

Roscrea Community Action Plan 2016 – 2019

November 2015



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

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❖ A special thank you goes to Brian Redmond Photography for the cover photograph of the report.

Executive Summary

The economic and social forecast for Ireland is positive and it is predicted nationally, we are on the road to recovery. Nationally unemployment rates are dropping and job opportunities are improving.

These improvements are slower to reach some areas. There are pockets in Tipperary, including Roscrea, where deprivation is high and families are struggling. Many rural towns, families and communities are under pressure and face day to day challenges. These communities need support to access facilities and services which can empower them to improve their quality of life and the life chance of their children and young people.

Roscrea has great assets including: built heritage, natural history, a great ethos of volunteering, a vibrant and active community and a community that is ready to help themselves. However, Roscrea has significant issues in terms of unemployment, high number of people living in disadvantage, low education levels and safety and security issues.

Roscrea has been prioritised in the County Tipperary Local Economic and Community Plan as being in need of an interagency focus to develop a broad based, community focused and realistic plan for Roscrea that can meet the needs of its residents. Tipperary County Council have taken the lead in support for the development of this plan. NTLP were commissioned by Tipperary County Council to develop this plan with key agencies, communities groups and business in Roscrea. The plan was developed over the last six months and identifies key actions in the business, social, community and environment areas. There was widespread consultation with all stakeholders and the community and it is hoped there will be ongoing commitment to the implementation of the plan from all the key stakeholders.

Actions have been developed under the themes of:

- Environment and Security
- Community Wellbeing – Youth and Families
- Enterprise, Training and Employment
- Corporate Structure

The themes and associated actions cover a variety of quality of life issues. Building good opportunity and access to supports for the citizens of Roscrea and a sustainable, robust and socially inclusive community were the key aspirations in the making of the plan.

Structures for the implementation of the plan have been developed which include : A Community Action Partnership(CAP) who will oversee the implementation of the plan. The CAP Roscrea will be co-ordinated by Tipperary County Council and will comprise key agencies including, The Garda Síochána, North Tipperary LEADER Partnership, TUSLA, Local Enterprise Office, Tipperary County Council, Tipperary Education and Training Board and community representatives from each of the sub group themes.

Section 1 of the plan provides an introduction to the plan and its objectives. This chapter also looks at the Process and framework that was engaged to formulate the plan and how actions may be implemented into the future.

Section 2 provides a socio economic profile of Roscrea including current data on population, education, employment and social class. The chapter also looks at Roscrea’s place on the Pobal Deprivation index. Detailed Residential Estate Profiles, an audit of existing public services and organisations, and review of current community and agency initiatives is presented next in the Section. Completing the chapter is a summary of the consultation meetings and a list of Assets and Challenges for Roscrea that feed directly into the formation of actions.

Section 3 gives details of the 131 Actions that have been developed as part of the plan.

The themes and associated actions cover a variety of quality of life issues including building good opportunity and access to supports for the citizens of Roscrea and a sustainable, robust and socially inclusive community.

This Roscrea Community Action Plan provides a roadmap for communities, businesses and agencies to deliver better opportunities for the people of Roscrea. The Roscrea Community Action Plan 2016-2019 has been developed by the community for the community with the support of key agencies, to pave the way to a brighter future for the people living in Roscrea.

Sinead Carr

Director of Services
Community and Economic Development
Tipperary County Council

Foreword



Seamus Hanafin,
Cathaoirleach,
Tipperary County Council.

Roscrea has undergone significant change over the past decade and like most rural towns, it was impacted on significantly by the downturn in the economy. This opportunity to develop a Community Action Plan for Roscrea has provided a wonderful platform for an in-depth examination of both the economic and social aspects of the town. The development of the Plan has enabled valuable engagement throughout the town across all key aspects of economic, community and social inclusion issues. An additional consequence of the process has been a wider understanding of the depth and richness of the assets within Roscrea which include a rich heritage and strong sense of community.

At the core of this plan lie the views from our communities of what their needs are. The plan provides a focus for the shared vision of a better quality of life for the citizens of Roscrea and the creation of economic opportunity to address issues affecting employment. As a Council we now are mandated to oversee progress of the Roscrea CAP on an annual basis and to support the Roscrea Community Action partnership in implementing the plan.



Sinead Carr
Director of Services
Community and Economic
Development
Tipperary County Council.

Welcome to the Roscrea Community Action Partnership Plan. Roscrea is already a great place to live and a wonderful ethos of volunteerism and community spirit exists within this town. We now have a unique opportunity to make it even better to the benefit of all the residents and businesses.

The launching of the CAP is a step forward for Roscrea as we now have one plan for all of the groups in Roscrea which has allowed the communities themselves indicate their priorities for the future. As such it has laid out a basis through which the various agencies and stakeholders can work in partnership with the communities to improve their overall quality of life. The appropriate structures will now be put in place which will allow the communities to agree annual actions taken from this document and which will allow them to interact and interface with all of the key agencies on a respectful and productive basis. I would anticipate that there will be individuals, agencies and groups from all sectors and that we can work respectfully with all for the good of the community.

Section 1

1.1 Introduction and Methodology

Roscrea, like any town, is made up of numerous interest groups, representative groups and sectors and all have a variety of different issues and expectations in terms of improving their quality of life. Given the variety of issues, it is considered important that the various sectors and groups work together to agree common priorities.

Working together will strengthen the hand of Roscrea in addressing some of the underlying economic and social structural issues currently preventing it from realising its potential.

Tipperary County Council Commissioned the development of this document Roscrea Community Action Plan - 2016 – 2019, with a view to bringing all of the varying groups and issues together to develop one common document that all of the varying organisations and groups work off and report into in terms of the priorities for the town.



Photo by: Gearoid Fitzgibbon, NTL

A community development worker was recruited and hosted by North Tipperary LEADER Partnership to facilitate the development of the plan by working with all the relevant agencies and groups in the town to support them to feed into the development of the Plan. The methodology used for the development of this plan was based on similar approaches that have proven to work effectively in the past with the RAPID programme.

Broad consultations with residents, community organisations and agencies, local authority staff, and local development company staff was undertaken as part of the development of this plan. An informal approach of one on one or small group meetings were also held to engage with the community. This Community Action Plan has been developed alongside and with the knowledgeable community in Roscrea and the actions contained herein are a reflection of the agreed community's priorities for the town over the next 3 years.

1.2 Process and Framework

Steps followed in the development of the Strategy Document outlined below:

Timeline	Action
July 2015	Familiarisation with the physical layout and environment of Roscrea Town. Identification of the physical location of vulnerable communities, public buildings and services in the town.
July –September 2015	One to One and small group meetings with community groups and agencies operating in Roscrea. Listening to and recording what Roscrea is to the people that live and work there. Discussion around the concept of a Community Action Partnership (CAP) for Roscrea, how it would work and what to expect from being involved. Introduction of the concept of a Community Action Plan Document as a method of recording work and communicating to agencies grass roots issues and opportunities.
September 2015	Research and preparation of audit of services and resources, profile of housing estates and review of current key projects in Roscrea town.
24 th September 2015	Community Action Partnership Roscrea Opening Meeting: 1. Establish Terms of reference for the partnership 2. Decide on focus groups, community and agency reps, to feed into the Strategy Document. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus Groups under CAP Roscrea a. Enterprise, Training and Employment b. Environment and Safety c. Youth and Families d. Community Wellbeing
October 2015	Compile and collate recordings from the four focus groups assigned at the opening CAP Roscrea meeting and distribute copies to all attendee's. Schedule 2 nd meeting of Focus groups. 2 nd meeting provides the opportunity to reflect on initial points and explore priorities and phasing of possible actions. Compile and collate recordings from 2 nd meeting of the 4 focus groups, distribute copies to all attendee's. Community and Wellbeing is merged with Youth and Families Focus Group to utilise community reps in the most effective manner.
19 th October 2015	Preparation and distribution of 1 st DRAFT Roscrea Community Action Plan to NTLP and Tipperary Co Co for comment and discussion.
11 th November	Distribution of 2 nd DRAFT Roscrea Community Action Plan to community and agency representatives for comment and feedback.
17 th October 2015	Meeting of CAP Roscrea to receive feedback and comment on the Roscrea Community Action Plan.
4th December 2015	Launch of Roscrea Community Action Plan by Minister Alan Kelly at 2pm, Rackett Hall, Roscrea.

1.3 Implementation of the Roscrea Community Action Plan

The implementation of the Roscrea Community Action Plan requires all parties to work together in a co-ordinated way, community groups and agencies alike. It is envisaged that the agencies will assist with driving the actions forward by calling meetings, providing administration support and delivering advice and information. The community will take the Community Action Plan as their own, prioritising actions and assigning efforts to each, so progressing implementation of the plan. Tipperary Co Co, Community and Enterprise Department will facilitate and monitor the overall progress of the Community Action Partnership Roscrea (CAP) structure. As part of the consultation process completed to date on the CAP Roscrea, 3 focus groups have been formed and lead agencies have agreed to support them:

- a) Environment and Safety
 - Lead Agency: Tipperary Co Co
- b) Community Wellbeing – Youth and Families
 - Lead Agency: North Tipperary LEADER Partnership
- c) Enterprise Training and Employment
 - Lead Agencies: Local Enterprise Office and Tipperary Education and Training Board

It is proposed that:

- The lead agencies will call the 3 focus groups together on 6 occasions per annum to review and assign actions and monitor progress.
- Focus groups will feed into the overall CAP Roscrea to be called together by Tipperary Co Co on 3 occasions per annum.
- The meeting of the CAP Roscrea will receive reports from representatives of the focus groups, monitor the Community Action Plan and ongoing implementation of same. The CAP Roscrea will also reflect on any additional issues and or proposals being raised by the community for which agencies will provide advice and or solutions where appropriate.
- The CAP Roscrea meetings will facilitate communities on the ground to feed opportunities, needs and issues back to the heart of participating agencies enabling enhanced supports where and how they are needed for Roscrea.

Section 2 – Roscrea Town Profile

2.1 Roscrea

Roscrea is located in a central position nationally and in the middle eastern part of Tipperary, close to the Offaly and Laois borders. The Slieve Bloom Mountains lie just north of Roscrea, otherwise the topography surrounding the town is gently undulating low land pasture and natural grassland. The town is located on the National Primary Road N62 providing good road connections to Birr (20km) and Thurles (34km) with links to the E20 Dublin Limerick motorway. Three other regional roads provide links to the hinterland and villages within, Kinnity (18km), Durrow (10km) and Dunkerrin (33km). Iarnrod Eireann operate a train service out of Roscrea that connect the town to the main centres of Dublin and Cork.



