

Mayo Community Futures



SWINFORD AREA COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN **2013 - 2018**

*Swinford Area Community Futures Steering Group
Mayo County Community Forum
Mayo County Development Board*



Introduction

SWINFORD AREA COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

This Community Action Plan summarises our community's view on:

- what the Swinford area is like now
- the vision for the future of the area
- the issues that matter most
- priorities for projects and action



This plan will be our guide for what we - as a community - try to make happen over the next 5 years.

SWINFORD AREA COMMUNITY FUTURES STEERING GROUP

The preparation of the Action Plan has been guided by a local steering group which brought together some of the main organisations in the community.

The Swinford area Community Futures Steering Group was made up of representatives from: Killasser Community Centre, Meelick Community Centre, Swinford Agricultural Show, Midfield Development Association, Swinford Siamsa Straíde, Swinford Tidy Towns, Swinford Willows, Swinford No Name Club, Variety Group, GAA, St. Patrick's Day Parade and Close to the Heart Project.

The Steering Group was supported in its work by Loraine Sotoparra, the Community Support Volunteer from the Mayo Community Futures Programme.

LOCAL PEOPLE HAVE THEIR SAY

This Action Plan is the result of extensive community engagement carried out in 2011 and 2012. Under the guidance of and support from the Mayo Community Futures Programme:

- we held meetings and interviews with different groups and individuals representing all aspects of the community
- carried out a household community views survey
- prepared a community profile detailing facts and figures about our community
- organised a Community Futures Open Day Event

*OVER 20 INTERVIEWS WERE HELD
1,006 COMMUNITY VIEWS SURVEY FORMS WERE RETURNED
FROM OUR 1,600 HOUSEHOLDS
OVER 300 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE COMMUNITY OPEN DAY*

*THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO TOOK PART THE RESPONSES HELPED TO
INFORM THE PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED IN THIS PLAN*

Our Community Now

We have summarised below the main facts and figures from the Community Profile and some of the views from the Community Views Survey.

SWINFORD AREA COMMUNITY PROFILE 2012

SUMMARY

LOCATION

Swinford, in the northwest of Mayo on the junction of the N5 and N26, is situated on a tributary of the famous River Moy. It is only 5 miles from Ireland West Airport Knock and a 20 min drive from Mayo's capital town, Castlebar. Swinford is renowned for its fishing waters; in particular the Callow lakes which yield excellent brown trout.

POPULATION

The population of Swinford and the surrounding hinterlands has been calculated using the 2010 Census, the Register of Electors and local knowledge. It is estimated that the population of Swinford Town is 1,600 and the rural population lies in the region of 3,939 people.

HOUSING

There are approximately 2,085 houses of which 1,600 are occupied, approximately 528 houses are vacant and about 53 derelict buildings in Swinford and the hinterlands.

EMPLOYMENT AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY

Baxter, Tesco and the HSE are the largest employers in Swinford. There are a variety of retail, service, tourism & hospitality, transport & motor, trades & manufacturing, financial and agricultural providers throughout the area. Agriculture is a large employer, there are approx. 474 farmers. Tourism also adds greatly to the employment in the area as does Hennigan's Heritage Centre Killasser, the annual Siamsa Stráide festival, the 'Humbert Challenge' half-iron man triathlon and the Agriculture Show.

CHILDCARE AND EDUCATION

A number of child care providers in the area include; child minding, after school services and Montessori through the medium of both English and Irish. There are 7 national schools in Swinford and the surrounding areas of Killasser,

Meelick, Midfield, Carramore, Culmore, Kinaffe with 528 pupils. There is one secondary school; Scoil Muire and Padraig (mixed) that has 370 pupils. Mayo VEC and the East Mayo Adult Learning Centre cater for adult learners.

HEALTH AND CARE SERVICES

There are 4 local general practitioners in Swinford. The Public Health Nurse operates from Swinford Health Centre where numerous services and clinics are available. Swinford District Hospital is a 40 bed Hospital and provides step down facilities for patients who require convalescence or a long stay bed in a Community Nursing Unit. A new Primary Care Centre is proposed for the near future. Áras Attracta is a residential respite and day service for adults with an intellectual disability.

