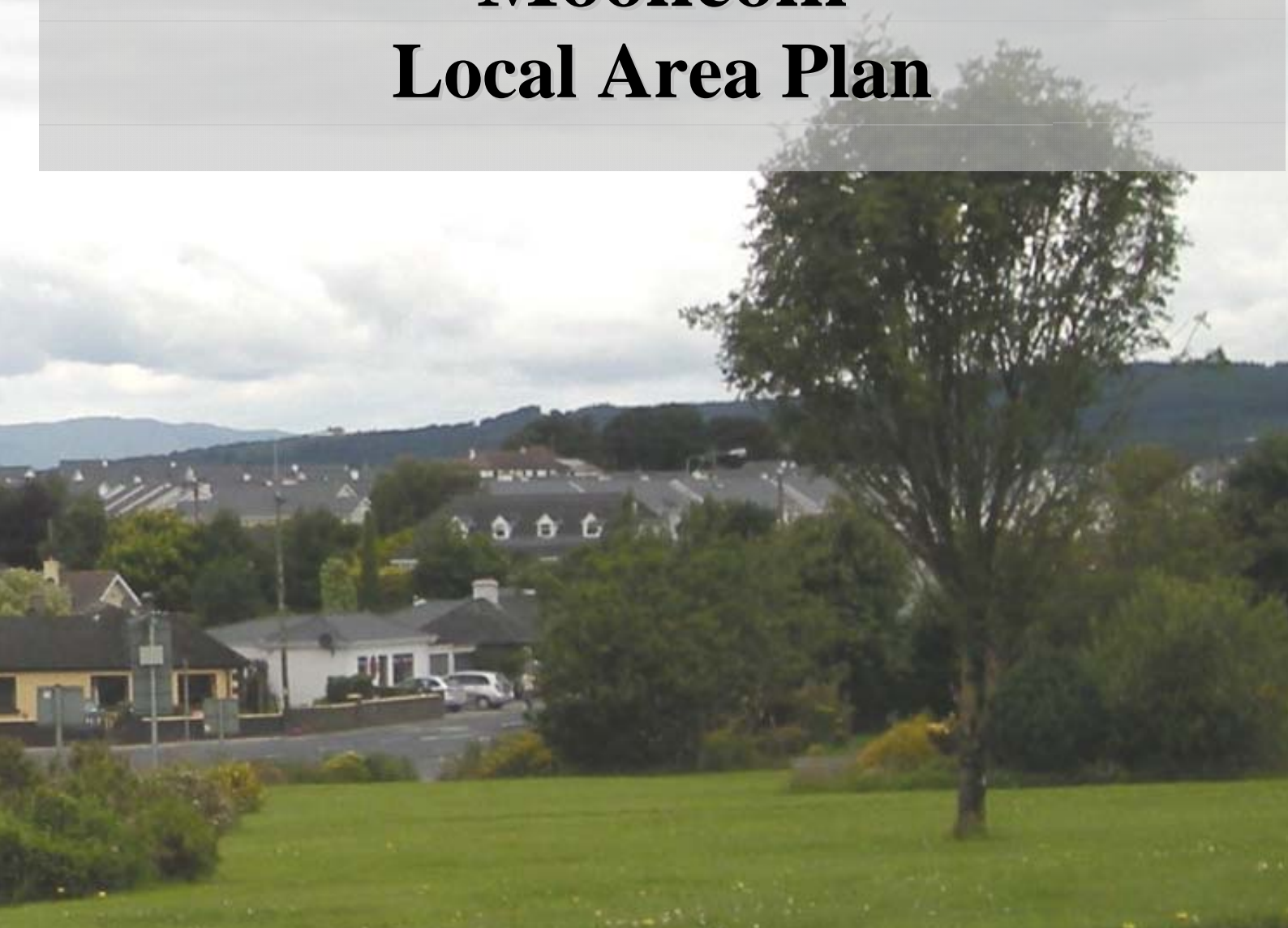


Mooncoin Local Area Plan



Summary of Public Consultation Meetings



Introduction

This document summarises the issues raised (a) during a pre-draft consultation event for the Mooncoin Local Area Plan (LAP) that took place on the evening of the 16th December 2009 in the Mooncoin Parish Hall, and (b) from a number of individual meetings with residents in the area.

- ❖ At the public meeting on the 16th December 2009, a short presentation was given setting out the format of the evening, the progress in implementing the last LAP (in 2003) and what the making of a new plan involves.

Stakeholders and members of the local community formed discussion groups to focus on three key questions:

1. What's good about Mooncoin?
2. What are the current issues?
3. What are the possible solutions?

The summary reflects the feedback received to these three questions and is structured accordingly.