TIPPERARY MAP – Roscrea town
Map from www.roscreaonline.ie



ROSCREA TOWN AERIAL VIEW – red dots indicate numerous buildings and sites of archaeological/historical importance.

Map from www.archaeology.ie

2.2 Population and Households

According to the 2011 Census, Roscrea has a population of 5,403. The Total population of Roscrea Town in 2006 was 4910, showing an increase of 9.12% slightly higher than the national average of 8.2%. The population of the town is generally young with 21% of the population being 12 years of age or under and almost 40% being under the age of 24.

Age Range	0-12	13-18	19-24	25-44	45-64	64+
Persons	1068	423	405	1730	1074	703

There are 3026 single persons in the town, this represents 56% of the population which is very high compared to the national rural rate for single persons which sits at 36%. 1761 (32% of population) are married couples and 616 widowed, divorced or separated.

There are 2010 households in Roscrea. 538 of the households are single person occupancy, 329 are couples without children, 691 consist of two parent families with children. 258 of those households are single parent with children a rate of 12.8% slightly higher than the national average of 10.9%.

The National average for occupancy of social housing (local authority or voluntary housing organisation provision) is 9% and when compared to Roscrea the figure is double this at 18%.

Roscrea's traveller population is 144 and this presents a clear concentration of the minority group within County Tipperary.

There is diversity in the population of Roscrea with 911 people (representing 16.9% of the population) being of non Irish nationality with 356 (39%) of these people state that they have a poor grasp of the English language.

2.3 Education

There are two secondary schools in Roscrea that have a total of 1062 pupils, while five national schools cater for students in primary education.

According to the 2011 census of Roscrea, of the population 15 years and over (3472), 1398 people or 40% of the of the potential working population have an education level of lower secondary or less and 20% educated only to primary level. This is noticeable when compared to the greater county Tipperary region where the rate is 16%.

According to the 2011 Census of those 15 years and over 280 have qualifications in Engineering, Manufacturing and Construction whilst other area of skill in the population are social science, business and law and health and welfare qualifications also feature.

2.4 Employment and Social Class

Of the total population living in Roscrea in 2011, 1819 (36%) were at work. 501 (27%) of working people commute half an hour or more to their place of work and are working out of Roscrea Town.

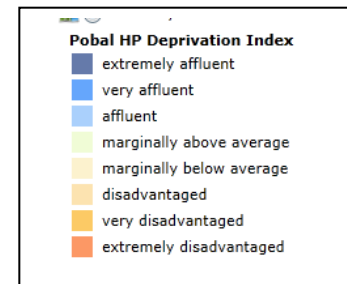
The national employment rate in Census 2011, 19% unemployment and 81% in employment is directly comparable to that overall in Tipperary. When compared to Roscrea however there are measurable differences with the significantly higher rate of unemployment set at 28.2%. In the most disadvantaged areas of Roscrea, covering a population of 1531, the unemployment rate for men rose by almost 30% between 2006 and 2011 from 22% to 51% and for women in the same areas the unemployment rate rose from 21% to 39% in the same period or 18%.

When looking at Census 2011 and social class, of 4005 who responded 1915 individuals consider themselves manually skilled or semi-skilled representing nearly 50% of the workforce. 43% professional, managerial or technical and 7% are unskilled.

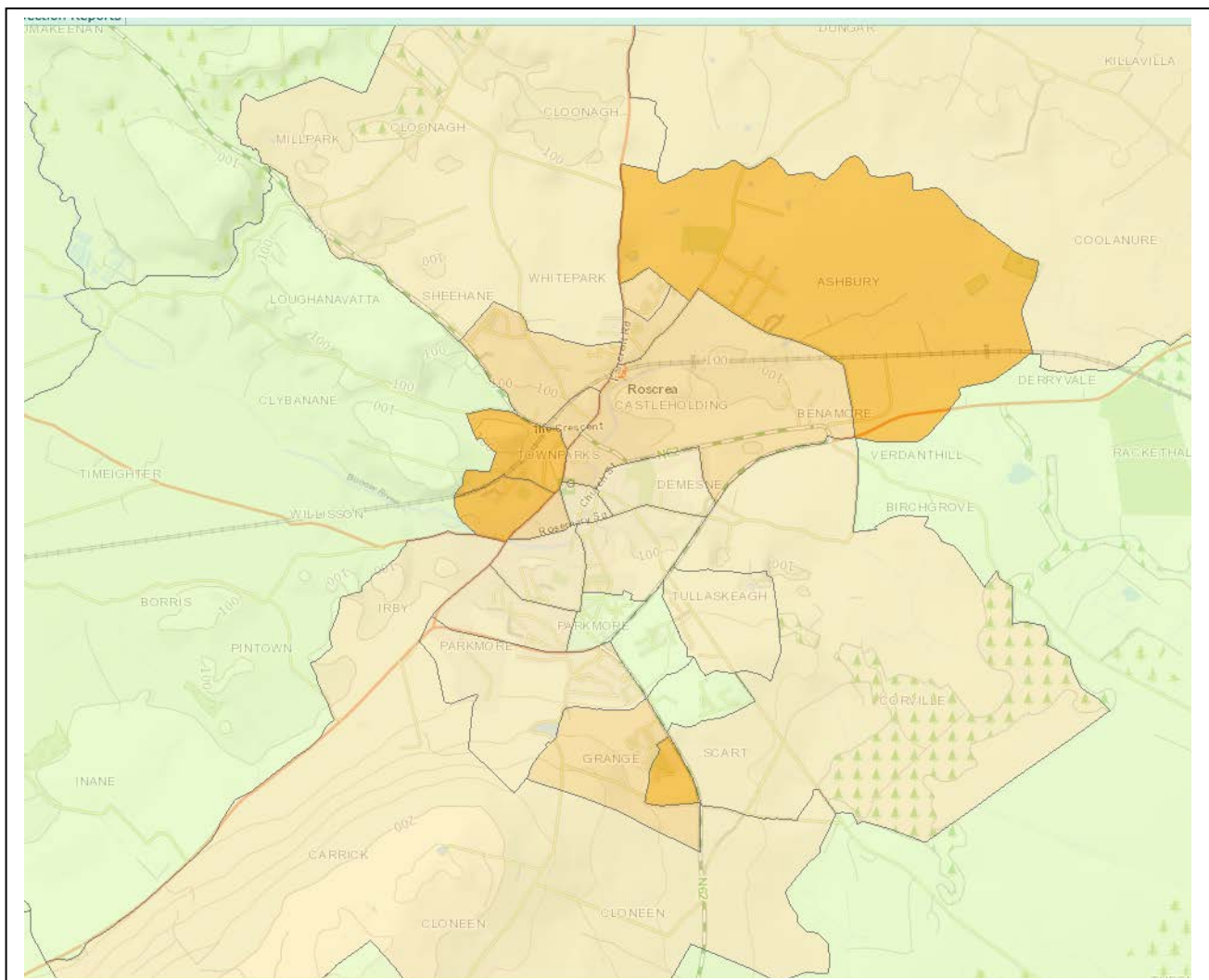
2.5 Deprivation Index

The Pobal HP Deprivation Index is a method of measuring the relative affluence or disadvantage of a particular geographical area using data compiled from various censuses. A scoring is given to the area based on a national average of zero and ranging from approximately -35 (being the most disadvantaged) to +35 (being the most affluent). Review of the following aspect helps to inform the score:

- Population Change
- Age Dependency Ratio
- Lone Parent Ratio
- Primary Education Only
- Third Level Education
- Unemployment Rate (male and female)
- Proportion living in Local Authority Rented Housing



ROSCREA DEPRIVATION INDEX MAP



Map from: www.maps.pobal.ie

In Roscrea Pobal has identified 4 areas that are 'very disadvantaged' and most others are 'disadvantaged' or 'below average'. The majority of the community in Roscrea is living at a disadvantage when compared to the county or nationally.

With a score of -24.4 Small Area No 217152010 has the second highest deprivation score in Tipperary and is measured as 'very disadvantaged'. The population of this area is 220, of which 108 are either under the age of 24 or over the age of 65 and considered dependent. 46 people in this community have a disability representing 21% of the population of this area. Unemployment in this area for males in 2011 was 48%. Education is low with 36.6% of the population being educated to primary level only. Of 77 households 25 (32%) do not have a car. Kennedy Park housing estate is located in this region of Roscrea.

Small Areas 217152015 and 217152026 when combined have a deprivation score of -20.86 and are measured as 'very disadvantaged'. The population of this area is 437, of which 223 are either under the age of 24 or over the age of 65, 53% of the community are dependent. 108 people in this community have a disability representing just below a quarter of the population at 24.7%. The average unemployment rate in this area of Roscrea in 2011 for males was 52.2%. Chapel Lane Housing Estate is located in this region of the town.

Small Area 217152018 has a deprivation score of -21.2 and is measured as 'very disadvantaged'. The population of this area is 307, of which 136 are either under the age of 24 or over the age of 65 and considered dependent. 61 People in this community have a disability or almost 20% of the population. Of 104 households 30 (29%) do not have a car. Ashbury Housing Estate is located in this region of Roscrea.


Small Area 217152019 has a deprivation score of -19.3 and is measured as 'disadvantaged'. The population of this area is 211, of which 147 are either under the age of 24 or over the age of 65, this means a massive 70% of the people in this area are considered dependent. Alongside this there is a male unemployment rate of nearly 60%. The lone parents ratio is high in this area at 51. Out of 77 households, 25 do not have access to a car (32%). Gleann Glas Housing estate is located in this small area of Roscrea.

Small Area 217122020 has a deprivation score of -15.9 and is measured as 'disadvantaged'. The population of this area is 145, of which 75 are under the age of 24 or over the age of 65. This means that 51% of the population of the area are considered dependent. 34 people, or 23% of the population have a disability. Employment levels in this small area are challenging with an unemployment rate for males of 42.9% and for females 34.4%. In this area there is low levels of education with 29% of the population educated to primary level only. Assumption Park is located in this area of Roscrea.

