 years during the conflict. This had a severe impact on the economic and social life of the county (CCPP, 2008). Cavan is the second most disadvantaged local authority area within the Border Region (Haase et al., 2008).
Rossinver

Rossinver is located between Manorhamilton to the South and Garrison in Co. Fermanagh in the North. Rossinver is situated to the south east of Lough Melvin. Rossinver is a small village with a limited number of commercial/retail outlets. On the approach to the village from Manorhamilton there is a bridge over Ballagh River. Rossinver lies on the boundaries of two DED's: Melvin DED with a population of 168 persons and Ballaghameehan DED with a population of 206 persons in 2006. The village of Rossinver, situated at the southern shore of Lough Melvin is an excellent centre for game fishing. There are some spectacular walks in the area, in particular the mile long river walk to Fowley's Falls on the Glenaniff River which follows a series of waterfalls. The area also contains the ruins of a church founded by St. Mogue in the 6th Century and the ruins of MacClancy Castle where survivors of shipwrecked sailors from the Spanish Armada took refuge in 1588. Rossinver is now home to the Organic Centre which is Ireland's leading centre for education and information on organic farming and gardening and has become a major attraction in the area.

Garrison

Garrison is a small village on the shore of Lough Melvin at the mouth of the Rogagh River. The village was established around an English army encampment in 1841 (Irwin, 2010). Garrison was a thriving village 50 years ago with hotels and shops catering for the needs of the local residents, visiting fishermen and tourists. The Troubles brought many changes particularly the closing of the border bridge and roads which resulted in a lack of interaction across the border. Business in the village suffered and the hotels ceased to trade due to a bombing and a fire (KRAG, 2010). Garrison had a population of 357 people in the 2001 Census. About one third of Lough Melvin lies in Co. Fermanagh and the remainder in County Leitrim and covers an area of about 2,000 hectares and is about 9 miles long and 3 miles wide (Irwin, 2010). Lough Melvin is home to the Gillaroo trout and has traditionally attracted large numbers of anglers. The village’s core amenities include two bars, a shop, a furniture shop, a post-office, a pharmacy, a hairdresser, a community playgroup and a civic amenity site. The village has a small amenity site (Rusheen) with public facilities. A public path leads from the site along the shore and offers visitors panoramic views across Lough Melvin and the hills of North Leitrim (WCWFRP, 2011).

Glenfarne

The Village of Glenfarne is located approximately 8 miles from Manorhamilton along the National Primary Route N16 linking Sligo with Enniskillen. The village was formed around the Railway Station, on the now dis-used, railway line. The village has a dispersed feel as it straddles the main road. The areas of Glenfarne (and neighbouring Cloonclare) had a population of 232 persons in 2006. The former railway station is considered to be an item of significant local heritage value. The Rainbow Ballroom/Ballroom of Romance is located in the village and was made famous in the film of the same name based on the story by William Trevor. The Rainbow Ballroom is currently being redeveloped. Tottenham House ruins can still be seen in Glenfarne Forest Park, a beautiful area of woodland along the shores of Lough MacNean. The first of the Tottenham family to settle here was Nicholas Loftus Tottenham around 1780. The Tottenham family were responsible for the building of the Sligo-Enniskillen railway line and the village of Kiltyclogher. The house fell to ruin in the early part of the 20th century.

Belcoo

Belcoo in Fermanagh and Blacklion in Cavan are twin villages separated by a bridge over the Belcoo River. The river connects Upper and Lower Lough MacNean. The name Belcoo derives from the Irish ‘mouth of the narrow stretch of water’. The villages are located on a busy road network and form an important gateway between Northern Ireland and the Republic. During the troubles it was one of the few access routes in the area which remained open following the closure of many of the smaller roads. Belcoo had a population of 486 persons in the 2001 Census. The focal point in the village is the ‘Cottage Meadow’, a green area with a walking path and amenities. The village is relatively well supplied with shops, pubs, restaurants and tourist accommodation (WCWFRP, 2011).

Blacklion

Blacklion is located in the northwest corner of Co Cavan, just across the bridge from Belcoo. It is bordered by
Lough MacNean and the highlands of North Cavan. The area boosts lakes, mountains, world class fishing, unique caves, the Cavan Burren (an area of significant archaeological and geological interest) and the source of the River Shannon. Much of the area around Blacklion is now part of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network (Blacklion, 2011).

The village has a thriving service station (a post office and restaurant), 3 public houses, a boutique, a hairdresser, a beauty salon and a church. Community facilities in the village include a large multi-purpose community building (accommodating a childcare provision) and the restored market house which houses a tourism information centre (WCWFRP, 2011). In recent years, the profile of the village has been raised by the development of a renowned restaurant by local chef Nevin Maguire. Loughan House which is located just outside Blacklion was run by the White Fathers (Missionaries of Africa) St Augustine’s College as a Seminary in the past. The building is now operated as a detention centre by the Prison Service.

**Kiltyclogher**

Kiltyclogher has a population of approximately 250 people and lies within half of a mile of the border with Fermanagh. Kiltyclogher was established by Glenfarne Landlord, Charles Henry Tottenham in 1831. The wide streets and main buildings are due to his design. The new village was called Sarahville after his daughter who was killed in 1828 but the village assumed the ancient name of the townland Kiltyclogher. The centre of Kiltyclogher is dominated by the statue of Sean McDermott. He was born near the village in 1883. He entered the Irish Republican Brotherhood and was involved in the planning of the Easter Rising of 1916 and was one of the signatories of the Proclamation of Irish Independence. As a result he was executed in May 1916 (Irwin, 2010). The Troubles had a serious impact on Kiltyclogher, including the bombing of the Blue Haven Dance Hall and the Technical College, the road closures and the loss of lives. The closure of the college and the road closures cut off Kiltyclogher from its natural hinterland and neighbouring area of Cashel and West Fermanagh. The reopening of the roads in 1995 brought about an opportunity for the Kiltyclogher to reconnect once more with its nearest neighbours.

**Cashel**

Cashel is a rural area in West Fermanagh with a population of approximately 350 people. It has suffered significant depopulation over the last 50 years (primarily as a result of border road closures which cut it off from the neighbouring village of Kiltyclogher in Leitrim). The village lost its two shops in 1988 and 2002 and its post office in 1998. Nonetheless, the area has a strong community spirit and the Cashel Community Association was established in 1975 and succeeded in opening the Cashel Community Centre in 1992. The Community Centre has become a focal point for the population in the area.

It is evident that the border communities have suffered from the presence of a physical border and The Troubles. However, both the local residents and the local, regional and national authorities are striving to address the challenges in these areas through focused policies and actions. The development of these Community Plans should enhance this process by way of the specific actions identified but also as a result of the active involvement of communities in developing the plans.
The approach to developing the community plans involved a series of steps as follows:

Step 1: Identification/evaluation of baseline data – review of reports/publications.
Step 2: Identification and initial contact with existing local groups/local community.
Step 3: Opening Event – opportunity to engage and consult with wider community.
Step 4: Focused Consultation – further exploration of issues.
Step 5: Consultation on Draft Community Plan.

Preliminary meetings and opening events were held in each area. Each community identified the best approach to engage with the wider population in the area. Therefore, novel approaches were undertaken to ensure a wider level of engagement with members of the community, including:

- Community Quiz – Kiltyclogher, Cashel;
- *Not an Irish Wake* & Guest Speaker – Rossinver, Garrison; and
- Guest Speaker – Glenfarne, Blacklion, Belcoo.