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

There are many clubs and organisations in the area – too numerous to mention, including;

- Active Retirement Group
- Bridge Club
- Variety Club
- Gardening Club
- ICA
- Friends of the Willows
- St. Vincent de Paul Society
- Church Groups
- Close to the Heart Project
- Development Association
- Mayo/Roscommon Hospice
- St Patrick's Day Parade
- Chamber of Commerce
- Michael Davitt Swinford Colmhalthas Branch
- No Name Club
- Camera Club
- Dancing Classes
- Scouts (Beavers,Cubs)
- Taoist Tai Chi Society
- "25" Card Drives
- Tidy Towns
- Social Services
- Mayo Autism Action
- Parish Council

Swinford has a long history of drama and has a very active Swinford Variety group. A wide range of organisations throughout the area are listed in the Newsletter "What's on in Swinford"

RECREATION AND LEISURE

- Swinford Amenity Park with all weather surface and Clubhouse
- Killasser Community Centre
- Meelick Community Centre
- Woodlands walk
- Swinford Tennis Courts – under refurbishment
- Swinford Community Centre
- Killasser Gym
- Brabazon Park/Golf Course
- Swinford Playground
- Tennis Court, Killasser

There are a number of sporting organisations in the area that promote a variety of sports including; boxing, GAA, handball, golf, karate, athletics, cycling, swimming, soccer, ladies GAA, tennis, angling, walking and gym in Killasser.

ROADS AND TRANSPORT

Swinford is situated on the junction of the N26 and the N5. The N5 is the Dublin–Castlebar–Westport route connecting to Ballina via the N26 through Swinford. The closest railway station is in Foxford and Ireland West Airport Knock is 5 miles away. Bus Éireann provides a public bus service and a variety of private hire companies and transport providers offer coach hire, mini bus hire and taxi services. A Rural Transport Scheme is also in operation.

ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE & CULTURE

Swinford is recognised for the abundance of fishing waters convenient to the town, particularly its proximity to the River Moy for great salmon angling, the Callow Lakes for excellent brown trout and it is also within easy driving distance of the great fishing lakes Conn and Cullin.

Swinford is known in Gaelic as ‘Béal Átha na Muice’, meaning ‘Mouth of the ford of the pigs’. The town owes its origin to the Brabazon family, who were given land in the parish of Kilconduff during the Cromwellian settlement. Swinford Union was established in 1840. A six-acre site was obtained from Sir William Brabazon for the erection of a workhouse that was completed in 1842. It had accommodation for 420 adults and 280 children. The front portion of the workhouse is now a hospital. In 1847 fever sheds and temporary wards were erected. In 1926 the remaining inmates were transferred to The County Home, Castlebar. In the mid 30’s all the workhouse and infirmary buildings were demolished. All that remains today is the fever hospital that once was.

One of the best preserved mass Famine Graves can be seen at the back of Swinford Hospital.

The parish of Killasser is situated about one mile north of Swinford. Killasser is derived from Cill Lasrach – the Church of Lasair an eight-century Irish saint. The parish is rich in archaeological field monuments with court cairns, a crannóg, nearly 200 ring forts and several Fulachta Fiadh (Bronze age cooking sites). Hennigan’s Heritage Center is situated in unspoilt countryside and overlooks Creagaballa Lake. It is located 6.5km from Swinford.

Meelick Round Tower is a fine well preserved tower situated on a hill 3 miles SW of Swinford. The tower was built between 923 and 1013 A.D. The tower served as a refuge for monks from St. Broccaidh’s monastery. There is an early gravestone, with crudely interlaced cross and border bearing an Irish inscription dating from the 10th or 11th century, situated at the foot of the tower.

“A Story Told to us Last Night” is a book from Midfield celebrating Irish folklore. The book brings together traditional stories from the 1937/38 National Folklore Collection, Schools in Ireland, with stories from the present, written by children in school in Midfield. It features stories in original children’s handwriting with photos from the past and present in Ireland. The book raises funds for the local school in Midfield.

COMMUNITY VIEWS SURVEY LIKES AND DISLIKES

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT THE SWINFORD AREA?

