

Mayo Community Futures



MULRANNY

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

2010 – 2015

*Mulranny Community Futures Steering Group
Mayo County Community Forum
Mayo County Development Board*

Introduction

MULRANNY COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

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

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

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

MULRANNY COMMUNITY FUTURES STEERING GROUP

The preparation of the Action Plan has been guided by a local steering group which brought together the main organisations in the community. The Mulranny Community Futures Steering Group was made up of representatives from: Tidy Towns, Local businesses, Golf Club, Pier Group, Playschool, National School, Dough Beg Development Association, Amenity Centre Group, St. Brendan's, Local Sports Group, I.C.A, Mulranny Day Centre Housing Company Ltd., Gun Club, Mulranny Industrial Development Trust Co. Ltd and the Bridge Club.

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

LOCAL PEOPLE HAVE THEIR SAY

The Action Plan is the result of extensive community engagement carried out over a six month period from February 2009 – September 2009. With guidance and help 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 community views survey
- prepared a community profile detailing facts and figures about the community
- organised a Community Futures Open Day Event

**OVER 18 MEETINGS AND INTERVIEWS WERE HELD
183 COMMUNITY VIEWS SURVEY FORMS WERE RETURNED FROM OUR 241 HOUSEHOLDS
OVER 130 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE COMMUNITY OPEN DAY**

**THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO TOOK PART – IT'S A FANTASTIC RESPONSE WHICH GIVES
STRENGTH TO 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**.

MULRANNY COMMUNITY PROFILE 2009

SUMMARY

Location

Mulranny is a scenic village situated on the N59 on the north-western shores of Clew Bay, adjacent to Achill Island, Ballycroy, Belmullet Peninsula and within 25 kms of Westport and Castlebar. It has some of the most spectacular scenery and beaches in the country.

Population

The population of Mulranny is approximately 428. The population fluctuates seasonally – with a growth in population in the summer months due to the number of holiday homes.

Housing

There are 325 households in Mulranny and over 80 of these are holiday homes.

Employment and the Local Economy

Mulranny is mainly a tourist village and is well known all over Ireland due to the famous Great Southern Hotel - now the Mulranny Park Hotel. St Brendan's Village is also a major part of the local economy along with the other main sectors in services, local business and farming. Mulranny is now a commuter village for Westport and Castlebar.

Childcare and Education

Mulranny has a Pre School, an After School and a National School. There has been a steady increase in demand for pre-school and after school care and additional classrooms have been added in the National School to accommodate the increase in school roll. At present there is no care available for the 0-2 age bracket or a full day childcare service.

Health and Care Services

- GP and Primary Care Centre in Mulranny
- Mayo General Hospital Castlebar – 25 miles
- St. Brendan's Village – community run nursing unit offering a continuum of care, sheltered housing, meals on wheels and day care services
- Safe Home – the National Repatriation Centre for Ireland provides advice and accommodation to long-term Irish emigrants to return home.
- Carers Association

Community Organisations

- Pastoral Council
- Tidy Towns/Tourism
- Golf Club
- Local Sports Group
- Pipe Band
- Bridge Club
- Card Games
- Doogh Beg Development Association
- Mulranny Day Centre Housing Company Ltd.
- Mulranny Industrial Development Trust
- I.C.A
- Graveyard Committee
- Offshore and Angling Club
- Boat/Sailing Club
- Safe Home Organisation
- Playgroup and After School Service
- Mulranny Pier Committee
- Active 55 Club
- Order of Malta
- St. Brendan's Carers Outreach Programme
- Coastal Erosion Group

Recreation and Leisure

- Mulranny, Tiernaur Amenity Centre
- The Mulranny Park Hotel & Leisure Centre
- Mulranny Golf Club
- Burrishoole Walks
- Mulranny Pier
- Bellacragher Bay for sailing

Roads and Transport

- Mulranny is situated on the N59 road between Newport and Ballycroy
- There is a twice-daily bus service to Westport and St. Brendan's village has two buses for its residents

Environment

- The land around Mulranny consists predominately of underlying sandstone with rolling blanket bog
- There are over 3kms of beach which consistently meets Blue Flag Status
- Bellacragher is used by the sailing club and also used for the growth of fin and shellfish
- Land ownership in the area consists of traditional smallholdings and communally owned hills
- The spectacular scenery around the village is accessed through a series of Loop Walks These walks incorporate many of the natural features of the area including the machair, beaches, causeway and surrounding hills
- The Bunnahowna River is the source of the local water supply. It is a spring fed supply, which provides clean reliable water