In summary there is 1531 people of a total population of 5403 in Roscrea living in 'disadvantaged' or 'very disadvantaged' areas, this represents 28% of the population. Characteristics of these areas include the following:


- High dependency rates: 45% of the population are under the age of 24 or over the age of 65.
 - The population of young people under the age of 24 in these areas is 544 representing 35.5% of the population.
 - The population of older people over the age of 65 in these areas is 132 representing 8.5% of the population.
- High unemployment rates: for males in 2011 census the average unemployment rate was 51.45% and for women 39.01%.
- High levels of disability: across the 7 areas 276 people describe themselves as having a disability. This is 18% of the population of the area.
- Low levels of access to transport: Of 495 households 166 do not have access to a car. This represents 33.5% of the population.
- High Lone Parents Ratios


2.6 Housing Estate Profiles

Residential Estate Profile	
Name	Kennedy Park Estate
Location	Templemore Road, Roscrea
No of Houses	166 Houses. First phase started in mid 1960's by Tipperary Co Co.
Residents Group	Kennedy Park Residents Association - Active Facebook page.
Pobal Deprivation Index	Score -24.4 = very disadvantaged
Map Map from www.archaeology.ie	
Activities	<p>Kennedy Park Estate is a large estate of 166 dwellings split up into three parts – Kennedy Park, Brophy Terrace and Cois Carrig. Only 16 of these houses are now owned and rented by Tipperary Co Co. There are 645 residents living in Kennedy Park Estate. The estate is located on the southern fringes of Roscrea on the N62 and approximately 1.5 Kilometres from the town centre. There are a number of services/supports in the area including two small convenience shops and a public house across the road from the estate. The HSE Primary Care Facility and St Cronin's Care Home share a boundary with the estate also.</p> <p>Kennedy Park Estate has a very active residents association. . They have very good engagement with all the residents in the estate and are funding their activities through a weekly €2.00 collection from all households that are able to contribute. There is no community house in the estate however a field at the back of the estate is being used regularly by Roscrea United Football Club. All the levelling and preparation work done so far on this site has been completed by the Roscrea United and Kennedy Park Residents Association. The Residents Association are very energetic and hold community events throughout the year to support youth and elderly in the estate. These events/projects include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Halloween Disco • Coffee Mornings for the elderly – every second week • Youth Easter party • Youth Christmas party • Sports Equipment for community use

- Purchase of container as community storage

The residents committee would greatly welcome access to a community house as a place to meet and host events. They are currently using the Auburn Lodge public house across the road as a venue for most of their activities including the coffee mornings. The residents group engage with others outside the estate in community wide events and locally with St Cronin's day care centre. The residents group revealed local problems with anti social behaviour and drug use that have occurred in the past. This activity was linked to an unoccupied piece of land to the south of the estate and was thankfully dealt with through physical management of vegetation and upgrading natural surveillance of the area. The community would appreciate ongoing support from An Garda Siochana and Tipperary Co Co in relation to monitoring similar problems into the future.


Residential Estate Profile	
Name	Gleann Glas Estate
Location	Glentara, Roscrea
No of Houses	74 Houses completed in 2 phases during 2003-2004 by Tipperary Co Co.
Residents Group	Gleann Glas Residents Group - Active Facebook page
Pobal Deprivation Index	Score -19.3 = Disadvantaged
Map: Map from www.archaeology.ie	
Activities	<p>There are 74 dwellings housing in Gleann Glas with 250 residents, 110 of which are children. The estate is located to the north of Roscrea town centre on the R421 approximately 1.5 kilometers from the town centre. The Hurling field is located just west of the estate. There are no convenience stores or other basic services in the locality. The formation of the residents group occurred in 2011 with the support of Housing Tenant Liaison Officer Philip Quinlan. The group has grown from strength to strength since. The group have very good engagement with all the residents in the estate and are funding their activities through a weekly €2.00 collection from all households that are able to contribute. The group are also funded by a range of other organisations such as NTL, Tipperary Sports Partnership and TESCO. There is no community house in the estate however the group are progressing their aspiration of securing a shared space within the community with the Tipperary Co Co Housing Tenant Liaison Officer. Gleann Glas Residents Group are proactive and hold community events throughout the year to support youth and elderly in the estate. These events/projects include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lifting the lanterns • Child Protection Course Completed by the committee • Halloween Party • Woman's Group – 15 attend regular meetings • Christmas Party - 200 children from the town attended this year. • Youth trip to Aviva Stadium to see Turkey and Ireland game. <p>The residents committee would greatly welcome access to a community house as a place to meet and host events. Meeting costs for insurance is difficult and they would welcome an umbrella insurance system for their group and all community groups in Roscrea. In the past they have utilised the community house in Copper Beech estate nearby however difficulties with meeting costs for insurance and rent have disabled this arrangement. Many of the activities and events that are held in Gleann Glas are also attended by the greater Roscrea community and groups from other housing estates.</p>

Residential Estate Profile	
Name	Ashbury Estate
Location	Ashbury Road, Roscrea
No of Houses	150 Houses. First built in early 1900's. Legion Villa's Built in 1920's by British Legion. South Ashbury was completed in 2001. The Callows was completed in 2005.
Residents Group	Ashbury Residents Group - Active Facebook Page
Pobal Deprivation Index	Score -21.2 = Very disadvantaged
Map Map from www.archaeology.ie	
Activities	<p>There are 92 dwellings in Ashbury Estat, 20 of which are owned and rented by Tipperary Co Co. The population is made up of approximately 150 adults and 63 children. The estate is located 1.5 kilometers to the north of Roscrea town centre on Ashbury Road. The Hurling field is located immediately west of the estate. There are no convenience services in the area. The residents group in Ashbury are active and support the community in a number of ways. They fund their activities through a weekly €2.00 collection from all households that are able to contribute. The group also receive small funds from a range of local organisations such as NTLP, Tipperary Sports Partnership and TESCO. The community does not have a community house in the estate and in the past have met in the GAA building adjacent. An active group the Ashbury Residents Group hold regular community events throughout the year to support youth and elderly in the estate. They have also implemented physical enhancements in the estate. These events/projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth trip to Tayto Park. • Bale of Briquett's for elderly at Christmas • Avenue tree planting to the street • WW1 Memorial Garden <p>Ashbury is the oldest estate in Roscrea and has an interesting history and located on the site of Ashbury House. Ashbury House had one of the first Tennis courts in Ireland which brought gentry from all over the country to play competitions. The British Legion housed many men who fought in the WW1/2. At Number 9 legion Villas lived A recipient of the prestigious award the VC cross, Mr Jack Moyney.</p> <p>In Ashbury security and safety for local residents was bought up as an issue for concern during informal consulatations. The community feel that the area requires more stringent policing to make residents feel safe. There is a number</p>


of vacant houses in the southern part of the estate just West of Legion Villas, that appear to have been built recently. These buildings remain empty and are a target for anti-social behaviour and vandalism.


The residents committee would greatly welcome access to a meeting space locally to host events and continue their work. Arrangements for meeting in the GAA space have been suspended due to the groups difficulties in meeting costs for insurance. An action to develop a community umbrella insurance system for their group and all community groups in Roscrea would be very welcome by Ashbury Residents Group. Additionally, an action to facilitate the GAA towards a policy of communal usage would greatly benefit this community. Members of the committee have participated in training delivered by LIT in community development and found the course very beneficial in the ongoing management of the residents committee. According to the Pobal Deprivation Index there was up to 30% of the population of Ashbury estate that do not have access to a car. Also supporting this claim were comments made during consultation that suggest disposable income by residents is often utilised for TAXI rides into the town centre.

There is a majority of housing in the area that was built before developments in energy saving building practices. The estate would benefit from the roll out of a community energy scheme to assist with comfort levels and cost savings in heating and energy consumption.

Residential Estate Profile	
Name	Chapel Lane
Location	Roscrea Town
No of Houses	87 Houses. First built in mid 1960's by Tipperary Co Co.
Residents Group	Chapel Lane Residents Group – No social media or website
Pobal Deprivation Index	Score -20.86 =Very Disadvantaged
Map Map from www.archaeology.ie	
Activities	<p>There are 87 dwellings in Chapel Lane Estate 69 of which are owned and rented by Tipperary Co Co. The estate is located immediately west of the town centre of Roscrea. All services, amenities and supports that exist in the town centre are within easy walking distance of the estate.</p> <p>The community of Chapel Lane has been through a very difficult time in the recent past due to several of their young people dying in tragic circumstances. Understandably this has had a substantial impact on the atmosphere in the estate and targeted supports are required here to support families and individuals.</p> <p>Chapel Lane Residents Group has been active in the past but is currently undergoing a period of modification and committee members and attendance are in flux. The group would benefit from some targeted facilitation and capacity building along with mediation where needed. The residents group has also requested a number of interventions in terms of the physical up-grade of the approach to the estate from the town centre. Currently a derelict green field dominates the approach to the estate and it is not managed well. This site represents an opportunity for a community based project to be supported by agencies.</p> <p>Of note when profiling Chapel Lane Estate is a research study, commissioned by the previous incarnation of the Community Action Partnership Roscrea. This study conducted in 2004 concluded , that at that time, of those surveyed, 78 per cent were “outside the employed category” (O’Sullivan, 2004, p.27). Additionally findings illustrated a low number of survey participants having attained technical, vocational or third level qualifications (O’Sullivan, 2004, p.28). Indeed the study found that the “majority of adults had no formal education or [had] completed their education at lower secondary levels i.e. at Junior Cert, Group Cert, ‘O’ Levels.” Overall the study reflected “a poor self-image of the community with many respondents stating that there were not enough facilities for children, families, young people and people with disabilities.” (O’Sullivan, 2004, p.29). As a result of this study a community family support worker was established in the estate.</p>

	Also notable is the fact that previously there has been a community house in Chapel Lane that was under utilised and as a result returned to the rental scheme. This suggests that the community would benefit from targeted supports, facilitation and capacity building around community activity and action.
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Residential Estate Profile	
Name	Sheehane Estate
Location	Birr Road, Roscrea
No of Houses	64 Houses. First built in 1980's by Tipperary Co Co.
Residents Group	Embryonic – Individual residents showing interest in forming a residents group however efforts in the past have had limited success in consolidating into a formal residents group.
Pobal Deprivation Index	Score -13.6 = disadvantaged
Map Map from www.archaeology.ie	
Activities	<p>There are 65 dwellings housing in Sheehane Estate, 15 of which are owned by Tipperary Co Co. The estate is located to the north of Roscrea town centre on the Birr Road. Amenities within walking distance of the estate include Lidl Supermarket and a car garage approximately 200 metres towards the town centre.</p> <p>There is no residents group in this estate however there are individuals who have voiced an interest in setting one up. This community would benefit from targeted capacity building supports including mentoring from other successful residents groups in the town. There have been some issues reported in regards to safety and security and antisocial behaviour in this area and local residents would appreciate greater monitoring of the area in this regard.</p>