- ❖ Meetings were also held with members of various sectors of the local community in December as follows:
 - Gary O Shea – Soccer Club
 - Billy O' Keefe – Main Street
 - Ann Purcell & Susan O' Brien – Suir Crescent
 - James Grace – GAA
 - Mary Keane – Citizens Information Centre & Credit Union.
 - Andrea O' Shea – Polerone Green
 - Joe Driscoll – Comeragh View
 - Fr Eamonn O' Gorman
 - John Howley – Main Street
 - Presentation Sisters

The issues raised in the meetings with residents of the area have been summarised and combined with the issues raised at the public meeting, and are presented in this document. The matters raised will be considered during the preparation of the Draft Local Area Plan.

What's good in the area

Setting

- Beautiful setting and scenic area.
- Pollerone Quay.
- Near Waterford and its shops and supermarkets.
- While satellite town of Waterford maintained own identity.

Schools

- Schools – both primary schools
- Mooncoin has its own secondary school, and also has night classes, and adult education during the day.

Community spirit

- Good community spirit e.g. Young at Heart group.
- Strong Community - there were problems such as damage to GAA hall, but a public meeting was convened and a committee formed to address the issue.
- Parish has done a lot for itself. Good community spirit – new roof at big cost to the centre.
- Tidy Towns and FAS are excellent.
- Friendly environment. Relaxed atmosphere, nice place to live and raise children.
- Egalitarian – no sense of hierarchy, and not a lot of family domination.

Services

- Good level of service - 2 supermarkets, 2 take-away, good shops, new barber, Credit union.
- Residential home - 52 bed; students go up once a month and help out.
- Bus Service and close to Waterford. Ring-a-link.
- New priest and curate.
- Garda Station – the district headquarters will be located in Mooncoin.

Employment

- Consort Cases – 8/10 employees.
- Local people employed in the local shops.
- Ashcourt House

Community Facilities

- Plenty for young people to do sports wise - Soccer & 2 GAA clubs – all ages. GAA facilities include: pitches, gym, sauna, playground, church, walkway around the pitch, floodlights; hall can accommodate basketball, badminton, indoor football.
- Parish Hall
- Playground
- Community groups: Youth Club, Young at heart, Residents Associations, Vintage Club, Macra Na Feirme, Foirge (upcoming), 4-2-1 Drug Awareness, Mother & Toddler Group, Drama group, Moondharraigh Players.
- Activities: bridge, meditation, bingo, Family Fun Day, Christmas Bazaar.
- Day Care Centre & Residential Care Centre.

Heritage

- Sinnots Cross – monument to war of independence, John Ottard's Cottage, Pollerone Quay – church, Graveyard at Carigeen, Corluddy Castle, thatched cottages in village. Rose of Mooncoin sense of pride - monument outside church.

Issues

Roads & Traffic

- By-pass needed due to speed and volume of heavy goods vehicles and general traffic. Mooncoin is on the route from Rosslare to the west and has 3 schools on the Main Road.
- There have been numerous accidents in the village and boundary walls on the main street are repeatedly being knocked e.g., at the '5 roads junction'. Speed limits are ignored and are not enforced. There is noise pollution from HGVs.
- Physical calming measures are needed such as in Kilsheelin, (also located on a main road which has traffic calming that does not result in tail-backs).
- It's not safe to cycle to the schools that are at either end of the village.
- Sightlines are poor at Centra and there is a blind spot at Roseleigh.
- Road signage on back roads is poor and unclear.
- There are bad bends on the road to Carrick-on-Suir.
- Opening of the barriers at the car-park in front of the church is dependent on goodwill, and sometimes the bus has to park on the opposite side of the road.
- Mooncoin is not suitable for a national road as it goes through a flood plain; footpaths are in bad condition and the road is sinking.
- Traffic is undertaking on the main road at the entrance to Comeragh View.
- Markings should be on both sides of ramps on Chapel Street as parked cars make the markings difficult to see.

Footpaths

- Footpaths are in a very poor state and this is the only village on a national route that doesn't have footpaths throughout. It is dangerous for parents with prams, and walking from the nursing home.
- Some areas along the main street do not have paths eg. opposite Spar. In places the paths are very narrow, or have puddles forming so pedestrians have to walk on the road e.g. near Centra. In places the surface of the path is below the road and broken. Good paths would be very welcome.
- Footpath at Polerone Green needs to be extended beyond the wall to improve visibility. In Pollerone Green cobbles are loose on paths.
- Suir Crescent - bollards needed due to lorries and vans parking on paths and ramps continually breaking. Water is lodging on the path near the entrance.
- Projecting kerbs on exiting the car-park at the church force cars turning left to cross the white line. Kerbs in the car-park used to be painted.