Heritage

- There are a number of historic sites in Mulranny including a Midden, dating back to the middle stone age and a famous fairy fort Blea na Shee, the curve of the fairies
- Mulranny, or "hill of ferns", developed from a sparse settlement derived from the run dale farming system. By the early 1900's the Land Commission divided the land creating the 'striped effect', which defines the surrounding

landscape, to this day

- Like most of Ireland, Mulranny was heavily dependant on the potato and tillage, the evidence of which is still etched on the landscape, in the form of 'lazy beds' stretching from the highest hill to the lowest shore, with good examples visible near Mulranny pier
- Mulranny came to prominence with the advent of the Great Western Railway, which opened in June 1894. The Railway Hotel opened its doors in March 1897 making Mulranny a tourist resort. Mulranny golf club, pier, and causeway were developed linking the hotel and village to Mulranny's beautiful coastline



Realth na Mahara National School.



Mackerel Fishing at Mulranny Pier.

COMMUNITY VIEWS SURVEY - LIKES AND DISLIKES

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT MULRANNY?

TOP LIKES	% of Responses	COMMENTS
Beautiful Surroundings: lovely scenery, location, quiet, safe, quaint	69	<p>"Mulranny is the most beautiful village, great community".</p> <p>"The view as you drive through Mulranny you wouldn't find anywhere".</p> <p>"Very silent and peaceful place".</p> <p>"Mulranny is quaint, scenic and peaceful".</p>
Outdoor Activities beaches, golf course, walks/forest/wildlife, causeway, harbour & pier, wildlife info boards, fishing	48	<p>"Wonderful Beaches"</p> <p>"The golf course is beautiful".</p> <p>"Loop walks/the forest behind the hotel/a curlew calling, the wild duck".</p> <p>"Causeway – walkway to the beach".</p> <p>"Like the harbour and the pier".</p> <p>"The new information board at beach is very informative and beautifully illustrated".</p>
Community Spirit: friendly people, good community spirit, great place to live, good amenities, young people	47	<p>"I like the people they are very friendly and helpful".</p> <p>"Good Community spirit".</p> <p>"Good amenities".</p> <p>"The good manners of its younger people & the respect to their elders".</p>
Community Services: hotel & leisure centre, church, national school, facilities, St. Brendan's, amenity centre, play school, Nevin's, health centre, shops, post office, pubs, B&B's	37	<p>"The hotel re-opening has been a great advantage to the area; we have access to the gym and swimming pool".</p> <p>"The school improving all the time".</p> <p>"So many facilities in a small village e.g. Pubs, P.O. Garage, Undertakers, Taxies".</p> <p>"Fine bar food/Nevins".</p> <p>"Nursing Home for our elderly folk in the locality".</p> <p>"Has a young population up and coming with a good local school and preschool"</p>

COMMUNITY VIEWS SURVEY - LIKES AND DISLIKES

WHAT DO YOU NOT LIKE ABOUT MULRANNY?

TOP DISLIKES	% of Responses	COMMENTS
Roads, Traffic & Parking: no continuous footpath, speed, road too narrow, more parking, roads in bad condition, traffic calming on golf road	63	<i>"Lack of footpath linking village – from one side to the other".</i> <i>"Needs more parking in village".</i> <i>"Traffic on golf links road needs to slow down before someone is seriously injured or worse".</i>
Appearance of Village & Open Spaces: goats & damage by them, under development of pier, litter, facelift for some buildings in village, too many signs/variety of signs	27	<i>"Wild goats destroy all the flowers & hedges".</i> <i>"Pier needs further development".</i> <i>"Rubbish being thrown here and there".</i> <i>"Shabby signage in village"</i>
Public Services no playground, no public toilet in village/Murrivaugh beach, graveyard needs drainage, lack of broadband	21	<i>"No playground facilities for young children".</i> <i>"No public toilet in village"</i> <i>"No toilets at Murrivaugh beach"</i> <i>"Graveyard needs to be drained".</i>
Lack of Community Facilities & Events: lack of community spirit/people not pulling together, not enough amenities/services, nothing for tourist if raining, no summer events	12	<i>"There should be a nice friendly bar and lounge with a restaurant".</i> <i>"If the weather is bad in summer there is virtually nothing for tourists to do".</i> <i>"Not enough local amenities available".</i>
Sports Development no football pitch, golf course not 18 hole, more sporting activities	11	<i>"The lack of a football pitch facility".</i> <i>"A proper 18 hole golf course, this would benefit both the local community and attract visitors to the area".</i> <i>"More sporting activities & facilities required e.g. cycling club, swimming club etc".</i>
Youth: Lack of youth club & things to do, not enough young settling in Mulranny	11	<i>"Better facilities for the young people".</i> <i>"We need youth to settle here".</i> <i>"Lack of things for young people to do (aged 13-18 group)".</i>