The initial meetings and opening events provided an opportunity to engage with the communities in each of the four areas. Following these events, the process followed in each of the project areas was similar as follows:

- Preparation of feedback report (from Opening Events) for each area;
- Identification of key themes/issues arising in each area;
- Scheduling of meetings in each community;
- Follow-up meetings with community;
- Discussion on possible actions for inclusion in the plans; and
- Closing events were planned to conclude the process following the completion of the plans.
COMMUNITY PLANS

This report sets out (for each of the 3 areas):
- A summary of key issues discussed;
- The priority themes which emerged; and
- Proposed actions to address the key issues.

In advance of exploring the individual plans, there are some important broad issues which emerged in the consultation and planning process.
- Significant improvements have occurred in cross community/border relations, however, it is unfair to assume that there is total harmony and cooperation between communities or that they will work as one simply because of their geographic location and proximity. Communities have worked independently for decades, they cannot be forced together but greater cooperation and integration can be encouraged on a gradual basis. It is important that communities do not feel that they are losing their independence or identity by engaging in joint or shared initiatives/activities. There was genuine concern expressed in the consultation process that this latter point was the overall agenda of the project and there was resentment expressed about being ‘forced together’.
- Cross Border Communities are ‘over-consulted’, leading to a lack of interest (outside of the community activists) in engaging and a feeling of a need ‘to deliver on previous plans/actions’ rather than engage in further consultations/planning.
- The actions which emerged in these plans are focused on community-led initiatives supported by and involving relevant agencies.
- The process of cooperation and integration requires long-term support and encouragement.

There are many similarities between these three areas and Tullaghan Kinlough which would benefit from a broader higher level Cross Border Area Plan or engage in a network of community initiatives. This network could engage in higher level activities which are wider than individual communities such as:
- Cross community newsletter;
- Marketing of tourism;
- Development of natural environment;
- Development of youth activities; and
- Cross border/community support worker.
  - Paid resource for coordinating activities/events.
  - Seek commitment from other communities to develop a plan to seek the employment of a community worker:
    - Get communities to agree on the best utilisation of a community worker; &
    - Agree on the long-term management of a community worker.
## Section 1: ROSSINVER GARRISON

The main issues identified by the community in Rossinver Garrison included:

### Main Assets of the Area
- Peaceful, quiet, friendly, neighbourly
- Lakes and scenery
- Quality and pace of life
- Natural, healthy environment

### Recent Improvements
- Reopening of the roads
- Cross community and cross border contact and redeveloping old links and friendships

### Changes/Issues to be Addressed
- Continually break down the borders between communities – need to get to know each other and work together
- Lack of employment and opportunities for people to live and work in the area
- Local authorities need to engage in cross border communication and planning
- Improved public transport
- Improved health services
- Need to get all groups working together for the good of the whole area – but will need to see tangible outcomes (need a common goal)
- Youth facilities are lacking – young people move elsewhere and lose attachment to the area
- Isolation of older people
- Loss of community services – need to encourage people to utilise the services that are provided
- Need improved roads and broadband

### Issues for Regeneration
- Lough Melvin – facilities, amenities, activities and add-ons (e.g. restaurant)
- Advertising and promotion of area
- Incentives for investment
- Build social capital (cooperation and integration)
- Industry/jobs
- Cross border cooperation at agency level
- Cross border community group to promote and develop area

### Existence of a Border
- Yes & No – has come a long way but still separation and need for more cooperation
- Border exists with different schools, health care, local authorities, newspapers, currency on different sides
**Improving Community Spirit**
- More joint initiatives
- Sharing of facilities (and use by others)
- Social interaction
- Communication of what is happening in different communities

**Dreams for the Future**
- Lake developed, attracting tourists and providing employment
- Greater cooperation and integration
- People (and local) centred development
- Development of environmental opportunities
- Place where people want to stay and are proud of

**Overall Comment on Area**
- Rural location is an asset but brings with it isolation, peripherality and lack of services
- Reopening of the roads has had a major positive impact
- Lake is a great asset with potential but needs to be exploited (flagship project centred on the lake)
- Border still exists – different jurisdictions
- Need to build on the level of cross border/community cooperation
- Issues can be summed up as: lake, services, activities, roads and broadband

The priority themes which emerged included:
- Community Spirit & Interaction;
- Cross Border Cooperation;
- Development of Lough Melvin and Natural Environment;
- Social Services/Facilities; and
- Rural Challenges.
### 1.1 Community Spirit & Interaction

**Goal:** To enhance the level of community spirit in Rossinver and Garrison (building on the positive relationships which have developed) by way of involving more people in community activities and increasing the level of engagement in events.

**Issues:**
- Many local organisations but limited cooperation between some.
- Lack of communication can limit involvement.
- Difficult to get new people involved in community activities.
- The troubles have left a legacy of separation which takes time to rebuild trust and interaction.
- Interaction has occurred through PEACE III initiatives, opportunity to build on these initiatives.
- Limited whole communication interaction to date.

#### 1.1.1 Cross Community Interaction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>To increase the level of interaction and cooperation between the communities in Rossinver and Garrison</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>➢ To develop initiatives which enhance the level of interaction between the communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit</td>
<td>Improved interaction and cooperation will ensure that all members of the community feel included and involved in their community</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 1.1.2 Database of Organisations and Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>To increase the level of information sharing between organisations and all members of the local community</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>➢ To develop and maintain a database of local organisations/groups/committees (formal and informal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit</td>
<td>The database would facilitate a greater level of sharing of information between all organisations and make the process of organising events/activities easier. It would also help to ensure that everyone is involved/invited to participate in community events/activities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 1.1.3 Community Notice-board

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>To increase the level of information sharing and awareness of community events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>➢ Install community notice-boards in Rossinver and Garrison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit</td>
<td>A recognised community notice-board in each area would serve as a reference point and source of information for the local population. In particular it may reach out to those who do not regularly attend church.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 1.1.4 Involvement of Young People

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>To actively involve young people in community activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>➢ To explore and develop specific initiatives with young people to involve them in community activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit</td>
<td>Actively involving young people in community activities and giving them a role will build the level of community spirit among young people. Once they become involved in community activities, it is likely that they will continue to play a more active role (to some extent) in the community.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 1.2 Cross Border/Community Cooperation

**Goal:** To enhance the level of cross border and cross community cooperation and interaction in Rossinver Garrison.

**Issues:**
- Cross border/community interaction increasing.
- Still a need for further cooperation.
- Communication needs to be improved.
- Opportunity to build on worthwhile initiatives funded under previous Peace Programmes.
- Building of trust is a slow process.