TOP LIKES	% of Responses	COMMENTS
<p>Community Spirit: friendly, helpful and welcoming people, good community spirit and community network, friendly shopkeepers and businesses</p>	41%	<p><i>"Swinford people are very welcoming and always helpful"</i></p> <p><i>"We have a close-knit community with a great network of people"</i></p> <p><i>"I love shopping in my local town, shopkeepers will always take time to smile and have a chat"</i></p>
<p>Community Services & Facilities: Supermarkets & shops, schools, medical services, churches & priests, local clubs & organisations</p>	40%	<p><i>"I don't have to travel to Castlebar anymore to do my large shop since the arrival of our fantastic new supermarket"</i></p> <p><i>"The secondary school is a credit to Swinford"</i></p> <p><i>"We have a great hospital, good selection of GP's and of course Áras Attracta"</i></p> <p><i>"Lovely priests doing a great job in the parish"</i></p> <p><i>"Great selection of clubs and organisations offering something for everyone"</i></p>
<p>Outdoor Amenities & Activities: Playgrounds & parks, sports facilities & pitches, golf links, festivals & parades</p>	30%	<p><i>"The children's playground is a great addition to the town"</i></p> <p><i>"Good selection of outdoor sports and excellent football facilities"</i></p> <p><i>"The local golf links are a fantastic amenity and so convenient"</i></p> <p><i>"We just love Siamsa Stráide every summer and all the visitors it brings to the town, there is a great buzz"</i></p>
<p>Nature of the Place: Well located, country town atmosphere, town is good size & layout, good place to raise a family,</p>	28%	<p><i>"We are very well located in the county, close to Knock airport, Castlebar and just off the main Dublin road offering good access to transport"</i></p> <p><i>"Swinford has a lovely country town atmosphere, not too big and not too small"</i></p> <p><i>"The town is well designed with a good layout and access to street parking"</i></p> <p><i>"A good place to raise a family with ample selection of amenities, housing, schools and it's still relatively safe"</i></p>
<p>Natural Environment: Walks and woodland areas, fishing rivers & lakes, scenery</p>	15%	<p><i>"Good selection of walks in the area, the loop walk at Callow Lake is just beautiful"</i></p> <p><i>"We are right on the River Moy with excellent fishing"</i></p> <p><i>"Beautiful scenery throughout the area, but in particular Killasser"</i></p> <p><i>"The Swinford area is steeped in heritage and history and offers many fine buildings, monuments and towers"</i></p>

COMMUNITY VIEWS SURVEY LIKES AND DISLIKES

WHAT DO YOU NOT LIKE ABOUT THE SWINFORD AREA?

TOP DISLIKES	% of Responses	COMMENTS
<p>Image of the Town: Derelict, dilapidated buildings & empty shop fronts, dirty littered streets & footpaths, dogs fouling walkways & footpaths, eyesores and neglected areas</p>	48%	<p><i>"A lot of buildings in the town could do with a face-lift, the number of unoccupied premises looks terrible and gives a bad image of the town"</i></p> <p><i>"The town needs a good clean up...."</i></p> <p><i>"Our streets are filthy with dog foul, litter, cigarette butts and take-way papers especially at weekends"</i></p>
<p>Parking, Roads & Traffic: Parking in the town, footpaths & street lighting, secondary roads in poor condition, bus stop, pedestrian crossings & traffic lights, traffic congestion on the main street</p>	36%	<p><i>"Illegal and irresponsible parking needs to be stopped, people park on double yellow lines and footpaths without any concern for others"</i></p> <p><i>"Rural roads are full of potholes and not maintained as they should be"</i></p> <p><i>"The bus stop on Swinford main street is in the wrong location, it causes traffic build up because there is no-where for the bus to pull in"</i></p> <p><i>"Not enough street lighting around the town"</i></p>
<p>Community Facilities, Services & Activities: Lack of activities & facilities for teenagers/children, lack of entertainment for adults/elderly, no swimming or gym facilities in town, community centre, lack of transport to rural areas, no public toilets</p>	32%	<p><i>"Very little for young people to do if they don't like sports, youths are walking the streets and hanging in doorways at weekends"</i></p> <p><i>"There is no indoor soft play area for young children like what is available in Castlebar and Kiltimagh"</i></p> <p><i>"Our community centre needs upgrading so all community groups can use it"</i></p> <p><i>"There is no way of getting into Swinford town on a daily basis from the country areas"</i></p>
<p>Economy: Lack of retail choice, lack of entertainment facilities, lack of employment, more choice restaurants/cafes, lack of promotion for industry & tourism, large supermarkets impact on town, no mart</p>	25%	<p><i>"Swinford badly needs a shoe shop....."</i></p> <p><i>"No jobs in the area and emigration is increasing"</i></p> <p><i>"There is no promotion of our area to attract more tourists or new industry"</i></p> <p><i>"We have a lot to offer-if we just pulled it all together"</i></p> <p><i>"Swinford needs another industry to provide local jobs"</i></p>
<p>Security: More Garda presence, stop vandalism & anti-social behaviour, CCTV camera in parks/recycling area, neighbourhood watch</p>	15%	<p><i>"The area is reasonably safe but night time is a nightmare"</i></p> <p><i>"Gardaí don't connect with the town - we don't even know who our local Garda is"</i></p> <p><i>"Woods are not safe for children because of the broken glass bottles and cans left after weekends"</i></p>