MULRANNY - 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 Mulranny would be like in 10 years time.

Mulranny, with its beautiful coastal setting on the shores of Clew Bay, will have preserved and enhanced its natural environment. It will be a great holiday centre and a good place to live and work within an enterprising and organised community.

Natural and beautiful coastal setting

The preservation and enhancement of our beaches and water quality along with the machair and coastal environment will protect and sustain our beautiful coast. The creation of good access to the coast and hills will benefit everyone.

Great holiday centre

We will have developed and promoted Mulranny as an attractive village with good beaches, walks, golf links, sailing and outdoor activities and have made it the great holiday centre it deserves to be as well as being a hub for visitors interested in visiting Achill or the Erris peninsula.

A good place to live and work

The development of community facilities and good access to services with safe roads and attractive buildings will have made Mulranny an ideal place to live and work.

An enterprising and organised community

Community organisations will have worked together to create a vibrant local community and economy.



Guided Walks Mulranny.

MAIN STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES

These are the main strategies and priorities the community will work towards achieving in partnership with public agencies and other supporters.

ENVIRONMENT & OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

The maintenance of our machair and coastal environment with clean beaches and water quality is a key factor in Mulranny preserving its beautiful and natural location. The development of outdoor activities and walks with good access to the coast and hills will make Mulranny an attractive place for locals and tourists. Expanding our recycling programme will help our local environment.

Main Priorities

1. Preserve and maintain machair and coastal environment
2. Create outdoor activities and walks
3. Extend pier and golf links
4. Improve recycling facilities

VISUAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE VILLAGE

We see the Tidy Town Group continuing their great work to make Mulranny a clean and picturesque village. The community would like to see further improvements such as standardising signage, action to reduce litter and improving undeveloped and vacant buildings. We can also make more of our heritage; by recording it, producing booklets and incorporating it in signage and name plaques identifying areas around Mulranny.

Main Priorities

1. Standardise signage
2. Control litter
3. Improve building frontages
4. Record and use place names

TOURISM & PROMOTION

Mulranny has always been a tourist magnet and remains so today. A tourism group will be set up to promote Mulranny as the tourist destination in the West. We will promote it as a great place for clean beaches and outdoor activities including walks, golf links, sailing and boating. Our village will be attractive and will be a hub for tourists who want to take day trips to Achill or the Erris peninsula.

Main Priorities

1. Set up Tourism Group
2. Create Website
3. Promote Mulranny as hub for Achill and Erris peninsula

ROADS, TRAFFIC AND PARKING

A range of traffic, parking, footpath and road improvements would make Mulranny a safe and attractive place that works well for locals and visitors. Traffic calming measures are needed to slow down traffic going through the village and on the golf links road. Footpaths need to be extended from one end of the village to the other and a pedestrian crossing is needed in the centre of the village. Parking should be improved and there is the opportunity to create parking/viewing/picnic areas along the main village road. Improved road surface and pedestrian safety are also a priority.

Main Priorities

1. Traffic calming through the village and on Golf Links road
2. Extend footpaths through the village
3. Improve parking
4. Improve narrow roads around Mulranny

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

We need to provide more for our growing population of young people including a playground, sports ground and more activities such as a youth group. There is a need to provide more for older people; to make them aware of services available locally. More information regarding health services and on local events and activities is also a priority.

Main priorities

1. Playground
2. Sports Ground
3. Activities for a youth group and older people
4. Increased accessibility and awareness of Primary Care Services
5. Village Information Board

LOCAL ECONOMY

Priorities identified by the community include improving broadband, setting up a local café, establishing a farmers market, a 24-hour ATM and developing small business units in the village.