### 1.2.1 Cross Border Community Worker

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>To support the actions of local communities in promoting integration and cooperation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Action    | ➢ Employ a cross border community worker  
            ➢ Agree on a work plan for the cross border community worker to maximise the benefit to the community |
| Benefit   | The support of a community worker would enhance the actions of local community/voluntary groups and could drive the actions in the area. |

### 1.2.2 Cross Border/Community Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>To achieve greater harmony and coordination between local voluntary/community organisations (formal and informal) and increase the level of interaction and cooperation between the communities in Rossinver and Garrison</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Action    | ➢ To form a cross border/community committee for Rossinver Garrison  
            ➢ To initiate joint meetings between the communities  
            ➢ To develop initiatives which build on the level of interaction between the communities |
| Benefit   | The coordination of community organisations/activities between Rossinver and Garrison will ensure the greater interaction and integration between the communities. Improved interaction and cooperation will ensure that all members of the community feel included and involved in their community |

### 1.2.3 Minority Groups/Organisations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>To ensure that all members of the community feel part of the community</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>➢ To proactively seek the involvement of the members of the minority groups/organisations in mainstream community activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit</td>
<td>It is important that all individuals and groups feel that they have the opportunity to participate in their community. The proactive involvement of minority groups/organisations will help to achieve this goal which will be of benefit to the whole community</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 1.2.4 Cross Border/Community Newsletter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>To ensure that the wider community are informed and aware of what is happening in their area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>➢ To develop a cross border/community newsletter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit</td>
<td>Increased awareness of the activities in the wider area will ensure greater interaction among the wider communities and in particular breakdown the border in terms of exchange of information and interaction.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 1.2.5 Cross Border Community Social Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Objective</strong></th>
<th>To integrate the diverse communities through common social interests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Action</strong></td>
<td>To develop a series of community social events (cross border and cross community)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Benefit</strong></td>
<td>Shared social events and interests will provide for integration in a non-threatening environment. Integration can only occur when people know and trust each other. Past difficulties mean that trust has been fractured but can be built progressively through shared interests.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 1.3 Development of Lough Melvin and Natural Environment

**Goal:** To develop Lough Melvin and the natural environment in a sustainable manner and to harness the potential of these natural assets for tourism, recreation and employment.

**Issues:**
- Lough Melvin is considered an underutilised resource with considerable potential.
- Many stakeholders with differing priorities for the development of the lake.

#### 1.3.1 Whole Community Involvement in the Development of Lough Melvin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Objective</strong></th>
<th>To ensure that Lough Melvin is available as an amenity for the whole community and tourists</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Action**    | Engage in a community consultation on developing Lough Melvin  
|               | Engage with the Local Authorities in Leitrim and Fermanagh in exploring the opportunities for developing Lough Melvin  
|               | Develop recreational activities on Lough Melvin (e.g. swimming) |
| **Benefit**   | Lough Melvin is a significant local resource and greater involvement in the future development of the lake will help to ensure that the benefits are shared by all the community. Recreational activities/amenities are limited in the Rossinver Garrison area. Developing the activities on Lough Melvin will enhance the overall level of local amenities and also attract tourists into the area. |

#### 1.3.2 Harnessing the Potential of the Natural Environment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Objective</strong></th>
<th>To maximise the tourism and amenity potential of the natural environment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Action</strong></td>
<td>To provide signposting and tourist information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Benefit</strong></td>
<td>The provision of tourist information and signposting will increase the awareness and usage of natural amenities. Increased tourism has the potential to boost the local economy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 1.3.3 Community Garden Project

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Objective</strong></th>
<th>Utilise a common interest in gardening to build the links between the communities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Action</strong></td>
<td>Develop a community garden (forging links with Organic Centre)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Benefit</strong></td>
<td>Common interest in gardening will provide an interest for older people and also provide an opportunity to develop links for cross community interaction.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 1.3.4 Marketing of Tourism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Objective</strong></th>
<th>To maximise the tourism potential in the cross border area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Action</strong></td>
<td>To coordinate the marketing of tourism in the cross border area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Benefit</strong></td>
<td>Maximising the tourism potential in the area will boost the local economy. The nature of the attractions means that they need to be promoted as part of series rather than stand alone attractions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 1.4 Social Services/Facilities

**Goal:** To maintain and enhance the current level of community/social services in the Rossinver Garrison area.

**Issues:**
- Lack of youth facilities.
- Isolation of older people.
- Loss of community services.

#### 1.4.1 Youth Services

**Objective**
To ensure that there are long term sustainable youth services available in Rossinver Garrison

**Action**
- To explore the opportunities for the provision of youth leadership training in Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland
- Develop a programme of youth activities (sports and other activities) for delivery in the area

**Benefit**
Young people in the area will be exposed to a wider range of recreational activities. The activities will be delivered to all members of the community and will build on the integration and community cooperation. The provision of youth leadership training will support the ongoing operation of the youth club structure by providing those interested in youth work to gain specialised training on the issue.

#### 1.4.2 After Schools Club

**Objective**
To ensure that the best quality after-schools services are available to families in the area

**Action**
- To explore the establishment of an after-schools club

**Benefit**
The provision of an after schools club will benefit parents and young children. Integration of services and children from a young age will help to ensure that long-term interaction occurs and that barriers are broken down.

#### 1.4.3 Social Services for Older People

**Objective**
To ensure that a wide range of social services are available for older people in the community

**Action**
- To develop the links between the social outlets for older people in Rossinver and Garrison and encourage the interaction between them
- To develop a *Meals on Wheels* and *Lunch Club* Service for the Area

**Benefit**
Developing the links between the groups will ensure that the extent of social outlets for older people will be enhanced. The provision of a meals service for older people and those in specific need in the area will help to ensure that older people are not excluded from the community, reduce isolation and loneliness.

#### 1.4.4 Telephone Call Service

**Objective**
To widen the scope of the current telephone call service to provide peace of mind and security to a larger group of older people

**Action**
- Explore the widening of the telephone call service to cover the Garrison area
- To explore the development of a befriending service

**Benefit**
The telephone call service provides peace of mind and security to older people in the community, widening the service would provide a benefit to a greater number of older people. The development of a befriending service would be an enhancement of the telephone service already available.
### 1.4.5 Rural Lift Service

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>To ensure that the Rural Lift Service is maintained at its current level of service</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Action    | ➢ To lobby in conjunction with other communities for the maintenance of the Rural Lift Service  
            ➢ To encourage the maximum usage of the existing service |
| Benefit   | The Rural Lift Service provides a vital link across the community for those who do not have their own transport. Maintaining the service is critically important in these rural communities. |

### 1.5 Rural Challenges

**Goal:** To develop services which address specific challenges in rural areas.

**Issues:**
- Loss of community services.
- Rural location is an asset but leads to isolation, peripherality and lack of services.
- Peripherality exposes the community to risks e.g. safety on the lake.

#### 1.5.1 Community Schemes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>To maximise the potential of community related schemes for the benefit of the local community</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>➢ Seek the approval of local community initiatives as Community Schemes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit</td>
<td>Community employment schemes have the potential to provide vital services in rural communities such as Rossinver Garrison.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 1.5.2 Emergency Response Service

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>To ensure that the safety of those using Lough Melvin is protected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>➢ Seek the provision of an Emergency Response Service for Lough Melvin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit</td>
<td>A local emergency response service would enhance the safety of the lake for all users. An enhanced safety response may also serve to encourage greater usage of the lake.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 1.5.3 Dealing with Extreme Weather Conditions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>To ensure that the community is prepared to respond to extreme conditions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>➢ To identity a local key contact person and a committee to liaise with relevant agencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit</td>
<td>The identification of a local contact and committee would facilitate a more rapid and appropriate response from relevant agencies.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Section 2: GLENFARNE BLACKLION BELCOO