SWINFORD AREA - OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

This statement has been prepared to summarise the main views expressed by local people and organisations when they were asked what they hoped the Swinford area would be like in 10 years time.

Community Spirit

Swinford will be a vibrant, active, resilient community with a great community spirit and a pride of place in our area.

Town Enhancement

Swinford will be a clean, inviting town with attractive landscaping, flower baskets and seating areas along the main streets. The atmosphere will be that of a bustling town with every shop open for business and no dilapidated or derelict buildings.

Community Facilities and Services

Swinford will have a primary care centre providing for all medical needs locally. There will be a large range of facilities, services and activities for all age groups. There will be a well-equipped community centre with a large gym in the town and the Town Hall will provide a central venue for social activities. We will have attracted more volunteers and we will have good communication for local information.

Tourism

Swinford will become a place that people want to visit. The area will have an attractive tourism package highlighting its greatest assets. We will have developed fishing and angling to attract more international and national fishermen to come and stay in the area. All signage will be greatly improved.

Outdoor Amenities

Swinford will develop its walking and cycling routes incorporating the Ox Mountains and River Moy. The Old Railway line will be turned into a cycle path similar to The Greenway in Mulranny. The stream that rings the town will be exposed and cleaned up providing an attractive area to sit and relax.

Economy

Swinford will have a vibrant weekly market supported by local shoppers and visitors. There will be crafts shops and locally produced products on sale in the town creating a niche market for locally sourced goods. The town will capitalize on its proximity to Knock Airport by attracting passengers passing to stopover, eat and shop. There will be more home-based industries providing employment opportunities. Local businesses will be working closely together.



Swinford Town

MAIN STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES

These are the main strategies and priorities we, the community, will try to progress over the next few years in partnership with public agencies and other supporters.

DEVELOP COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

The lack of a fit for purpose central community centre, with wheelchair access, in Swinford town was strongly highlighted in the research. This is seen as essential to accommodate the variety of community groups and clubs, to attract more volunteers and to support volunteering. More activities in general throughout the whole area were requested and in particular activities and events for young people and children. Co-operation and networking between the existing clubs and the integration of all sectors into the community were also identified. The community would also like to have access to local swimming and gym facilities.

Main Priorities

- 1 Provide a central community venue in the town
- 2 More facilities & activities
- 3 Public swimming pool and gym facilities in the town

OUTDOOR AMENITIES

The Swinford Amenity Park has the potential to be a hub of outdoor physical activity and fitness. However, there is a problem with access to the Park and concerns have been raised about governance and the lack of development. Some suggestions are for a climbing wall, outdoor gym and running track and to make it accessible to all within the community. Loop walks, walks along the river and cycle paths were also identified. The tennis courts are seen as a community asset but they need to be upgraded.

Main Priorities

- 1 The Amenity Park
- 2 Develop walkways and cycle paths
- 3 Upgrade tennis courts



Amenity Park

IMPROVED ECONOMY

"We have a lot to offer - if we just pulled it all together" The Swinford area recognises its potential and would like to see all the local stakeholders coming together to devise a coherent strategy and innovative ideas to help improve the local economy and promote what is there already. There is a strong desire that all businesses, community leaders, service providers and agencies co-operate and support each other in these very challenging times.

Main Priorities

- 1 Promote Swinford area for new industry and tourism
- 2 Cinema
- 3 More choice of restaurants including late night bar
- 4 Strong network of local businesses

IMAGE OF THE TOWN

The Swinford area is steeped in history and the ambience of town reflects its past. The image of the town and in particular the derelict and neglected state of so many buildings adds to an unfair image of dilapidation and lack of pride of place. Litter and dog fouling on the streets are seen as priority issues to be addressed. Other suggestions are for more planting, street benches and a picnic area in the parks. There is a need for more people to get involved to support the work of the Tidy Towns committee.