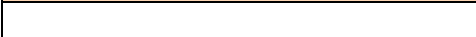







Residential Estate Profile	
Name	Copper Beech Estate
Location	Birr Road, Roscrea
No of Houses	42 RESPOND and 14 Tipperary Co Co houses. Built recently in 2008.
Residents Group	Copper Beech Resident's Association: No social media or website
Pobal Deprivation Index	Score -13.6 = disadvantaged
Map Map from www.archaeology.ie	
Activities	<p>There are 65 dwellings in this housing estate, 42 of which are managed by RESOIND and 13 by Tipperary Co Co. The estate is located immediately adjacent to the train station and approximately 700 metres to the north of Roscrea town centre on the R421</p> <p>There is a successful residents group that is supported by RESPOND in the estate. The residents group are well engaged with the community. This group benefit from a central community house in which the following is held:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult education courses • Seasonal events for children at Christmas and Halloween • 8 Coffee Mornings per year for the elderly • Estate clean up days <p>Copper Beech residents group would be encouraging other nearby group to use their facility but unfortunately insurance is a limiting factor and community groups have to be turned away. A similar difficulty arises with promoting the Community House in Copper Beech for usage for other nearby groups such as Gleann Glas Residents Group. An action to focus on resolving multi use of facilities and insurance issues would benefit all concerned.</p>

Estate Profile Key Points:

- Ashbury, Kennedy Park and Gleann Glas residents groups all raised the cost of insurance being a prohibitive factor for running the groups and would welcome an umbrella insurance scenario.
- Some residents groups are operating very successfully and are able to campaign together to secure funding and develop projects. Other estates lack the capacity to achieve their aspirations and require capacity building, mentoring and facilitation to assist.
- 30% of households in Ashbury, Sheehane and Gleann Glas do not have access to a car and must walk at least 2 km return for convenience goods.
- Ashbury, Kennedy Park and Gleann Glas estates on the fringe of the town, have a high number of households that do not have access to a car and would benefit from some form of supported transportation option or community bus.
- All residential estates bar Copper Beech raised the lack of a meeting space as a prohibitive factor in their efforts to hold events and training in their community.
- Unemployment rates in all the housing estates are much higher than the national average.
- Level of dependency is high in the housing estates in Roscrea with numbers of young, old and disabled being higher than national rates.
- Not all but several housing estates referred to safety, security and antisocial behaviour being an ongoing problem that required tight monitoring and greater agency support.

2.7 Existing Public Services and Organisations in Roscrea

An audit of services and organisation has been undertaken as part of the background study of Roscrea. This table, Appendices No 1, provides a comprehensive listing of all the services and organisations in Roscrea and is colour coded by theme:

	Disability Support
	Public Service
	Health and wellbeing
	Community
	Education and training
	Elderly
	Sport and recreation
	Youth
	Religion and spirituality

A wide range of services and organisations are currently operating in Roscrea to support the community and quality of life in the town. Services and recreation provide opportunities for those most vulnerable such as youth, the elderly and disabled. In general provision is broad based, high quality and easily accessible to those living in the town.

Conclusion: Whilst the community in Roscrea are well serviced at present, there are barriers real or perceived to accessing these services by those whom need them. These barriers can be lifted through a bespoke and targeted approach developed from the bottom up. For some, the obstacle to getting help or support may be as simple as lack of disposable income, lack of transport or a feeling of people knowing your business. For other stigmatised problems in Roscrea, namely drug use and mental health, the services are operating free of charge but are not being utilised by the community. It is gaps like this that need to be intensively targeted with compassion and thought to motivate changes and improvements for acute and localised issues.

2.8 Review of Current Community Initiatives

There are a number of initiatives that have occurred in Roscrea during the last 3 years that have been supported by agencies and community groups and are having a positive impact on the town. These can be considered assets within the community of Roscrea. As a part of the process there has been a review of these initiatives to ascertain their impact and current status. The key initiatives are as follows:

- The Community Survey Report 2015 – Roscrea Stands Up and LIT
- The Roscrea Town Enhancement Plan – Tipperary County Council
- Enterprise Feasibility – LEO
- Tourist Office – ‘Taste of Roscrea’ and Failte

The Community Survey Report 2015 document was prepared and distributed by Ciarain Lynch of LIT in conjunction with Community and residents reps from Roscrea town. 271 households (796 individuals) responded to the questionnaire representing 14.7% of the total population of Roscrea. This representation is considered a sound general reflection of the thoughts and opinions of the community in Roscrea. The survey was intended to gain insight into a range of issues affecting residents of the town rather than a statistical reference document. Over and above general census information questions, the results gathered in regards to residents’ opinions of their home town, their training, education and social services needs, provides the most perspective. Key reflections would include the following:

- Hope in Roscrea is reasonable with just over half (56.6%) the surveyed group agreeing with ‘*We are more hopeful about Roscrea than this time last year*’. 17.14% of respondents disagree with the statement.
- 46.31% of respondents agree that ‘*Roscrea is a better place to live in than it used to be*’ and 20.49% disagree. This reflects that maybe the general community does not feel that Roscrea is improving or dis-improving as a place to live and work as time goes by, but remaining at a static level.
- It appears that the community in Roscrea feel that they have taken matters into their own hands with over 77% agreeing with the statement ‘*The people of Roscrea are helping themselves more*’.
- There is a great sense of community evident in Roscrea with the majority of respondents highlighting 1. Community Spirit and 2. Family and Friends as the best things about Roscrea. This sense of Community provides an excellent opportunity to build on in this community plan. Interestingly the people of Roscrea recognise the geographical location of the town nationally as an asset. The facilities provided that are appreciated most by the community are the youth clubs, sports clubs, swimming pool and quality supermarkets.

- Most highly featured in Matters that need improvement and services that are required:
 - 1. Mental Health Clinic/Drug Rehabilitation Clinic
 - 2. Youth Centre
 - 3. 24hour Doctor and Garda Coverage
 - 4. Homecare Services
 - 5. Adult Recreation Services
 - 6. FAS Courses.

This response indicates that there are concerns in the community in regards to drug use and anti social behaviour. Also reflected is a strong interest in spending time together as a community. Flexible learning opportunities such as those previously provided by FAS would also benefit the community. - There is a focus for the community on improving the safety and quality of life for marginalised groups in the town.

- The survey also suggests that there may be an underlying community of potential entrepreneurs in Roscrea. 12.5% of all those surveyed were interested in starting a business however highlighted that access to finance would be the biggest barrier. Other key issues included are, lack of business skills, knowhow and concerns about impact on social welfare payments.
- The survey indicates a desire for indoor recreation offerings in Roscrea. The following featured highly on the communities wish list:
 - Ten Pin Bowling
 - Tartan Running Track
 - Indoor Children’s Play Area
 - Indoor Hang Out for Youth

Roscrea Town Enhancement Plan was commissioned by Tipperary County Council. Preparation and implementation of the plan has been ongoing for the last 3 years. This document was prepared by the Paul Hogarth Company landscape and urban design consultants over a 3 month period in 2012. The process included schematic design development, public consultation and plan preparation. It was finalised in March 2013 and launched in May 2013. A Steering Group and Implementation Committee is working on realizing individual actions from the plan in Roscrea town. A number of the short term actions are actively being developed by the Roscrea Town Enhancement Implementation Steering Group and are listed below:



1. Place Naming Strategy
2. Walking Trails Development – Sli na Slainte and Monainch Loop Walk
3. Chapel Lane green field site development

4. Roscrea Town Map and Walking Companion Guide – supported by an ambassador programme.
5. Age Friendly Town
6. Castle Street and Main Street Enhancements.
7. Festivals and Events – Music Festival, 1916 Commemoration, Family Fun Days and Taste of Roscrea.
8. Signage Strategy for Roscrea.

Securing the substantial funding required to implement some of the more extensive street scape proposals is a long term goal for the committee. It is a particular focus of the group to begin to implement the Castle Street component of the plan to change the physical face of the town centre and highlight a key heritage building in the town.

Roscrea Enterprise Centre Feasibility Study – The Roscrea Chamber of Commerce and the Local Enterprise Office have been working on the development of an Enterprise Centre for Roscrea. Initial feasibility studies were completed by Momentum Consulting and concluded an active need for an enterprise and business incubation facility. To develop the project further, in August 2015 an application to undertake further feasibility has been submitted by Roscrea Chamber of Commerce to Enterprise Ireland under the Community Enterprise Centre Scheme. The study proposed assessing a number of sites, carrying out further market research and financial evaluation of a new Community Enterprise Centre in Roscrea. A decision on this application for a grant of €25,000 is expected during December.

LEO supports Roscrea on an ongoing basis by holding events in the town and providing supports where they can on request. During the summer North Tipperary Who to Talk To Event was held in Damer House Roscrea and attracted in excess of 130 people. Subsequent to this LEO also held 2 Start Your Own Business Boot Camps in Roscrea in late 2014 with 25 people attending these day long. On an ongoing basis LEO provide one to one and small group business mentoring on request in the town.



Photo from www.roscreaonline.ie

Roscrea Tourism Office – The Taste of Roscrea Committee with assistance from Roscrea Credit Union and Roscrea Chamber of Commerce have developed a Tourist Information Office for Roscrea Town. The office is located in a strategic location on Castle Street outside the entrance to Damer House and adjacent to Coach parking on the historic street. The information point is attended 5 days a week by 2 tourist officers supported under the TUS scheme. Feedback from this venture is very positive with attendance by visitors being greater than first expected. It is a priority to maintain this feature in the town as an effective welcome to visitors and promotion of what Roscrea has to offer.