The main issues identified by the community in Glenfarne, Blacklion, Belcoo included:

| **Main Assets of the Area** | • Natural environment, scenery, beauty  
                              | • Peaceful and quiet  
                              | • Pace of life – good family life  
                              | • Stable population  
                              | • Community spirit  
                              | • Location near large towns  
                              | • Border – best of both worlds  
                              | • Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| **Recent Improvements**     | • Peace process  
                              | • Improved sports /leisure facilities  
                              | • Return of migrants/young families  
                              | • Improved infrastructure  
                              | • Development of Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark  
                              | • Increased job opportunities (until recently)  
                              | • Village enhancements  
                              | • Removal of checkpoints/security |
| **Issues for Regeneration** | • Jobs/employment  
                              | • Improved roads, broadband, internet  
                              | • Develop opportunities in tourism  
                              | • Build the confidence of communities to work together  
                              | • Explore new business opportunities and support enterprise development  
                              | • Maintain existing local services  
                              | • Maintain social structures and community services |
| **Existence of a Border**   | • Yes and No  
                              | • Has improved greatly and physical and mental barriers are breaking down  
                              | • People still stick to their own areas somewhat  
                              | • While there is cooperation, there is not a lot of coordination  
                              | • Challenges due to different local authorities & governments |
| **Improving Relationships and Community Spirit** | • Encouragement to get more people involved in community  
                                           | • Identify and develop cross border projects/events  
                                           | • Encourage more joint initiatives  
                                           | • Develop joint social events and festivals  
                                           | • Develop a cross community/border organisation  
                                           | • Maximise usage of current facilities and initiatives |
**Dreams for the Future**

**Tourism**
- Develop and capitalise on tourism potential
- Encourage more passing traffic to stop
- Proactively promote and market the area
- Organise and promote tourism activity
- Develop the tourist facilities in the area
- Need reasons for tourists to visit the area
- Explore niche markets
- Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark

**Community**
- Get more of the newer and younger residents involved
- Need a policy of asking people to get involved in community
- More young people involved in the community
- Maintenance of existing community services
- Activities for the youth
- Opportunity for young people to work and live in the area

**General**
- Enhanced infrastructure – mobile, broadband, roads
- Maintain existing and develop new job opportunities
- Jobs is the main issue
- Enhanced cooperation between communities
- Enhanced communication between groups

**Overall Comment on Area**
- Strong community spirit and engagement in community
- Cooperation between groups but not great coordination
- Appears to be potential for development of tourism but need to develop attractions, facilities, activities, market & promote
- A lot of community activity which has potential if harnessed
- The disappearance of the physical border has had a significant positive effect on the area
- General attitude of the locals was positive but with some concerns about the future
- Concerns about the reduced employment opportunities

**The priority themes which emerged included:**
- Community Spirit/Involvement;
- Community Interaction;
- Youth Facilities/Services;
- Services for Older People;
- Job Creation/Enterprise Development; and
- Natural Environment/Tourism.
### 2.1 Community Spirit/Involvement

**Goal:** To enhance the overall community spirit in Glenfarne, Blacklion and Belcoo by involving more people in community activities

**Issues:**
- Good community spirit currently.
- However, need to encourage more people to get involved in the community (especially newer and younger residents).
- Need to promote existing activities/events.

#### 2.1.1 Community Activities/Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>To provide a range of community activities/events in the area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Organise a series of community social events/activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit</td>
<td>Social activities/events have the benefit of encouraging interaction, binding the population and enhancing community spirit. Social activities/events provide an opportunity to encourage people to become involved in community activities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 2.1.2 Maintenance of Community Facilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>To ensure that a range of community facilities are available in the area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Coordinate the usage and maintenance of community facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Seek support for the overhead costs of community facilities to ensure they are available to all local groups (formal &amp; informal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit</td>
<td>A range of properly maintained community facilities will ensure that the residents have local facilities for the hosting of community and social events/activities. In addition community/voluntary groups will have a facility to host their regular meetings/events/activities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 2.1.3 Proactive Involvement of Residents in Community Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>To increase the level of involvement of residents in community activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Invite households to get involved in community activities. Critically important that organisations ask people to get involved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Organisations need to explain that there are different levels of involvement: committee member; regular participant; volunteer for specific roles; and once-off roles for events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Organisations need to keep people informed of activities but also of the roles involved in keeping activities ‘up and running’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Organisations need to give people specific roles and defined activities when they are getting involved initially</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit</td>
<td>Increased involvement of households in the community, enhanced level of participation in community organisations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.2 Community Interaction

**Goal:** To maximise the level of interaction between the general population and community/voluntary groups in Glenfarne, Blacklion and Belcoo.

**Issues:**
- Cooperation has improved and barriers are coming down.
- People still tend to stick more to their own communities.
- Need to build the confidence of each community to work together.
- There is cooperation but a lack of coordination.
- Need to encourage more joint initiatives.

### 2.2.1 Closer Cooperation Between Community Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>The communities of Glenfarne, Blacklion and Belcoo work in greater harmony with each other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Action    | ➢ To develop closer cooperation between the communities and in particular to increase the level of mutual support for initiatives  
            ➢ Community groups meet 3-4 times per year to exchange information and coordinate activities  
            ➢ Encourage cooperation in order to initiate the actions in the plan |
| Benefit   | Increased cooperation between the areas will serve to enhance the level of community activity and promote the services currently provided on a voluntary basis. Mutual support for each other’s ventures will also build the wider community spirit and encourage those who are involved in community activities. Increased interaction and cooperation will benefit everyone in the community. |

### 2.2.2 Opportunity for Building Links Between Communities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>The communities of Glenfarne, Blacklion and Belcoo work in greater harmony with each other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>➢ Explore opportunities for building the links between communities (focusing on those areas which have shown the most potential – youth, schools and older people)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit</td>
<td>Forging greater interaction between communities is a challenging and slow process. However, it has proven successful for youth and older persons groups. Encouraging the further development of links in these areas will strengthen the bonds between the communities. These bonds can be utilised as a catalyst for enhanced interaction/cooperation in other areas.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2.2.3 Community Support Worker

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Provision of support to the voluntary and community organisations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>➢ Employment of a community support worker (for this area or in conjunction with other areas)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit</td>
<td>The provision of a community support worker would enhance the operation and functioning of all community and voluntary groups in the area. It could serve to ensure that existing community services/activities are improved and new services/activities developed. In particular, it would serve to improve the overall level of communication within and without the community.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 2.2.4 Develop New Activities

**Objective**

The communities of Glenfarne, Blacklion and Belcoo work in greater harmony with each other

**Action**

- Explore the areas of interest which are not already served within the communities and develop them e.g. heritage, crafts, gardening
- In the development of new services, cognisance should be taken of existing levels of services in neighbouring counties/regions

**Benefit**

Common interests serve to bring people together. By organising new activities, there is the potential to encourage interaction across traditional boundaries. These new areas of interest have the potential to encourage further interaction.

### 2.2.5 Enhanced Cooperation in Local Areas

**Objective**

The communities of Glenfarne, Blacklion and Belcoo work in greater harmony with each other

**Action**

- Increased cross community/border interaction and involvement should be the goal of all activities/events (rather than having specific events focused on cross community/border interaction)

**Benefit**

Building links and trust between communities must be a gradual and organic process rather than one forced due to the availability of funding. Encouraging informal interaction can have a more sustainable and widespread impact than formal interaction labelled as such.

### 2.2.6 Develop Existing Community Initiatives

**Objective**

The communities of Glenfarne, Blacklion and Belcoo work in greater harmony with each other

**Action**

- Build on the efforts of the local traders (e.g. St Patricks Day Parade) to ensure a greater level of cross community engagement in future activities

**Benefit**

Building of the links and trust between communities must be a gradual and organic process. Encouraging participation in community events can help to build trust and facilitate more involvement in a wider range of activities.