Main priorities

1. Improve Broadband
2. Set-up Café/Restaurant
3. Farmers Market
4. 24 hour service ATM
5. Small Business Units



Action

Some of the first steps to be taken to develop our priorities.

THEME 1.

ENVIRONMENT AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

PRIORITY 1

Preserve and maintain coastal environment

- Continue work on coastal erosion
- Improve beach access at Murrivaugh in consultation with landowners, at Cushleeka and maintain blue flag status
- Provide toilets at Murrivaugh in consultation with landowners
Upgrade toilets and provide outdoor shower facilities at blue flag beach
- Work on upgrading the causeway

PRIORITY 2

Create outdoor activities and walks

- Consider what outdoor activities are suitable to the area
- Explore options to extend current walks and cycling paths
- Look at ways of developing water sports
- Set up a hill-walking group to promote and encourage a variety of walks in the Nephin mountain range

PRIORITY 3

Extend the pier and golf links

- Develop proposals for extending the pier
- Investigate the feasibility of building a marina
- Research options for extending the golf links

PRIORITY 4

Improve recycling facilities

- Consider what additional types of recycling are needed
- Develop a central area easily accessed by the community

Action by

Local action

The present Erosion and Coastal Group would work to maintain and improve the coastal environment. Set up a new Outdoor Activities Group involving existing walks group and new interested people including The Mulranny Park Hotel. The pier group could work on the extension. Landowners and the Golf Club could work on the extension of the grounds. Tidy towns group could develop recycling centre.

Support organisations

Coastal environment – FÁS, RSS, MCC, Heritage Council, SWMDC
Pier and golf extension – Dept. of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Dept. of Marine, Fáilte Ireland, Recycling Facilities – MCC, Private Waste Collection Company

THEME 2

VISUAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE VILLAGE

PRIORITY 1

Standardise signage

- Photograph all signage currently in use
- Research other communities for signage options and consult regulations set down by Mayo County Council
- Present the findings to the community on the best way forward

PRIORITY 2

Control litter

- Identify litter areas
- Local awareness campaign and clean ups with involvement of school
- Continued involvement in Tidy Towns campaign.

PRIORITY 3

Improve building frontage

- Identify unfinished building sites and derelict buildings in need of repair
- Encourage owners to look at options for improvement

PRIORITY 4

Record place names

- Set up a new heritage group
- Identify the areas to be covered and assign members to do research
- Explore potential of printing results in a booklet or map

Action by

Local action

The current Tidy Towns Group with the school and local residents.

Support organisations

Signage – Mayo Co. Co.,
Litter Control – Mayo Co. Co., FÁS,
Village Enhancement – Mayo Co. Co., SWMDC,
Record Names – Heritage Officer

THEME 3

TOURISM AND PROMOTION

PRIORITY 1

Tourism Group

- Set up a new group to work on all aspects of tourism

PRIORITY 2

Create a web-site

- Research and develop a web-site for Mulranny
- Identify and promote key tourist attractions both locally and internationally
- Appoint person(s) to maintain and update the web site

PRIORITY 3

Promote Mulranny

- Promote Mulranny as a hub for tourists making trips to Achill,

- Ballycroy National Park and the Erris peninsula
- Research and work with Fáilte Ireland to improve Mulranny's profile
- Develop a logo or sign that will identify Mulranny

Action by

Local action

A new tourism group to include local business representatives.

Support organisations

Website & Promotion – Fáilte Ireland, Ireland West

THEME 4

ROADS, TRAFFIC AND PARKING

PRIORITY 1

Traffic Calming to slow down traffic

- Consult with County Council and NRA on their plans for Mulranny
- Develop our own proposals of areas where speed control could be located
- Look at reducing the speed limit and speed control on the golf links road

PRIORITY 2

Footpaths through the village

- Village Design Plan
- Research plans by County Council and NRA
- Consult with community on the proposed plans
- Develop footpaths through the village and on the Murrivaugh and Cushlecka roads

PRIORITY 3

Parking Areas in the village

- Research plans by County Council and NRA
- Identify areas where parking is needed for business, unloading supplies, visitors, public toilet, and picnic/viewing area
- Consult with community and present results to County Council and NRA
- Develop parking areas through the village

Action by

Local action

A new roads action group to include local business, school and residents.