2.9 Issues Raised at Roscrea CAP Opening Meeting and Focus Group Meetings

The opening meeting of Roscrea Community Action Partnership was held on the 24th September 2015 at 11am in the St Vincent de Paul Conference on Church Street, Roscrea. 34 individuals attended representing the following organisations and community groups:

- Roscrea Men's Shed
- Tipperary Education and Training Board
- Roscrea Community Hub
- Roscrea Wellbeing Group
- NTLP Family Support
- Roscrea Women's Shed
- NTLP Traveller Support
- Tipperary Co Co Department of Community and Enterprise
- Tipperary Co Co Planning Department
- Roscrea Town Enhancement Plan Steering Committee
- Chapel Lane Residents Committee
- Ashbury Residents Committee
- Copper Beech Residents Association
- NTLP Roscrea Youth Service
- TUSLA
- Roscrea Stands Up
- Tipperary Co Co Housing Section
- Roscrea Lions Club
- Gleann Glas Residents Committee
- St Vincent de Paul
- Community Substance Misuse Team
- Roscrea Tourist Information Hut
- Tipperary Sports Partnership
- North Tipperary LEADER Partnership Social Inclusion Team
- Tipperary Local Enterprise Office
- Sheehane Estate
- Roscrea Tidy Towns
- Roscrea Community Development Committee
- Roscrea Credit Union
- Kennedy Park Residents Committee

The meeting was a facilitated session that focused on establishing commitment to the CAP Roscrea, exploring appropriate focus groups and recording current issues and opportunities in Roscrea. At the outset there were 4 Focus groups suggested to operate under the umbrella of CAP Roscrea:

- Environment and Safety
- Community Wellbeing
- Youth and Families
- Enterprise, Training and Employment.

The following table summarises the issues raised by the focus groups during consultation over 2 meetings.

Environment and Safety	Youth and Families
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Roscrea Town Enhancement Plan Steering Group are currently working on implementing actions from the document. The current priority is design development and implementation of the Castle Street component of the plan. As part of this plan there is a focus on the TESCO car park area to the rear of Castle Street including the disused public toilets. The Steering group would be keen to engage with local youth in the detail design of this area. • The Men's Shed are currently piloting the Dog Waste Collection Programme with support from Tipperary Co Co. • Roscrea Tidy Towns has had a great year with the development of a junior tidy towns and also strong involvement from the Estates residents committees. • The Tidy Towns along with the Enhancement Steering Group would like to see Gantly Road improvements in the near future. • The Tidy Towns will be focusing on the rivers and their environments around Roscrea next year. Further development of a plan produced by Philip Blackwell Design would assist in a move towards improving the riparian habitat in Roscrea. • A Biodiversity plan and Ecology Trails for Roscrea Town would help in providing a focus for Tidy Towns Activities over the next 3 years. • Promotion of sustainable waste and resource management in estates – planting perennial plants, hedges and trees to reduce need for maintenance. • An Garda Siochana sees great benefits for Roscrea in the implementation of a CCTV system for the town. There is a community group Roscrea Alcohol and Drug Initiative (RADI) that are also seeking same. • The Roscrea Crime Prevention Officer is available to assist communities with advice on security and physical design of buildings and exterior spaces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committees for community organisations find it hard to attract members and sustain them. Training for new volunteers would help. • There are a large number of community buildings in Roscrea that are underutilised. • Community Groups can tend to be in competition with each other. • Participation for young people in the existing recreation opportunities can be expensive. • 65% of membership to SVP is over 70. Young people need to be encouraged to participate in existing community activities. • There is a good range of sporting facilities in Roscrea that are an asset. • Community Spirit is a key resource in Roscrea • The Young people in Roscrea are an unexplored resource that needs to be tapped into. Young people need to be incentivised as them to contribute and come up with their own ideas. • Directory of Business and Services would be of benefit to the community in Roscrea. • Need for targeted courses for the unemployed in Roscrea • A community development worker specifically to act as a support to community activity in Roscrea ie connecting and facilitation of community groups and support for families on the ground. • Priority for this group would be to encourage and support young people to get more involved in the community and to create opportunities for them.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Garda Siochana is committed to supporting the CAP Roscrea and will assign an officer to attend and support each Focus Group. • Lack of education in particular literacy is a huge problem and people need job opportunities in manual roles. • Regular positive publicity for Roscrea is beneficial for the town. • A young person in Roscrea has been busking in the town centre. This is an effective way to engage local people in the town. • An Garda Siochana do not have the personnel to assign an officer to each community group but can commit to the CAP into the future as a way of linking directly with the community in Roscrea. 	
<p>Community Wellbeing</p>	<p>Enterprise, Training and Employment</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information around Mental health services in Roscrea needs to be more accessible. • There needs to be a good clear structure behind CAP to make it sustainable. • Kennedy Park Residents Group are trying to develop a junior committee as part of their residents group to involve young people more in event planning. The estate would benefit from a play area in the locality. • Women's Shed feel that there are a number of older people living on their own that would appreciate support. • Ashbury Residents Group find it difficult to communicate with Tipperary Co Co and would see the CAP's role as a way to share information with Tipperary Co Co. They would appreciate a community space that provides activities for young people that are not sports minded ie billiards or darts venue. • Chapel Lane Residents Group find it difficult to get people together. They would appreciate committee training skills and an umbrella group for all the residents groups in Roscrea. They see benefits such as sharing insurance and knowledge. • The family support work being done by NTLF is good however resources are limited and greater numbers of families would benefit from support. • St Vincent de Paul can provide initial support for families but need to be able to refer onto structured ongoing supports. • Mental health system is convoluted. Educational programme and community ownership is needed. Response is 9-5pm out of hours access is key. Clonmel Mental Health hospital closing is seen as a weakness in the system. • Older people are living alone and require in home supports. Daytime activities are limited and evening activities would be welcome however transport is an issue. A community bus would be of benefit. • Every community would benefit from a place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a broad spectrum of training available in Roscrea. • Roscrea is in a beneficial geographic location nationally as it is central and has good access to a national motorway connection. • Underutilised heritage sites in Roscrea with potential links to Birr town. • The Municipal District that Roscrea is in is titled Templemore Thurles and is seen as a threat in Roscrea. • A threat to the CAP Roscrea would be lack of independent facilitation ongoing. • LEO found it difficult to find real engagement from enterprise supports provided in Roscrea in the past. • Young people leave Roscrea to be educated at secondary level. • The community would like to utilise Damer House and Roscrea Castle to a greater extent however find it difficult to engage with Office of Public Works. • There is lack of representation from business and community sectors in Roscrea on the group and it would benefit from an evening meeting. • The Tourist Information point could benefit from aesthetic and resource improvements. • Roscrea lacks good and big employment opportunities.

<p>to meet in their own locality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport to sporting facilities for some young and disadvantaged can be difficult – community bus would again be beneficial. • Groups that are organising community events should try to join up with each other in certain instances. • People in Roscrea don't necessarily like meetings but if given a task will be there to support events and activities fully. • Support disadvantaged youths through facilitating links with sporting clubs around Roscrea. • The Soccer development officer has been a great strength in Roscrea. • Audit of all recreation facilities in Roscrea and possible usage plan for them to maximise use of facilities. Creagh House has tennis and basketball courts that are currently not used. • Community Insurance – all community groups need to join together to share insurance cover. • Focused mental health programmes to assist the community in building strength and resilience in the face of mental health issues. 	
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Since the original meeting Community Wellbeing and Youth and Families Focus Groups have merged to utilise community representatives as effectively as possible and an obvious parallel in issues being talked about in the two groups.

The key items raised in the community consultation meetings are summarised below and inform actions for the future: Mental Health; clearer information, improved access to supports and holistic community approach is required.

- Supports for community and residents groups around volunteers, committee management, sharing and networking.
- Support required for young people to access recreational facilities and services in the community.
- Supports required for older people to access recreational facilities and support services in the community.
- Localised supports for estate resident groups to facilitate the ongoing work they are doing in their communities including; access to meeting venues locally, shared insurance, physical improvements and transport.
- Families would benefit from additional family support work in the community.
- Mental Health Supports need to be developed further to build resilience in the whole community.
- Targeted education and training is required for the unemployed in Roscrea.
- A strong structure and ongoing facilitation would benefit the continuation of CAP Roscrea.
- Focus on utilising heritage sites and geographical location as opportunities including; twinning with Birr town, further development of tourist information point and physical improvements through the Town Enhancement Plan.

Following on from the initial meet of the CAP Roscrea the Focus Groups met a second time to tease out issues and opportunities further.

A second meeting was scheduled for 3 of the focus groups:

1. Environment and Safety
2. Community Wellbeing
3. Youth and Families

The purpose of the second meeting was to reflect on notes from the initial meeting (24th September 2015) and further discuss and pinpoint the key issues for action. The table below summarises discussions coming out of the second meetings:

Environment and Safety – 11am, Tuesday 6th October 2015, An Garda Siochana Offices, Roscrea

Attendance: 7 reps.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Priority for this group is to change the negative reputation of the town and improve safety and security in Roscrea.• Exploration and feasibility study for CCTV system in Roscrea Town Centre (Main Street and Castle Street priority). Possible fundraising in the community for the project. There is a reputation/perception of Roscrea being the wild west in terms of safety and security. CCTV has had a huge impact in Nenagh.• Castle Street Streetscape improvements – LEADER funds and Tippereary Co Co matching funds secured for implementation of the project.• TESCO carpark and disused Public Toilets – entire area be designed with close community/youth consultation to provide community with a sense of ownership.• If Castle Street Enhancement and CCTV were to be implemented in conjunction it would have huge impact and change the face of Roscrea town.• Men’s Shed Conversation Bench –• Gantly Road at entrance to Chapel Lane estate is included in the Town Enhancement Plan. Schematic landscape plans have been prepared for this site but require input from the Chapel Lane Community. May be a good project to bring the community together in the estate. |
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Community Wellbeing – 11am, Thursday 1st October 2015, SVP Conference Room, Roscrea

Attendance 8:

- | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safety and Security and drug related issues.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The community are seeking additional Garda resources in Roscrea town and the installation of a CCTV system. An assigned Garda representative for each residential estate would be beneficial.○ Encourage the wide spread use of the Community Text Alert system that is operating well in areas of Roscrea.○ Families that are affected by substance misuse need to be able to access supports whilst maintaining their privacy.○ Educate students at primary and community level in relation to misuse of alcohol and other substances.○ Supports provided by Mid West Regional Alcohol and Drug Misuse Forum needs to have a strong presence in Roscrea town.• Mental health and wellbeing and suicide.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Extensive promotion campaign to communicate current services in Roscrea that will assist those having difficulties with their mental health. Shop front windows and facebook. |
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- WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Plan) investigate potential to roll this out in Roscrea.
 - Link in with North Tipperary Suicide Prevention Officer and ensure that initiatives and needs in Roscrea are recorded in the county wide plan being prepared at the moment.
 - Tipperary Sports Partnership can assist in developing a community wellbeing plan focused on physical activity and mental health.
- Each estate should have access to a shared space for meetings, activities and services where needed.
- Community Houses at estate level so that local people can organise activities for themselves.
 - Each estate should have access to a shared space for meetings, activities and services where needed.
 - Pre development and capacity building to assist residence groups in their ability to manage and programme activities around a shared community space.
 - Local authority assistance in allocating a space/house and remodelling to be fit for purpose.
 - Ongoing support in relation to activity plans and funding for the space.
- Activities for young people- whilst there are facilities in Roscrea young people are not always able to access them.
- Community Development supports required to assist residence groups around sharing resources and community insurance.
 - Training for community and residence groups to improve committee and governance skills.
 - Access to Child Protection Training and policies
 - Development of a community wide programme of activities and events that are promoted jointly so that groups can support each other and eliminate clashing events.
 - Training in youth participation, volunteer policies and practices, civic engagement and estate management.
- Transport is a key issue in accessing sports and other facilities for all age groups.
- Further family supports for families in need are required.