### 2.2.7 Community Newsletter

**Objective**

To ensure that all members of the wider community are informed of the ongoing events/activities

**Action**

- To develop a community newsletter for the area
- In addition, there is a need to explore new methods of getting information out to the community e.g. inserts in local papers
- Seek inclusion of community information in all local/regional papers

**Benefit**

A community newsletter has the potential to increase the level of awareness of community events/activities and in doing so increase the level of participation/involvement.
### 2.2.8 Community Website

**Objective**  
Information on the local area, community, activities and events is readily available and accessible.

**Action**  
- Develop and maintain a website for each community with interlinks between them (common template)
- Develop a Cross Border Community Website
- Develop and maintain a Facebook page for each community

**Benefit**  
Provides benefits to the local community in terms of sharing information on general events and activities. Promotes the area to the wider public and creates awareness of the attractions in the area.

### 2.2.9 Coordination of Local Festivals

**Objective**  
To maximise the potential of the local community festivals to provide entertainment for the public, showcase the area, fundraise and lead to greater interaction/integration.

**Action**  
- Develop a coordinating committee involving representatives from local festivals
- Prepare a local brochure on activities and events
- Share knowledge and experience on running events e.g. health and safety, insurance etc

**Benefit**  
The coordination of the local festivals will improve the level of information sharing between the groups. This will allow for greater planning and promotion of each festival. Greater cooperation between the festivals should also lead to more interaction and cross border/community interaction.

### 2.2.10 Community Social Events

**Objective**  
The communities of Glenfarne, Blacklion and Belcoo work in greater harmony with each other.

**Action**  
- Organise social events (possibly specific events for older and younger people) in different venues/locations
- Promote the events to the wider population in the border counties (particular effort to move beyond traditional target areas)

**Benefit**  
The main benefit is the opportunity to breakdown the parish boundaries by encouraging people to interact and socialise outside their own immediate area. The outcome should benefit local community/voluntary groups who organise events on an ongoing basis.

### 2.2.11 Service Provision

**Objective**  
Ensure that the Rainbow Ballroom (Glenfarne), Market House (Blacklion) and Belcoo Community Centre become hubs for service provision in the area.

**Action**  
- Develop community services in these community locations

**Benefit**  
Many community services are lacking in the community and centralising services in key locations has the potential to improve the overall quality of life for those living in the area.

### 2.2.12 Social Inclusion

**Objective**  
To ensure that the marginalised in the community are not neglected in development of the area.

**Action**  
- Develop a small number of social inclusion projects in the community

**Benefit**  
The overall community will benefit from ensuring that marginalised groups are included in development initiatives.
### 2.3 Youth Facilities/Services

**Goal:** To maintain and enhance the level of youth facilities/services in the area.

**Issues:**
- Variable level of youth services currently.
- Need more formal and informal facilities/activities.
- Shortage of youth leaders.
- Limited involvement of young people in the community.

#### 2.3.1 Youth Activities and Youth Clubs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Objective</strong></th>
<th>To provide all teenagers with a social outlet in the community</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Action**    | - Develop less formal (drop-in type) activities for older teenagers  
                 - Further develop and promote Belcoo and Glenfarne Youth Clubs  
                 - Seek the development of a Youth Club in Blacklion  
                 - Foster and promote links between the youth clubs in each area |
| **Benefit**    | The development of activities for this all age groups will fill a void in the community. Supporting the development of Youth Clubs will ensure that young people in the area have access to vibrant and active youth clubs in the area. These will help to ensure that young people are channelled towards positive activities and provided with less opportunity to drift into anti-social behaviour. |

#### 2.3.2 Youth Leader Training

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Objective</strong></th>
<th>To ensure that the youth leadership resources and skills are available within the community</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Action</strong></td>
<td>- Develop a youth leader training programme for interested individuals (possibly unemployed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Benefit</strong></td>
<td>The provision of youth leadership training would have two benefits – leaders for youth clubs and training for those who are unemployed. The availability of trained local leaders would facilitate the provision of further youth services in the area.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 2.3.3 Participation of Young People in the Community

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Objective</strong></th>
<th>Increase the number of young people involved in community activities and enhance their level of involvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Action</strong></td>
<td>- Develop a specific project with the aim of increasing the participation of young people in the community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Benefit</strong></td>
<td>Encouraging the involvement of young people in community activities will deliver long term benefits to the community by instilling an increased level of pride in their own area and encourage greater community spirit and connection with their area.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.4 Services for Older People

Goal: To maintain and enhance the current level of services available for older people in the community.

Issues:
- Cross border/community interaction in active aged groups.
- Links well established and working well.
- Ongoing demand for greater services to address social exclusion, isolation and loneliness.

### 2.4.1 Services for Older People

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>To ensure that older people in the community have access to a wide range of social and healthcare services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Action    | ✓ Provide a wider range of social activities for older people  
           | ✓ Develop and further enhance the cooperation between the Blacklion and Belcoo Active Aged Groups  
           | ✓ Seek the development of a Fold (sheltered accommodation for older people) in Belcoo  
           | ✓ Seek the development of a ‘Meals on Wheels’ service |
| Benefit   | The provision of additional services for older people will help to reduce loneliness and isolation. It will also serve to recognise the importance of older people in the community and the contribution that they have made to the area. The more social activities/events available for older people within the community, the better quality of life they will have. |

### 2.4.2 Transport Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>To ensure that members of the community (particularly older people) have access to a local transport service</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>✓ Secure the location of a Community Bus in the area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit</td>
<td>The rural transport service ensures that those without their own transport have greater access to public services and social/recreational activities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2.4.3 Intergeneration Interaction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>To create an environment where the older and younger generations interact freely and learn from each other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>✓ Explore the development of links between the active aged group and local childcare services and playgroups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit</td>
<td>Interaction between the generations will increase the level of intergenerational contact and mutual learning. It will facilitate the handing on of local cultures and traditions. For the older people, it may play a role in reducing social exclusion, loneliness and isolation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.5 Job Creation/Enterprise Development

Goal: To seek to create and maintain local employment opportunities.

Issues:
- Location near larger towns has allowed young families to settle in the area and commute to employment.
- There were increased job opportunities in the past decade but now in decline.
- Concern about how the recession will impact on the area – fear about migration out of the area.