Main Priorities

- 1 Address the derelict and dilapidated buildings
- 2 Clean-up & paint the town
- 3 Support Tidy Towns

COMMUNITY SECURITY

Concern was expressed at the level of anti social behaviour and petty vandalism of recent times. The community recognises that a multi-approach is required and it has expressed the need to provide more community activities to help counteract this activity. It also wants to see a greater presence of Community Gardaí on the streets and in the area. Neighbourhood Watch, CCTV and Community Alert were also put forward as part of the solution.

Main Priorities

- 1 More community Garda presence
- 2 CCTV in recycling areas and parks
- 3 Neighbourhood watch/Community Alert



Swinford Fever Hospital



Famine Memorial



Famine Buriel Grave

Action

Some of the steps to be taken over the next five years

We describe here some of the next steps that are needed to develop the main priorities under each theme

THEME 1 SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

PRIORITY 1

PROVIDE A CENTRAL COMMUNITY VENUE IN THE TOWN

PRIORITY 2

MORE FACILITIES & ACTIVITIES

PRIORITY 3

PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL & GYM FACILITIES IN THE TOWN

- Set up a working group
- Explore the suitability and feasibility of the use of the Community Centre and the Town Hall
- Research the feasibility of a swimming pool and gym facilities in the town
- Identify the needs of the whole community in terms of events and activities
- Involve the youth, older people and young parents
- Look at organising; a drop in centre for older people, parent & toddler groups, home for the drama group & boxing club, skate park, Foróige club etc.
- Network with national organisations and other local communities
- Liaise with the agencies and funding bodies
- Consult with all relevant interests and in particular get the agreement of the local community
- Lobby politicians for support

ACTION BY

LOCAL

Invite representatives of local groups and interested individuals to a meeting to form working committees to focus on these themes

SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS

Mayo County Council, Mayo Sports Partnership, Mayo North LEADER Partnership Co., relevant national organisations



Ballyglass



College House MCC



Cloongullane Bridge

THEME 2 OUTDOOR AMENITIES

PRIORITY 1

DEVELOP THE AMENITY PARK

- Address the issue of access to the park by the local community
- Bring all interested parties together to look at good governance and representation
- Revisit and update the existing plans for the Amenity Park
- Agree a plan of action
- Research funding options

PRIORITY 2

DEVELOP WALKWAYS AND CYCLE PATHS

- Identify and map suitable locations
- Meet with the MCC Walking Development Officer and Mayo North East LEADER Partnership Co RSS Co-ordinator
- Organise recreational walking and cycling events
- Promote and market

PRIORITY 3

REFURBISH THE TENNIS COURTS

- Identify the repairs required
- Source materials and do a costing of the project
- Seek funding and support

ACTION BY

LOCAL All local sports and development groups

SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS Mayo North East LEADER Partnership Co, Sports Council, Mayo Sports Partnership, MCC Walking Development Officer



Meelick Round Tower



Swinford Library and Cultural Centre

THEME 3

IMPROVED ECONOMY

PRIORITIES

PROMOTE SWINFORD AREA FOR NEW INDUSTRY AND TOURISM
CINEMA

RESTAURANT / LATE BAR / NIGHT CLUB

STRONG NETWORK OF LOCAL BUSINESS

- Convene a meeting of all the businesses in the Swinford Area
- Set up a new Chamber of Commerce
- Do an audit of the area to include vacant commercial premises and sites
- Research how others have addressed this issue
- Explore how empty buildings may be utilised
- Liaise with Enterprise Ireland, Fáilte Ireland etc
- Do a strategy for the economic development of the area
- Encourage and support existing businesses
- Identify training needs and address
- Look at the possibility of late evening dining and night entertainment, especially at the weekends
- Look at the feasibility of a mobile cinema
- Consult with young people
- Feed back to the community and get their support
- Lobby politicians for support

ACTION BY

LOCAL Chamber of Commerce and Local Businesses

SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS Mayo County Council, Enterprise Ireland, Fáilte Ireland and Mayo County Enterprise Board



Playground



GAA Pitch

THEME 4 IMAGE OF THE TOWN

PRIORITY 1

DEAL WITH DERELICT AND DILAPIDATED BUILDINGS

- List and map all the derelict and dilapidated buildings
- Investigate option for their use
- Consult with the owners to see what plans they have for the buildings
- Meet with Mayo County Council