Youth and Families – 7pm, Monday 12th October 2015, Kickback Youth Café

Attendance: 3 reps.

- The intention of this meeting was to gain feedback directly from young people in the community of Roscrea. Unfortunately there was no attendance by young people and a number of the individuals originally showing interest in this focus group were unable to attend.
- As a result it was decided by those who were there that the Youth and Families groups should be merged with the Community Wellbeing Focus Group.

2.10 Assets and Challenges for Roscrea

Assets

- The recent production of the Roscrea Town Enhancement Plan has been well received by the community and is being rolled out by a strong implementation steering group.
- A number of housing estate residents groups are very active in the community and provide direct supports to the residents in their care.
- The Roscrea Tidy Towns and Jnr Tidy Towns work tirelessly to maintain the picturesque image of the town.
- The built heritage and ecclesiastical history in Roscrea Town is impressive and a clear opportunity.
- Community Spirit, volunteerism and family and friends, the people of Roscrea, are recognised as being the best assets in the town.
- The geographical location of Roscrea town nationally is an advantage. It is in a central location with good links to the M7 spine between Dublin and Limerick.
- There is a rail link to Roscrea that is currently underutilised.
- The Chamber of Commerce is campaigning for the implementation of an Enterprise Incubation Centre in Roscrea.
- There is currently a wide range of supports and service provision in Roscrea.
- There are a good range of recreation and leisure facilities.

Challenges

- Roscrea has a significant number of people living in areas of disadvantage or very disadvantage – include figures. There is a high dependent population in most of the housing estate areas in Roscrea.
- The unemployment rate in some of the most disadvantaged areas of Roscrea in 2011 was between 30% and 55%.
- Low educational attainment is a limiting factor within the labour force in Roscrea the population is dominated by a manual skilled labour force.
- Employment opportunities in Roscrea are limited and there are challenges in harnessing the latent potential of new entrepreneurs in the town.
- Young people in Roscrea are vulnerable to substance misuse and mental health issues.
- Some services and supports provided for vulnerable people in Roscrea are not being utilised to capacity where there is obviously a need.
- There are some gaps in the provision of leisure and recreation facilities for some age groups in Roscrea.
- There is no public transport in Roscrea and a high level of households without cars. During consultation meetings it was raised that disposable income is being spent on taxi services for those living on fringe estates to access convenience goods and services.

- Dependency - in the most disadvantaged areas of Roscrea there are high levels of young and old being looked after by communities that are also experiencing high unemployment rates.
- Marginalised Groups - There is a high proportion of the travelling community living in Roscrea.
- Safety and security issues were raised throughout the consultation period as requiring ongoing monitoring and prevention.



Photo from: Trisha Purcell, NTLP

3.1 Environment and Security

The physical environment in a town and levels of security and safety are intrinsically linked. The occurrence of anti-social behaviours, vandalism and crime can all be influenced by the quality of the physical environment, layout of the town and perception of its citizens. Roscrea is a town with assets including several heritage buildings, a picturesque main street and town centre and fantastic community spirit. The improvement of the town physically and from a security perspective will also assist in promoting and supporting economic activity and make it more attractive as a place to invest and do business. There has been extensive work done to date to enhance the physical appearance of the town through actions of local residents and support from agencies. On a regular basis the Tidy Towns and Roscrea Men's Shed work together to create a beautiful backdrop in the town, maintaining a litter free, tidy and lively streetscape. The Roscrea Town Enhancement Plan is a project operating at a more strategic level under which the main aspiration is to physically enhance the town centre. Safety and security and drug and anti-social behaviour and its impact on families and communities was identified by communities during the consultation for this plan as a key issue for the town of Roscrea.

The actions that have been developed by the Environment and Security Focus group aim to enhance and change the reputation and perception of Roscrea town locally and nationally. The actions aim to build on what has been achieved to date, drawing attention to the existing features in the town, enhancing the quality and biodiversity of green spaces and creating a safer environment for all.

Focus Group Members:

- Mike Edwards (Roscrea Men's Shed)
- Marion Carey (Tipperary Co Co)
- Eileen Doherty (Roscrea Tidy Towns)
- Oliver Henry (An Garda Siochana)
- Aideen Connelly (N.T.L.P)
- Anne Neville (N.T.L.P)
- Tracy Thompson (Tipperary Co Co)
- Brian King (Roscrea Enhancement Plan Steering Group and Roscrea Chamber of Commerce)
- John Jones (Tipperary Co Co Municipal District Engineer)

3.2 Environment and Security (35 Actions)				
No	Issue	Action/Outcome	Partners	Term
ES 1.1	Improve the physical appearance of Roscrea Town Centre.	Implement the Roscrea Town Enhancement Plan on an agreed phased basis; ensure the appropriate design, planning and consent work is complete and actively seek funding to implement same.	Roscrea Enhancement, Tipperary Co Co.	Short
ES 1.2		Complete detail design, tender package and implementation of Castle Street streetscape improvements.	Roscrea Enhancement , Tipperary Co Co Planning Department	Short/medium
ES 1.3		Complete detail design and implementation of Gantly Road street scape improvements.	Roscrea Enhancement, Tipperary Co Co Planning Department	Short
ES 1.4		Explore phased approach to delivery of streetscape improvements to Main Street.	Roscrea Enhancement, Tipperary Co Co Planning Department	Short
ES 1.5		A promotional activity plan to be drawn up and implemented which will seek to increase the footfall of the town and encourage spend in same – example of activities could include, festivals, busking and music, eating alfresco, installation art.	Roscrea Enhancement, Tipperary Co Co, Chamber of Commerce	Short
ES 2.1	Promote Roscrea as an inclusive town – Age friendly and disabled friendly	Investigate and research the Gold Star Initiative and its possible application in Roscrea.	HSE, Tipperary Co Co, Chamber of Commerce.	Short
ES 2.2		Investigate the development of a Gold Star Task Group to work together to improve disability awareness and full integration of people with disability in social and cultural life in Roscrea.	HSE Roscrea Primary Care Centre, St Anne’s, St Cronin’s, Roscrea Active Retirement Group, Chamber of Commerce, Roscrea Women’s Group.	Short
ES 2.3		Promote and support business and services to engage with the Gold Star Initiative in Roscrea.	HSE, Chamber of Commerce.	Short
ES 2.4		Conduct an accessibility audit of Roscrea town centre, including facilities, buildings, footpaths and transport to document the current status of integration. Possible engagement of transition year students in the audit process.	Tipperary Co Co, Colaiste Pobal	Short/Medium
ES 2.5		Review detail design proposals for Castle Street and Main Street enhancements in reference to the Gold Star Initiative and inclusive	Roscrea Enhancement, Tipperary Co Co	Short

E.S 2.6		design. Investigate the possibility of group training with DESSA (Disability Equality Specialist Support Agency) in disability equality for Gold Star Task Force members where appropriate. http://www.dessa.ie/training/disability-equality-training-programme		Medium
ES 3.1	Security, safety and anti-social behaviour	Investigate the commissioning of a CCTV security system for the town centre of Roscrea including appropriate technical system, location of cameras, extent of coverage of the town, maintenance and management of system, cost estimate for supply and installation of system.	Roscrea Alcohol and Drug Initiative (RADI) , An Garda Siochana, Tipperary Co Co	Short
ES 3.2		Continue to support and encourage the Community Alert system in use in Roscrea. Advertise and promote its use.	Roscrea Men's Shed, Roscrea Community HUB, An Garda Siochana	Short
ES 3.3		Establish link with Tipperary PPN rep on the Joint Policing Committee with a view to feeding in the issues in relation to Roscrea	Residents groups.	Short
ES 3.4		Explore innovative ways to engage the community in hard to reach areas with the gardai which may include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular meetings between AGS and individual housing estates which are located in very disadvantaged areas MWRDTF personnel to attend estate based community meetings in relation to addressing issues around drug abuse/misuse and managing/supporting additive behaviours 	An Garda Siochana, MW Regional Alcohol and Drugs Taskforce, Roscrea Stands Up	Short
ES 3.5		Liaise with MD Thurles on addressing anti social design issues pertaining to estates (if any) and draw up a prioritised programme appropriately costed.	Tipperary Co Co, Tidy Towns and Residents Groups	Short
ES 3.6		Proactively and positively address key events which may encourage anti-social behaviour (St Patricks Day; Halloween etc) and draw up appropriate preventative plans.	An Garda Siochana, NTLP Youth Service,	Short
ES 3.7		Work with Roscrea Men's and Women's Shed or other similar community structure to roll out security initiatives, particularly for	Roscrea Men's and Women's Shed, An	Short