2.5.1 Maintenance of Jobs

| Objective | To ensure that employment opportunities are maintained in the local area |
| Action    | Explore mechanisms for maintaining jobs in the area (working with the relevant statutory agencies) |
| Benefit   | The maintenance of employment opportunities locally will help to maintain the vibrancy of the area. |

2.5.2 Community Gym

| Objective | To provide a range of Sports Facilities in the community |
| Action    | To seek to develop a community gym in the area |
|           | To seek greater community access to the gym in Loughan House |
| Benefit   | A community gym would have an appeal to a wide range of members of the community. In particular, it would provide an outlet for younger people (who may be travelling to other locations to avail of a gym). It would also provide opportunities to members of the community who would otherwise not utilise a gym. Overall a benefit to the health of the local community. There is also the potential to provide employment for the services of gym instructors/trainers. |

2.5.3 Community Training Initiatives

| Objective | To ensure that those who are unemployed are provided with opportunities to develop their skills within the local community and to benefit the wider community |
| Action    | Develop specific training initiatives for the unemployed |
| Benefit   | The provision of training to the unemployed will assist in developing their skills and will also help to address the emotional issues related to dealing with unemployment. The training could also focus on areas/services which will be of benefit to the wider community. |

2.5.4 Rainbow Ballroom, Market House, Belcoo Community Centre

| Objective | Maximise the social and economic potential of the Rainbow Ballroom, Market House, Belcoo Community Centre and other facilities |
| Action    | Continue the development of the Rainbow Ballroom, Market House, Belcoo Community Centre and other facilities |
| Benefit   | These community facilities have the potential to contribute socially and economically to the local area. The development of these facilities can serve to re-instil pride in the local area and provide hope for the future. |
#### 2.5.5 Community Schemes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Objective</strong></th>
<th>To maximise the potential of community related schemes for the benefit of the local community</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Action**    | - Prioritise community activities which may be suitable for the Community Schemes e.g. maintenance of community facilities  
                  - Seek the approval of local community initiatives as Community Schemes  
                  - Liaise with relevant authorities to ensure that the appropriate individuals are matched with suitable roles within the community  
                  - In addition, seek the provision of funds from suitable sources for the maintenance of community facilities |
| **Benefit**   | Community employment schemes have the potential to provide community services in Glenfarne, Blacklion and Belcoo. |
2.6 Natural Environment/Tourism

Goal: To develop the natural environment in a sustainable way and to harness the potential of the natural environment for tourism, employment and recreation.

Issues:
- Many local attractions with tourism potential.
- Area forms part of the Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark but limited general awareness.
- Need to encourage more passing tourists to stop – need to provide attractions.
- Lack of coordinated approach to marketing tourism.

2.6.1 Awareness of Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>The local community are aware of the opportunities presented by the ongoing development of the Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Action    | ➢ Involve the Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark in providing information and increasing the general awareness in the area  
➢ Build the capacity of the community to engage with the Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark |
| Benefit   | The first step in developing the tourism potential in the area is an understanding of the opportunity presented by the Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark. Once a greater understanding is achieved, tourist opportunities will emerge. |

2.6.2 Tourist Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>To ensure that tourists have access to information on the local attractions and places of interest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Action    | ➢ Development and circulation of local tourist information  
➢ Development of interactive maps for the area (local photographs, heritage, stories) utilising GPS technology  
➢ Area should become the information hub on the Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark  
➢ Develop and expand the current tourism information service  
➢ Training to local staff on the provision of tourist information  
➢ Install community tourist notice-boards in Glenfarne, Blacklion and Belcoo |
| Benefit   | Many of the local attractions are not readily accessible or obvious to tourists/visitors. The development of information material and the circulation of this material will help to ensure that the tourism potential and benefit to the local economy is realised. |

2.6.3 Maintenance of Public Amenities/Facilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>To ensure that the efforts undertaken to enhance local public amenities/facilities are sustainable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>➢ Maintenance programme for existing and new public amenities/facilities (utilising Community Employment Schemes or similar where possible)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit</td>
<td>The maintenance of public amenities/facilities ensures that they are available to the wider public on an ongoing basis. It also helps to maintain pride in the local community.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 2.6.4 Harnessing the Potential of the Natural Environment

**Objective** To maximise the tourism and amenity potential of the natural environment

**Action**
- To provide signposting and tourist information
- To seek the provision of cross border signposting of tourist attractions

**Benefit** The provision of tourist information and signposting will increase the awareness and usage of natural amenities. Increased tourism has the potential to boost the local economy.

### 2.6.5 Developing Local Public Amenities/Attractions

**Objective** To maximise the tourism and amenity potential of the natural environment

**Action**
- To provide local walking, trekking and cycling trails
- To develop Moneygashel Cashel and associated buildings
- Developed looped walkways around Shannon Pot and interpret geology, hydrology, archaeology and mythology of the area
- Utilise Loughan Forest, Loughan Quarry and Whitefather’s Cave as a geopark interpretative and amenity site
- Develop ‘The Black Pig’s Hike’ - walkway/cycleway around Lough MacNean and Lough Melvin
- Develop Burren Forest as the ‘flagship’ geopark site in Cavan

**Benefit** Identified trails will increase the appeal and accessibility of the local environment to visitors. Increased tourism has the potential to boost the local economy.

### 2.6.6 Marketing of Tourism

**Objective** To maximise the tourism potential in the cross border area

**Action** To coordinate the marketing of tourism in the cross border area

**Benefit** Maximising the tourism potential in the area will boost the local and regional economy. The nature of many of the attractions (local, natural beauty spots) means that they need to be promoted as part of a series of locations rather than stand alone attractions.

### 2.6.7 Awareness of Local Biodiversity and Heritage

**Objective** To ensure that the local community are fully aware of the potential of the biodiversity and heritage in the area

**Action** Provide the local community with information on the local biodiversity and heritage

**Benefit** The increased awareness of the local heritage and biodiversity will ensure that the local population have an increased appreciation of their local assets. An increased appreciation and awareness of the local assets will increase the potential for tourism in the area.

### 2.6.8 Local Tour Guides

**Objective** To ensure that the tourism potential of the local area is maximised

**Action** Train local people to act as tour guides (points of information)

**Benefit** The training of individuals will help to ensure that tourists have access to information on the area and the potential of tourism to the area can be maximised. The individuals involved could be drawn from those who are currently unemployed.
### 2.6.9 Pride in Your Area

**Objective**  
To build the sense of pride and community spirit in cross border communities

**Action**  
- Develop a cross border ‘pride in your area’ competition

**Benefit**  
Encourage the development of areas which may have suffered neglect in the past as a result of the border or due to economic fluctuations. The competition would also encourage interaction between communities.

### 2.6.10 Linking of Natural Amenities

**Objective**  
To ensure that the natural environment is fully appreciated by the local population and visitors

**Action**  
- Create links between the natural amenities of Glenfarne Wood, Burren Forest, Cottage Meadow, Belcoo to encourage visitors to progress from one to another
- Foster links between counties Leitrim, Cavan and Fermanagh to develop Lough Mac Nean
- Develop a tourism brand which encompasses the local amenities and attractions

**Benefit**  
Creating links between the many small attractions in the wider area will lead to a critical mass of activities, locations or sites which can attract visitors into and to spend more time in the area. Greater linkages will also encourage more of the local population to utilise these amenities.

### 2.6.11 Development of Lough Mac Nean

**Objective**  
To maximise the social and recreational usage of Lough Mac Nean

**Action**  
- Develop better access to, enhanced facilities and greater cooperation on Lough Mac Nean
- To liaise with the local authorities to maintain the hedgerows along the roads bordering the lake

**Benefit**  
Lough Mac Nean is a key natural resource which is utilised by all communities. Therefore a coordinated approach to the development of the potential of the lake will benefit all communities and possibly lead to greater cooperation and interaction to maximise the potential of a common shared natural resource.

### 2.6.12 Mac Nean House and Restaurant

**Objective**  
To foster deeper links with Mac Nean House and Restaurant

**Action**  
- Proactively engage with Mac Nean House and Restaurant to promote the local area

**Benefit**  
Mac Nean House and Restaurant is a major attraction for Blacklion and brings customers from all across the country. The efforts and success of Neven Maguire in developing his restaurant and reputation provides opportunities to the wider community. The ability of the local community to encourage those visitors who are coming to the restaurant to explore the local countryside and natural amenities provides considerable potential for the development of the local economy.