Surface Water and Flooding

- Surface water is a problem and flooding or surface water lodging occurs: on the footpaths and the main road, outside Roseleigh, at the gate to the parish hall, at the 5-roads junction and at the bus stop opposite the shop, at Dournane as the drain didn't go all the way to the river, and water backs up to Ballytarsney.
- Pipes are too small and get blocked at the church and in Suir Crescent, water is by-passing the pipes.
- The new road floods every year, but occurred at the cross on the back road for the first time this year. Flooding on the back road is caused by surface water as there is a layer of impervious rock that water can't get through, thus creating a bog. This area needs to be properly drained and should be de-zoned.
- The camogie field should be drained.
- Services for Roseleigh were not successful and unsuitable for new houses to connect into that scheme.
- Floods occur on the tide.
- An overall solution is needed.
- Query as to whether conditions relating to surface water have been waived.

Lighting

- Lights are needed in the vicinity of the church car-park & at the 5-roads junction.
- Lighting and sewerage connections are needed on the Polerone Road.

Schools

- Talks of merging 2 schools, which would cause overcrowding, loss of teachers and possible negative effects to education in Mooncoin.
- Girls School doesn't have spare room. The Boy's School needs surfacing works.
- The secondary school is underutilised as it is too close to the city, and loses pupils to Waterford schools. The principal wants to change the problem with the choice of subjects.

Clubs, Amenities & Anti-Social behaviour

- Existing Soccer Club pitch is located outside of the village, with a short-term leasing arrangement. Mooncoin Celtic football club is growing rapidly with 160 members and want to be drafted into the plan, and set up in/ close to the village. Other sports could be incorporated with the soccer club such as running track.
- There is no base for some clubs, such as the theatrical club.
- There is a gap in relation to activities other than sports. Current amenities won't cater for the needs of children growing up. There is nothing for teenagers to do; loitering and vandalism are occurring e.g. rocks thrown at the school. Need something, e.g. 'drop-in-centre'. Underage drinking & drug use are more prevalent; if it were not for the GAA and Soccer more anti-social behaviour would occur.

Housing

- Housing density in the village centre is too high and overcrowded, and there is no green belt – this will cause social problems. Development should be better integrated and at a lower density. Four areas currently owned by developers are zoned residential; if developed they will add to the existing level of dense housing. There is enough housing in the village and further infrastructure development is not possible due to lack of services.
- A wall is needed between Polerone Green and Suir Crescent, and the trees should be put back. Polerone Green needs to be levelled for playing.
- Houses were occupied before sewerage was put in place, which was development led.

Water Supply

- There is lime in the water since the source moved to Silversprings; this is causing problems and costing money. When electricity is cut the water supply is cut off.
- Water Pressure is low and water pipes leak – Ardarragh.

Graveyard

- An extension is needed to the graveyard; suggestion for use of land behind the nursing home, but there may be an extension to the nursing home. A tap is needed in the graveyard.

Other

- New Health Centre needed and there is no parking serving the existing health centre.
- Bus shelters needed; and a seat needed at bus stop for Limerick.
- More bins required. Bottlebanks – can they be relocated elsewhere as form an eyesore at their current location.
- The Convent is a listed building, even though it was not wanted and was done without permission.

Possible Solutions

Community

- Need a commitment to an integrated approach, such as a youth works forum with groups coming together to develop shared facilities and services. Drawing on map (beside Roseleigh) showing combined facilities - soccer pitch, club house, swimming pool, Mooncoin Rose Bowl, indoor soccer and basket ball, tennis court.
- Support and development for coordinating group/ community council.
- Tidy Towns proposes to carry out improvements and a grotto near Chapel Street.

Zoning

- Re-zoning of current green belt land to community/ recreation use.
- Revert GAA land back to community use.
- Future housing development spread out from village, and at a lower density.
- Flooded areas on the New Road could be designated as conservation areas.

Housing

- There are 69 houses currently for sale in Mooncoin, with more than 10 vacant in Roseleigh; there is more than enough zoning.
- Further growth should be of a lower density, and scattered apart with small clusters, more openness and a better layout, which would not give rise to as much anti-social behaviour.
- Homes for the elderly – community project could see homes built on Chapel Street. Small houses for single people.
- The camogie field should stay zoned residential. It is leased at present and there are problems with anti-social behaviour.

Flooding

- Need maintenance of drains and fencing at the back of the shop. Laying a pipe across the junction on the main road to help drainage of the new road.

Heritage and Design

- Highlight, protect and enhance existing heritage.
- Link the heritage and pride of Mooncoin into local area plan.
- Ensure different planning design that takes in the characteristics of the village.

Roads

- Speed limits should be put further back, the Carrick Road and towards Consort Cases is particularly bad. Ramps are needed at Filbuckstown due to boy-racers.
- Footpaths and traffic calming to be installed from one end of the village to the other. Better traffic control is needed – including lights and a zebra crossing. Zebra Crossing needed from Marions to the garage (shop). The lights/ crossing on the main road should have been at the school.
- Polerone Green needs ramps.

Employment

- The Government should become a major employer; extend FAS schemes as there is a lot unemployed.
- Business and tourism should be promoted. Local employment would be more environmentally friendly – less travel.
- Keep the industrial zoning - another industry is needed.