ES 3.8		the elderly in Roscrea. Seek to develop initiatives around youths engaging positively with the elderly in designated estates.	Garda Siochana Active Retirement Group, NTLP Youth Service, Women's Shed.	Short/Medium
ES 3.9		Prepare feasibility document covering all aspects of CCTV proposals for the town. Look at other recent local examples such as Nenagh town for guidance and information.	RADI, An Garda Siochana, Tipperary Co Co, Roscrea Men's Shed	Short/Medium
ES 3.10		Seek funding and installation of a CCTV security system for the town centre of Roscrea	RADI, An Garda Siochana, Tipperary Co Co	Short/Medium
ES 4.1	Green area and amenity sites.	Kennedy Park: Support the implementation of the landscape plan for existing Memorial Garden in Kennedy Park and support the development of a natural play scape for children in the estate. (See Appendices No 2)	Roscrea Tidy Towns, Kennedy Park Residents Association and Tipperary Co Co.	Short
ES 4.2		Chapel Lane: Support the implementation of landscape proposals for Chapel Lane including development of a memorial garden for loss of young people and improvements to Gantly Road.	Tipperary Co Co, Chapel Lane Residents Committee.	Short
ES 4.3		Seek to utilise Damer House and Roscrea Castle for as many community events as possible each year to strengthen community ownership and pride in the rich heritage of Roscrea.	Roscrea Heritage Group, Tipperary Co Co Heritage Officer	Short
ES 4.4		Support the completion of the Sli na Slaite Route around Roscrea Town.	Roscrea Enhancement Steering Committee, Tipperary Co Co.	Short
ES 4.5		Investigate the possibility of covering the key heritage sites, in particular Damer House with the proposed community insurance scheme. Implement where possible. OPW are requesting a high level of insurance in order for groups to access and use the facilities.	Chamber of Commerce, Taste of Roscrea Committee, Residents Groups.	Short/Medium
ES 4.6		Explore the possibility of the Development of Recreational Area/ Park at the Waste Water Treatment land.	Tipperary Co Co, Roscrea Tidy Towns.	Medium
ES 4.7		Explore and support the development of a linear walking route to Monaincha Abbey. Seek funding to support implementation of the walking route.	Roscrea Enhancement Steering Committee, Tipperary County Council Heritage Officer.	Medium

ES 4.8		Support existing efforts by residents groups in Roscrea to enhance their estates. Develop bespoke 5 year enhancement plans for housing estates and support implementation of the plans. Seek budget to implement plan proposals.	Housing Estate Residents Groups, Roscrea Tidy Towns, Tipperary Co Co, Roscrea Men's Shed	Short/medium
ES 5.1	Waste and Litter	Support the roll out of the Dog Waste Pilot Project currently operated by Roscrea Men's Shed.	Roscrea Men's Shed, Tipperary Co Co	Short
ES 5.2		Support the roll out of the Litter Collection and Street Cleaning Initiative currently operated by Roscrea Men's Shed.	Roscrea Men's Shed, Tipperary Co Co	Short
ES 6.1	Rivers in Roscrea	Request representation from the Roscrea Angling Club on the CAP Roscrea Environment and Security Focus Group.	Tipperary Co Co	Short
ES 6.2		Support the efforts of Roscrea Tidy Towns and Roscrea Angling Club to further clean up the riparian environment in Roscrea. Improve habitat, protect and increase biodiversity.	Tidy Towns, Roscrea Angling Club	Short
ES 6.3		Do an ecological assessment of the Rivers in Roscrea to establish their health and the wealth of the local habitat.	Inland Fisheries, Roscrea Angling Club	Medium
ES 6.4		Educate young people on the ecology and biodiversity of the Rivers in and around Roscrea. Work with primary and secondary schools to enhance the curriculum. Encourage site visits to Rivers around Roscrea for educational purposes.	National Schools in Roscrea , Roscrea Angling Club.	Medium

3.2 Community Wellbeing – Youth and Families

Community Wellbeing is the focus group that the majority of community activists from Roscrea aligned themselves with at the outset of the CAP process. For the people of Roscrea Community Wellbeing is at the fore front of their minds and is influenced by a wide range of issues including access to services and amenities, transport, mental health and comfort in the home. The demographic profile for Roscrea is far from positive in terms of unemployment (28%) and dependency rates (up to 50% in some areas), notwithstanding this there is a clear sense of responsibility reflected in the actions and work being done by the residents themselves in Roscrea. Their activity is focused on taking care of the youth, the elderly and making life easier for the most vulnerable in the locality.

Supports for families in need, opportunities for young people and mental health in the community are all focus areas for this group.

Focus Group Members –

- Joe Slattery (Community Substance Misuse Team)
- Marie Morgan (Kennedy Park Residents Association)
- Ann Ryan (TUSLA)
- Derek Russell (Roscrea Stands Up)
- Patricia Gleeson (St Vincent de Paul)
- Deidre Cahir (NTLP Youth Services and Kickback Youth Café)
- Michael Donovan (Sheehane Resident)
- Tommy Murphy (Ashbury Residents Group)
- Matthew McNamara (Ashbury Residents Group)
- Dennis Carter (Chapel Lane)
- Elaine Cullinan (Tipperary Sport Partnership)
- James Byrne (Gleann Glas)
- Chris O'Mara (An Garda Siochana)

3.2 Community Wellbeing – Youth and Families (54 Actions)				
No	Issue	Action/Outcome	Partners	Term
CW 1.1	Communication	Develop, implement and advertise a Roscrea Town Directory including information on all the supports and services that are available in Roscrea. Ensure that it is available in a range of formats including digital and brochure format.	Roscrea Stands Up, Roscrea Credit Union and Chamber of Commerce.	Short
CW1.2		Confusion around PPN structure and community role in same. Deliver training to community groups and ensure that all community groups are registered on the PPN.	Tipperary Co Co, NTLP	Short
CW 2.1	Communication and links with young people in the community.	Comhairle na nOg – Youth Parliament – Roscrea sub group to be encouraged to participate in the local planning process. Request their representation on the CAP Roscrea.	Tipperary Co Co	Short
CW 2.2		Conduct a detailed audit of all the youth facilities in Roscrea and provide interventions where gaps are evident.	LIT, Colaiste Pobal.	Short
CW 2.3		Continue to promote and support the Tipperary ETB Talent Search as a way of highlighting skill and excellence in secondary school populations.	Tipperary Education and Training Board, Colaiste Pobal	Short
CW 2.4		The RAY projected is operated through NTLP. They have a Garda Youth Diversion project and a Special Project for Youth programme (SPY). Support the project by seeking additional staff specifically a Family support worker and a counselling service.	Tipperary Co Co, NTLP	Short/Medium
CW 2.5		Seek additional supports for the Kickback Youth Café including a budget for the renovation of a shed behind the Café in support of additional office and meeting space.	Tipperary Co Co, NTLP	Medium
CW 2.6		Support for Roscrea Community Crèche – seek capital grant for the construction of a customised facility on the Dublin Road. Funding to cover design team fees for facility on Co Co land with planning permission.	Tipperary Co Co, NTLP	Medium
CW 2.7		Foster communication between young people in Roscrea and the existing community groups and organisations. Change the youth perception of community activities and groups – invite them to have responsibilities and input.	Roscrea Youth Centre, Kickback Café Roscrea, Roscrea Stands Up, Colaiste Pobal,	Medium

CW 2.8		Development of a youth forum for Roscrea to feed into local planning and development at every level. Training in leadership and decision making skills.	N.T.L.P, Roscrea Youth Centre, Kickback Café Roscrea, Roscrea Stands Up, Colaiste Pobal.	Medium
CW 3.1	Sports and recreation.	Complete an audit of all the sports and recreation facilities in Roscrea and their current use patterns.	Tipperary Sports Partnership	Short
CW 3.2		Encourage and support all sporting organisations in Roscrea to create a social inclusion policy and implement it. Provide capacity building workshops and training to sporting organisations to allow them to create a development plan for their club/organisation.	Tipperary Sports Partnership, Sporting organisations in Roscrea	Short/medium
CW 3.3		Investigate the possibility of a supported public transport option in Roscrea or Community Bus Service to provide cost effective transport for the sporting community in Roscrea. A shared service with a social enterprise structure may be a possibility.	Tipperary Rural Transport, Sporting organisations in Roscrea	Medium
CW 4.1	Providing amenities and Facilitating Community Spirit in Residential Housing Estates	Implement a community insurance scheme to support reduced operation costs for community and residents groups in Roscrea.	Residents groups, NTLP	Short
CW 4.2		Support applications for Community Houses in Gleann Glas and Kennedy Park Estates.	Tipperary Co Co, NTLP	Short
CW 4.3		Continue to support community based activities and events to build morale and trust locally in the estates. Foster friendly competition between the estates whilst encouraging residents groups to share knowledge and network.	Tipperary Co Co, NTLP	Short
CW 4.4		Hold events throughout the year in Roscrea for the express purpose of bringing all the community together as a way of breaking down barriers and building confidence in communities who find it hard to engage.	Residents groups and Community organisations, Tipperary Co Co, NTLP, Tipperary Sports Partnership.	Short
CW 4.5		Support NTLP to Promote and continue to deliver Community Development Supports. By Empowering Disadvantaged Communities. Provision of bespoke training and workshops and social and educational activities for the housing estate communities.	NTLP, Residents Groups and Community Organisations.	Short

CW 4.6		Support NTLP to promote and continue to deliver Community Development Supports. Focus on Volunteering and the provision of training and supports to form develop and progress community groups.	NTLP, Residents Groups and Community Organisations.	Short
CW 4.7		Support Roscrea Stands Up to continue to produce a Roscrea Community Newsletter and pursue the development of additional Resident's Groups throughout Roscrea town.	Roscrea Stands Up, Resident's Groups, NTLP.	Short
CW 5.1	Transport	Conduct a community survey in housing estates on the fringe of the town to assess transport needs.	Roscrea Stands Up, Resident Associations, Tipperary Local Links	Short
CW 5.2		Investigate setting up a Car Sharing Scheme in Roscrea to support those who do not have ready access to short trip/convenience transport.	Tipperary Local Links, Tipperary Co Co, NTLP.	Short
CW 5.3		Investigate the concept of a community bus for Roscrea and how it may be set up as a social/community enterprise.	Tipperary Local Links, Residents Association, Tipperary Co Co	Medium
CW 5.4		Investigate social inclusion funding opportunities under Local Links programme for Roscrea	Tipperary Local Links	Medium
CW 6.1	Substance Misuse	Arrange a community visit to Substance Misuse Projects currently operating at a community level eg . http://crinanyp.org/ or http://hurtni.org.uk/	MW Regional Drug and Alcohol Forum, Residents Groups, Community Substance Misuse Team, Kickback Youth Café.	Short
CW 6.2		Multi Agency (Anna Liffey, Anna Liffey, CSMT, Bushy Park, HSE and Novas) Drug and Alcohol counselling service takes place on Tuesday 10.am-12.pm. Review the appropriateness of the venue and extend the hours where possible.	MW Regional Drug and Alcohol Forum, RADI	Short
CW 6.3		Invite a representative of Roscrea Alcohol and Drugs Initiative (RADI) to link with the Community Wellbeing – Youth and Families Focus group of the CAP.	Tipperary Co Co.	Short
CW 6.4		Support RADI in the development and maintenance of their facebook page. Promote the facebook page in Roscrea.	RADI, Tipperary Education and Training Board, NTLP	Short
CW 6.5		Promote engagement from the Colaiste Pobal secondary school community (students and parents) with the 'Lets Learn About Drugs and Alcohol Together Programme' offered by HSE and Mid	MW Regional Drug and Alcohol Forum, RADI, CSMT and Colaiste Pobal.	Short