### 2.6.13 Anti-Social Behaviour – Littering and Dumping

**Objective**  
The local community would be more aware of the damage caused to the environment by dumping, littering and anti-social behaviour

**Action**  
- Encourage the local community to take ownership of their own community facilities
- Encourage the public to challenge those engaging in littering and dumping

**Benefit**  
The first step in developing the tourism potential in the area is an understanding of the opportunity presented by the Geo Park. Once a greater understanding is achieved, tourist opportunities will emerge and be developed.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Objective</strong></th>
<th>The local environment would be enhanced by the removal of the bridge and a legacy of the past</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Action</strong></td>
<td>➢ Seek the removal of the old railway bridge from the river</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Benefit</strong></td>
<td>The bridge in the river remains as a blight on the local landscape and as a reminder of the troubles to the local community. The removal of the bridge could serve as positive step towards the future.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Section 3: KILTYCLOGHER CASHEL

The main issues identified by the community in Cashel Kiltyclogher included:

| Main Assets of the Area | • Country and rural life  
| | • Pace of life  
| | • Peace and tranquillity  
| | • Friendly, neighbourly and community spirit  
| | • People make the area  
| | • Cashel Community Centre  
| | • Leitrim Lakes Hostel, Kiltyclogher |

| Recent Improvements | • Reopening of the roads  
| | • New people living in the area  
| | • Cross border activity  
| | • Reopening of Cashel Community Centre |

| Changes/Issues to be Addressed | • Improved transport service  
| | • Improved roads  
| | • Quality broadband  
| | • Employment  
| | • Communication of what is happening in the area  
| | • Same people involved in everything – hard to get new people involved (need social participation initiative)  
| | • Limited facilities/activities/amenities for young people  
| | • Services and social activities for older people need to be improved |

| Issues for Regeneration | • Employment and local business  
| | • Incentives for investment in the area  
| | • Tourism  
| | • Encourage people to work together more |

| Existence of a Border | • Has diminished but need better cross communication of activities/events  
| | • More cooperation and interaction is required  
| | • Need more social, community events to eliminate the border |

| Dreams for the Future | • People actively involved in the community  
| | • Tourism potential realised  
| | • Jobs available for local residents |

| Overall Comment on Area | • Strong community spirit and involvement but concern about ability to get more people involved  
| | • Very people centred community and interaction between generations  
| | • Belief that if people are involved, things will happen  
| | • Cashel has lost many services but has an active Community Centre  
| | • Need greater cross border/community interaction and communication  
| | • Jobs are required but also enhanced public and community services  
| | • Main needs are for younger and older members of community  
| | • Transport is a serious issue |
The priority themes which emerged included:
- Community Interaction;
- Community Spirit and Involvement;
- Youth, Children and Families;
- Older People;
- Rural Services (Including Transport); and
- Harnessing the Potential of the Natural Resources.

### 3.1 Community Interaction

**Goal:** To enhance the level of interaction between the general population and community/voluntary groups in Kiltyclogher and Cashel.

**Issues:**
- Re-opening of roads has allowed for rebuilding of connections.
- The border has diminished but still some barriers.
- Improved communication and cooperation is required.

#### 3.1.1 Community Interaction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>The communities of Kiltyclogher and Cashel work in greater harmony with each other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Action</strong></td>
<td>Seek to achieve wider cross border/community interaction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Initiate joint activities between the two communities (meetings to share information on each area)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Identify priority actions within the plans which could be implemented on a cooperative cross border/community basis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Follow up meetings on a quarterly basis (at a minimum) (alternating between each community)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Develop initiatives which build on the level of interaction between the communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Local voluntary organisations should develop further links and share information on their activities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Benefit** Improved interaction and cooperation will ensure that all members of the community feel included and involved in their community

#### 3.1.2 Community Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>The communities of Kiltyclogher and Cashel work in greater harmony with each other to organise community events/activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Action</strong></td>
<td>Organise specific community events which will attract considerable interest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Increased cross community/border interaction and involvement should be the goal of all activities/events (rather than having specific events focused on cross community/border interaction)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Benefit** Focusing on particular events which have wide appeal can encourage interaction among the communities.
# 3.1.3 Community Support Worker

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Provision of support to the voluntary and community organisations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Employment of a community support worker (for this area or in conjunction with other areas)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit</td>
<td>The provision of a community support worker would enhance the operation and functioning of all community and voluntary groups in the area. It could serve to ensure that existing community services/activities are improved and new services/activities developed. In particular, it would serve to improve the overall level of communication within and without the community.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# 3.2 Community Spirit and Involvement

**Goal:** To enhance the overall level of community spirit and involvement in Kiltyclogher and Cashel by way of involving more people in community activities.

**Issues:**
- Active community organisations and strong community spirit.
- Same people are involved in the community organisations – difficult to get new people involved.

## 3.2.1 Community Audit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>To determine who is living in the area, their needs and interests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Undertake a Community Audit of all households in the area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit</td>
<td>A profile will be built up of all households, their needs and interests. This will allow community organisations to target individuals for involvement and also to provide information on existing services.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 3.2.2 Proactive Involvement of Residents in Community Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>To increase the level of involvement of residents in community activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Arising from the information collated in the Community Audit, households will be invited to get involved in community activities/organisations of interest to them</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit</td>
<td>Increased involvement of households in the community, enhanced level of participation in community organisations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 3.2.3 Cross Border/Community Newsletter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>To ensure that the wider community are informed and aware of what is happening</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>To develop a cross border/community newsletter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit</td>
<td>Increased awareness of the activities in the area will ensure greater interaction among the wider communities and in particular breakdown the border in terms of exchange of information and interaction.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 3.2.4 Inform Residents of Community Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>To increase the level of awareness of community activities and opportunities for involvement in community activities in the area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Action    | ➢ Provide information on community activities in the area  
            ➢ Install community notice-boards in Kiltyclogher and Cashel |
| Benefit   | Many people are not aware of the extent of activities and services available in the area. Increased awareness provides opportunities for greater involvement. A community notice-board in each area would serve as a reference point and source of information. |

### 3.2.5 Community Garden

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Develop links within the community by way of involvement in a community garden</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>➢ Develop a community garden in the area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit</td>
<td>Shared interests in gardening can be harnessed to involve people in community activities and foster enhanced links and cooperation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3.2.6 Cross Border Community Social Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>To integrate the diverse communities through common social interests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>➢ To develop a series of community social events (cross border and cross community) e.g. Family Fun Days, Barbeques, Sports Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit</td>
<td>Shared social events and interests will provide for integration in a relaxed environment. Integration can only occur when people know and trust each other. Past difficulties mean that trust has been fractured but can be built progressively through shared interests.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3.2.7 Participation of Young People in the Community

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Increase the number of young people and their level of involvement in community activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>➢ Develop a specific project with the aim of increasing the participation of young people in the community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit</td>
<td>Encouraging the involvement of young people in community activities will deliver long term benefits by instilling an increased level of pride in their own area and encourage greater community spirit and connection with their area.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3.2.8 Training/Education Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>The local population are provided with opportunities to engage in training within their own community</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>➢ Explore the provision of educational and training courses in the area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit</td>
<td>Local provision of courses will increase the accessibility to the wider public. Attendance at local courses will increase the level of interaction among the public (focused on a shared interest).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3.2.9 Community Radio

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>The local population are provided with a Community Radio Service</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>➢ Explore the provision of a Community Radio Service in the area which would broadcast church services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit</td>
<td>The broadcasting of Church Services within the area would keep those who are unable to attend these services connected with them. It could also provide an opportunity for those of different faiths to tune into a range of Church Services.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 3.3 Youth, Children and Families

**Goal:** To enhance the current level of facilities/services available for youth, children and families in the area.

**Issues:**
- Maintaining a good quality of life for families.
- Limited facilities/activities/amenities for young people.
- Main needs in community are for young (and older) people.