PRIORITY 2

CLEAN-UP AND PAINT THE TOWN

- Organise a general clean up of the area
- Encourage owners to paint their premises
- Explore a painting scheme
- Initiate an anti-litter awareness campaign to include schools

PRIORITY 3

SUPPORT TIDY TOWNS

- Support Tidy Towns initiatives and the good work already being done in all the areas
- Encourage more people to get involved
- Network with other communities to share ideas and learn from their experiences
- Devise a 3 year Tidy Towns plan

ACTION BY

LOCAL Tidy Towns, home owners, businesses, youth and local schools

SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS Mayo County Council, Dept of the Environment, Mayo North East LEADER Partnership Co



Swinford Golf Club

THEME 5 COMMUNITY SECURITY

PRIORITY 1

MORE COMMUNITY GARDA PRESENCE

PRIORITY 2

CCTV IN RECYCLING AREAS AND PARKS

PRIORITY 3

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH/COMMUNITY ALERT

- Set up a small working group
- Research what the issues are i.e. problem areas
- Meet with and work closely with the Gardaí
- Look at the feasibility of extending CCTV including mobile CCTV in recycling area etc
- Initiate an awareness campaign, security precautions etc in partnership with the local Gardaí
- Link in with the national bodies of Community Alert/Neighbourhood Watch
- Organise a series of meetings throughout the area

ACTION BY

LOCAL

A working group of local people and active retirement groups

SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS

Mayo County Council, Gardaí, Community Alert/Neighbourhood Watch



Killasser Parish Entrance Stone



Midfield Villages

MAKING IT HAPPEN

The plan gives the community of the Swinford area and its organisations a guide on what actions to work on over the next five years.

ACTION GROUPS

There are a number of voluntary groups active in our area and we are anxious not to duplicate or overlap the good work that they do at present. We will explore how the priorities for actions identified in this plan can form part of their work. The Community Futures process has identified a need to form some new working committees to deliver the wishes of the community, for example:

FOR GENERAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

Cathal Kelly, Swinford: 087 641 2785
Michael Howley, Killasser: 087 914 4910



Homes for the Older People

UMBRELLA ORGANISATION

The Swinford Area Community Futures Steering Group intends to stay together to oversee the delivery of the Action Plan. We are keen to work in a coordinated, inclusive way with an open door policy where everyone is welcome as we explore how best the Swinford area can organise itself to help deliver the actions identified in the plan.

We are keen to explore all options as we turn our attention from planning to making things happen!

Reviewing the Action Plan

We will from time to time look at how we are all doing at implementing this plan. A year from the launch of this plan we will convene a REVIEW meeting to take stock of what has been achieved and agree an update of the action for the next year.



Moy at Cloonimney

Mayo Community Futures

2013-2018

SWINFORD AREA COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2013-2018

MAYO COMMUNITY FUTURES

The Swinford area was supported in the preparation of their Community Action Plan by Mayo Community Futures. Mayo Community Futures is a programme run under the auspices of Mayo County Community Forum.

The Community Futures programme assists communities to prepare their own Action Plans in a way that is inclusive and participatory. The Community Forum hopes that this will not only lead to good Action Plans that really reflect the priorities of communities but will also encourage people to get involved in making things happen locally. It is hoped that Plans prepared in this way will strengthen the communities ability to access funding for their priority projects and effectively represent their interests at area, county and national levels.

Community Futures is supported by Mayo County Development Board and reflects its commitment to involving communities in the preparation of the County Development Plan. The Community Forum and the County Development Board will assist in the brokering of Community Futures Community Action Plans to make sure that a wide range of public agencies are aware of their contents and take community priorities into account wherever possible in developing their own strategies and services.

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

Funding for Mayo Community Futures comes from Mayo Community Forum, Mayo County Council, South West Mayo Development Co and Mayo North East.



This project has been part funded through the Rural Alliances Programme by the EU through their Interreg IVB North West Europe Programme to promote strong and prosperous communities

If you would like to know more about Mayo Community Futures please contact :

Mary Wrafter,
Mayo Community Futures,
Mayo County Community Forum,
Community and Enterprise Office,
Mayo County Council,
Castlebar, Co. Mayo.
Tel: 094 9047552
E-mail: mwrafter@mayococo.ie

Community Futures is a programme designed and supported by the Small Town and Rural Development Group, Scotland. It supports the development and implementation of Mayo Community Futures. Contact: Colin Roxburgh at colin.rox@cali.co.uk