Support organisations

Traffic Calming, footpaths and parking – Mayo County Council and NRA

THEME 5

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

PRIORITY 1

Playground

- Create a playground group
- Look at potential location and design of the playground
- Consult with Mayo County Council and present plans to the community
- Consider ways of fundraising

PRIORITY 2

Sports Ground

- Support the group already working on this project
- Present plans to the community
- Support with fund raising

PRIORITY 3

Activities for Youth and Older People

- Create a Foróige Club/No Name Club
- Look at involving the youth in the community with Tidy Towns, Tourism, St. Brendan's and care of the elderly
- Support an active retirement group and provision of more activities for the older population
- Consider ways to optimise existing transport at St. Brendan's to benefit older people in the wider community

PRIORITY 4

Increase Accessibility to Health Services

- Raise awareness of availability of existing services e.g. Physiotherapy, Chiropodist & psychiatric services in the Primary Care Centre and St. Brendan's
- Augment services with Community based O.T.
- Increase community chiropody services
- Increase awareness of day care services

PRIORITY 5

Village Information Board

- Research best location and design for the board
- Consider funding for the board and maintenance
- Appoint a person(s) to take charge of posting notices
- Produce village directory of services available

Action by

Local action

Set up a new Community Facilities and Services Action Group with existing and new interested people. This should include the GAA, Soccer Club, Tidy Towns, St. Brendan's and Carers Association.

Support organisations

Playground – Mayo County Council, SWMDC

Sports Ground – Mayo Sports Partnership, Sports Council, MCC

Transport – HSE, Rural Transport Initiative, SWMDC

Health Services – HSE Information Board – Fáilte Ireland, SWMDC

THEME 6

LOCAL ECONOMY

PRIORITY 1

Improve Broadband

- Research companies providing broadband and potential to increase this service
- Explore the community's current needs both business and residential
- Consider options that will provide the best service to the community

PRIORITY 2

Café/Restaurant

- Explore the potential of developing a centrally located café/restaurant
- Research the possibility of a local person starting this service

PRIORITY 3

Farmers Market

- Research the potential of a Farmers Market in the Amenity Centre
- Explore the number of farmers and other food providers interested in taking part
- Meet with other established markets to learn from their experience on regulations etc

PRIORITY 4

Public 24 hour ATM

- Research Banks that are willing to provide a public ATM 24 hour service
- Identify potential location
- Lobby to provide service

PRIORITY 5

Small Business Units

- Explore possible existing building location that could be turned into business units
- Research potential businesses for these units, how they might enhance the community and support tourism

Action by

Local action

Set up a New Local Economy Action Group with representation from Mulranny Industrial Dev Trust Co. Ltd. and new interested people.

Support organisations

Broadband – Local County Councillors

Café/Restaurant – Local Enterprise

Farmers Market – SWMDC, IFA

Public ATM – Banks, Local Business

Small Business Units – Enterprise Ireland, County Enterprise Board

MAKING IT HAPPEN

This plan gives the community of Mulranny and its organisations a strong guide on what we need to work on over the next few years.

Action Groups

We are setting up a number of action groups to progress each of the themes and their priority projects and actions as set down in this Plan.

- Environment & Outdoor Activities
- Visual Improvements to the Village
- Tourism & Promotion
- Community Facilities and Activities
- Roads, Traffic and Parking
- Local Economy



Mulranny Causeway.

Umbrella Organisation

Mulranny is now looking at how best we can organise ourselves to take forward and deliver the actions identified in this plan. We are keen to work in a co-ordinated and inclusive way as we explore an ideal organisation to have an overview of the plan as a whole. It may be the case that we will need to establish a Mulranny Community Futures Council – to support the work of the Action Groups. This could be a vehicle for fund raising for the different projects. We will decide this in due course 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.

Mayo Community Futures

2010-2015

MULRANNY ACTION PLAN 2010-2015

Mulranny 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 communities 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 their 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 Company and the VEC.



Fóram Pobal Chontae Mhaigh Eo
Mayo County Community Forum



MAYO VEC
Delivering Educational Excellence



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.
It supports the development and implementation of Mayo Community Futures.
Contact: Colin Roxburgh at colin.rox@cali.co.uk