#### 3.3.1 Cross Border/Community Youth Worker

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Objective</strong></th>
<th>To ensure that young people have the opportunity to develop social skills in their local area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Action</strong></td>
<td>To employ a cross border/community youth worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Benefit</strong></td>
<td>The difficulty in developing and running activities for young people is the lack of leaders and an organisational structure. A community youth worker would have the benefit of coordinating this activity.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 3.3.2 Youth Club

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Objective</strong></th>
<th>To have a youth club in operation in the area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Action</strong></td>
<td>Seek to establish a youth club in the area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Benefit</strong></td>
<td>Youth club would provide a social outlet for young people and also develop their social and leadership skills. It could also provide an opportunity to get young people involved in their community.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 3.3.3 Youth Community Facilities & Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Objective</strong></th>
<th>To ensure that young adults have opportunities for social interaction and recreation in their own area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Action</strong></td>
<td>Facilitate greater access of young people to community facilities including the availability of Cashel Community Centre for indoor soccer and other sports on a bookable hour basis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Establish a youth sub-committee to the Community Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Organise occasional large scale wide appeal youth events/activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Establish a community gym</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Benefit</strong></td>
<td>Facilitating young people with greater access to community facilities will help to build the trust between young people and the wider community. The organisation of large scale wide appeal youth events will help to ensure that there is a core group of young people who are motivated to engage in activities on an ongoing basis. The rural location and widely dispersed youth population (and transient nature) requires the involvement of young people from a wider catchment area. Large scale wide appeal events boost the awareness and involvement of young people in the larger catchment area.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 3.3.4 Youth Summer Scheme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Objective</strong></th>
<th>To ensure that young people have the opportunity to develop social and community skills in their area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Action</strong></td>
<td>Develop a community youth summer scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Benefit</strong></td>
<td>The summer scheme would harness the energy and enthusiasm of young people for the benefit of the local community. It will also instil a greater sense of involvement and community spirit.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.3.5 Community Sports Field

Objective
To ensure that residents have opportunities for social interaction and recreation in their own area

Action
➢ To explore the development of a community sports facility

Benefit
The provision of a community sports facility in the area would enhance the range of sports and recreational resources available to the population (and in particular young people). It would also enhance the level of cooperation and interaction between the communities.

3.3.6 Mother and Toddlers Group

Objective
To have a mother and toddlers group in operation in the area

Action
➢ Seek to establish a mother and toddlers group in the area

Benefit
A Mother and Toddlers group would provide a social outlet for mothers. In addition, it would have the potential to increase the level of integration and interaction between the communities.

3.4 Older People

Goal: To maintain and enhance the current level of services available for older people in the community.

Issues:
➢ Services and social activities for older people need to be improved.
➢ Main needs are for older (and younger) members of the community.

3.4.1 Services for Older People

Objective
To ensure that older people in the community have access to a wide range of social and healthcare services

Action
➢ Provide a wider range of social activities for older people
➢ Provide older people with free entry into all community events and specifically encourage them to participate

Benefit
The provision of additional services for older people will help to reduce the level of loneliness and isolation. It will serve to recognise the importance of older people in the community and the contribution that they have made to the area.
3.5 Rural Services (Including Transport)

Goal: Maintain and enhance the level of general services in the Kiltyclogher Cashel area.

Issues:
- Many services have been withdrawn from the area.
- Concern about further withdrawal of services.
- Transport is a serious issue.

3.5.1 Maintenance of Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>To maintain the maximum level of existing services in the area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Increase awareness among the local population of the importance of utilising local services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit</td>
<td>Maintaining existing services will help to ensure that the community is a vibrant place to live. Supporting local services will serve to improve the community spirit and connection with the local area. Maintaining local services is critically important for those who may not have the opportunity or the option to access services in the larger centres.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.5.2 Transport Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>To ensure that members of the community have access to a local transport service</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Secure the services of a Community Bus for events/activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit</td>
<td>The rural transport service ensures that those without their own transport have greater access to public services and social/recreational activities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.5.3 Bank Card Trading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>To maximise the business transactions in local shops</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Support the installation of bank card machines in local shops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit</td>
<td>Local business is impacted by the fluctuations of trade and the currency differences between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The provision of card machines would allow for greater ease of trading and help to ensure the maintenance of basic commercial services.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.5.4 Provision of Tourist Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>To ensure that tourists visiting the area have access to basic services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Develop a Community Tea/Coffee room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit</td>
<td>The provision of basic refreshment services in the community will serve to encourage the number of tourists visiting the area and encourage more passing tourists to spend time in the area. The provision of these services will also benefit the indigenous population.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.6 Harnessing the Potential of the Natural Resources

Goal: To develop the potential of the natural resources of the area in a sustainable way, which will benefit tourism and employment.

Issues:
- Peaceful and tranquil area.
- Lack of awareness of the local environment.
- Many small local tourist attractions.
- Need to develop tourism potential.
- Lack of employment opportunities in the area.

3.6.1 Awareness of Local Biodiversity and Heritage

Objective: To ensure that the local community are fully aware of the potential of the biodiversity and heritage in the area

Action:
- Provide the local community with information on the local biodiversity and heritage
- Organise opportunities for families to explore the local natural environment

Benefit: The increased awareness of the local heritage and biodiversity will ensure that the local population have an increased appreciation of their local assets. An increased appreciation and awareness of the local assets will increase the potential for tourism in the area.

3.6.2 Use of Lough Melvin

Objective: To maximise the social and recreational usage of Lough Melvin

Action:
- Develop better access to, enhanced facilities and greater cooperation on the development of Lough Melvin

Benefit: Lough Melvin is a key natural resource which is utilised by all communities. Therefore a coordinated approach to the development of the potential of the lake will benefit all communities and possibly lead to greater cooperation and interaction to maximise the potential of a common shared natural resource.

3.6.3 Regional Tourism Website

Objective: Information on the local area, community, activities and events is readily available and accessible

Action:
- Develop and maintain a cross border tourism website

Benefit: Promotes the area to the wider public and creates awareness of the attractions in the area.

3.6.4 Harnessing the Potential of the Natural Environment

Objective: To maximise the tourism and natural amenity potential of the natural environment

Action:
- To provide signposting and tourist information
- Develop and improve existing and new trails (e.g. Ulster Way & Kingfisher Trail)
- Train local people to act as tour guides (points of information)
- Develop the access to and activities linked with the Sean McDermott Homestead

Benefit: The provision of tourist information and signposting will increase the awareness and usage of natural amenities. The training of individuals (possibly unemployed) will help to ensure that tourists have access to information on the area. Increased tourism has the potential to boost the local economy.
### 3.6.5 Marketing of Tourism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Objective</strong></th>
<th>To maximise the tourism potential in the cross border area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Action</strong></td>
<td>➢ To coordinate the marketing of tourism in the cross border area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Benefit</strong></td>
<td>Maximising the tourism potential in the area will boost the local economy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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