CW 6.6		West Regional Drugs and Alcohol Forum. Support RADI to run events around drug and alcohol awareness in Roscrea.	MW Regional Drug and Alcohol Forum, NTLP	Medium
CW 6.7		Further development of a <u>Drug and Alcohol Community Network</u> in Roscrea to include service user involvement. Development of a Thurles/Littleton chapter of same. Development of a North Tipperary Drug and Alcohol Community Network to feed on ground issues directly back into the Mid West Regional Drug and Alcohol Forum.	RADI and MW Regional Drug and Alcohol Forum	Medium
CW 7.1	Mental Health in the Community	Investigate and support opportunity to roll out of the WRAP(Wellness Recovery Action Plan) programme http://mentalhealthrecovery.com/wrap-is/ to communities and individuals in Roscrea.	Wellbeing Group, Roscrea Stands Up, HSE	Short
CW 7.2		Promote and support creation of a GROW group meeting in Roscrea: http://grow.ie/how-we-help/	HSE, Wellbeing Group, Roscrea Stands Up.	Short
CW 7.3		Promote the development of Life Skills in the community. Encourage enrolment with free online courses provided by Aware http://www.aware.ie/help/life-skills-online-programme-information/	Wellbeing Group, Residents Groups, Roscrea Stands Up, NTLP	Short
CW 7.4		Establish links with the North Tipperary Suicide Prevention Officer to ensure Roscrea's needs are identified in the new Link 4 Life (Community Resilience plan in relation to Mental Health).	Tipperary Sports Partnership, HSE, Roscrea Stands Up.	Short
CW 7.5		Seek support for a Headstrong, Jigsaw Project to be rolled out in Roscrea. https://jigsaw.reachoflouisville.com/Infographics/ To empower young people in regards to their mental health.	TRYS, NTLP, Youth Centre, Kickback Youth Café, Colaiste Pobal	Short/Medium
CW 7.6		Link in with the Tipperary Sports Partnership in the development of a bespoke community health and wellbeing programme for Roscrea. With the express purpose of improving mental health in the community.	Tipperary Sports Partnership, HSE	Short/Medium
CW 7.7		Promote privacy for individuals and links with other communities	Wellbeing Group, Roscrea Stands Up,	Medium

		similar to Roscrea by engaging in a twinning programme for WRAP facilitators in which trainers can be trained in Roscrea and then supplied from a different geographic locality to roll out training.	HSE	
CW 8.1	Families in Need	Promote and support existing family support programmes including NTLP family support services, Community Substance Misuse Team Family Support Services, Pieta House, HSE, ASCEND and the Mid West Regional Drugs and Alcohol Forum.	NTLP, Community Substance Misuse Team, HSE, Pieta House, ASCEND, MW Regional Drugs and Alcohol Forum.	Short
CW 8.2		Investigate community engagement levels with existing services providers and supports in Chapel Lane and Ashbury Estates. Establish where and what the barriers are and work together in a flexible manor to overcome them.	NTLP, Community Substance Misuse Team, HSE, Pieta House, MW Regional Drugs and Alcohol Forum.	Short
CW 8.3		Continue to deliver supports under SICAP Goal 2 Education Supports. External education supports, educational and psychological assessment scheme.	NTLP	Short
CW 8.4		Develop a plan to make a case for an additional family support worker in Roscrea.	NTLP, Tipperary Co Co, Roscrea Stands Up, Residents Committee's.	Short/Medium
CW 8.5		Seek and support funding applications for any additional family support funding/services for Roscrea	NTLP, Tipperary Co Co	Medium
CW 8.6		Seek support for a Family Support Centre for Roscrea town.	Tipperary Co Co	Medium/Long
CW 9.1	Healthy relationships	Support further offerings of 'Strengthening Families' Programme in Roscrea to support lone parents and parents dealing with substance misuse.	CSMT	Short
CW 9.2		Investigate the Implementation of a 'relationships' programme to transition year students to equip them with the skills and knowledge to identify improper behaviour in a relationship and work towards equality and balance and a relationship free from physical, verbal and emotional abuse.	ASCEND, Colaiste Pobal	Short/Medium
CW 9.3		Foster and encourage the development of a Roscrea group under Cuidiú North Tipperary to assist with promotion and support for breast feeding and parenting especially lone mothers.	HSE, NTLP, The Women's Shed	Medium

		http://www.cuidiu.ie/tipperary_contacts		
CW 10.1	Housing and Energy	Conduct a community survey in all the social housing estates in Roscrea focusing on energy consumption, heating and comfort levels.	Tipperary Co Co, LIT,	Short
CW 10.2		Set up a community Energy Team to seek a Community Energy Scheme in Roscrea.	Residents Groups, Tipperary Co Co Tipperary Energy Agency, NTLT	Short
CW 10.3		Promote efficient energy use in the homes and in business and provide information on opportunities to reduce energy use day to day.	Tipperary Energy Agency	Short
CW 10.4		Investigate the role out of a Community Energy Scheme in housing estates around Roscrea. In particular social housing built before the year 2000.	NTLP, Tipperary Co Co	Short/medium
CW 11.1	Integration and Advocacy	Continue to foster and support the work of the Tipperary Integration Forum and its facilitation of Fáilte Isteach ROSCREA, informal conversational English. Under SICAP Goal 1 Community Development Supports.	NTLP, Tipperary Integration Forum	Short
CW 11.2		Continue to support the Travelling Community in Roscrea through the NTLT TRAVELLER PROGRAMME. This programme aims to counter the disadvantage experienced by the Traveller Community in North Tipperary through three strands family support, care programme and development programme.	NTLP	Short

3.3 Enterprise, Training and Employment

The overall unemployment rate across Roscrea town according to the latest Census 2011 stats is 32.4%. The two main employers in the town are Ashbourne Meats Ltd and Rosderra Irish Meats. Other medium sized employers would include the supermarkets; Dunnes Stores, TESCO, LIDL and Aldi, Stapletons Bakery and Des Walsh Printing. Most other employment is provided by retail and service SME providing day to day necessities for the community in Roscrea. It is notable that around 27% of those that are in work and living in Roscrea are commuting half an hour or more to their place of work also suggesting a lack of employment opportunity in Roscrea town.

Access to suitable employment opportunities is an issue that arose regularly in public consultations with the community in Roscrea. This is no surprise considering that the unemployment rate in the most disadvantaged areas of the town rose by 30% for men and 18% for women over the period between 2006-2011. Unemployment rates for men in these areas hovered around the 50% mark during 2011. The employment legacy of a labour market requiring a population skilled in manual industry is proving difficult to overcome for the town even still. There is a need to support disadvantaged communities in Roscrea in terms of education and work readiness as generally there is low educational attainment also

Looking to the future several assets work strongly in the towns favour:

- ✓ Impressive historic and heritage buildings with stories to match
- ✓ Geographically Central location nationally with direct access to the M7 Motorway
- ✓ Young population as a key resource in terms of future economic development
- ✓ Local Enterprise Office Focus on Roscrea

This Focus Group need to work together to move forward the actions with an emphasis on exploiting assets in Roscrea and packaging and promoting what is good about the town.

- John Cahill (Roscrea Lions Club)
- Debra Durack (Roscrea Tourist Office)
- Pamela Aitken (Roscrea Tourist Office)
- Eamonn Nivard Coonan (Copper Beech Resident)
- Michelle Putti (N.T.L.P)
- Eleanor Forrest (Tipperary Local Enterprise Office)
- Deborah Ryan (Tipperary Education and Training Board)
- Brian King (Roscrea Chamber of Commerce)
- Grainne Tully (An Garda Siochana)

3.2 Enterprise, Training and Employment (37 Actions)

No	Issue	Action/Outcome	Partners	Term
ETE 1.1	Incubation of Enterprise Potential in Roscrea	Development of a community Enterprise centre to support start up enterprises. Further the existing feasibility and development work on proposals for Roscrea Enterprise Centre.	Tipperary Co Co, Local Enterprise Office, Roscrea Chamber of Commerce.	Short
ETE 1.2		Promote and continue to deliver enterprise supports provided in the community by the Local Enterprise Office including business Kickstart courses and one to one or small group mentoring on request.	Local Enterprise Office	Short
ETE 1.3		Continue to provide a programme of enterprise supports such as one to one mentoring and business plan development.	NTP, Tipperary Co Co	Short
ETE 1.4		Develop initiatives to promote, develop and sustain community and social enterprise with a particular focus on community services and social inclusion services.	NTP, Tipperary Co Co	Short
ETE 1.5		Continue to support and develop a concentrated number of initiatives around new start up/business expansion supports in the town.	Local Enterprise Office	Short
ETE 1.6		Continue to support the Student Enterprise Awards in conjunction with Colaiste Pobal in Roscrea. Explore other opportunities to raise appreciation and awareness of entrepreneurial skills, self employment and job opportunities for young adults in Roscrea.	Colaiste Pobal, Local Enterprise Office.	Short
ETE 1.7		Provision of grant aid to new and existing enterprises in qualifying sectors of manufacturing and internationally traded services and tourism. Promote access to loan finance for enterprise through Microfinance Ireland.	Local Enterprise Office, NTP	Short
ETE 1.8		Assist and support Roscrea Chamber of Commerce to identify and provide enterprise related property solutions.	Local Enterprise Office, Chamber of Commerce.	Short
ETE 1.9		Support promotion of Roscrea and the Business and Innovation Park as a strategic investment site for FDI or other industry.		Medium

ETE 1.10		Deliver appropriate training opportunities to foster entrepreneurial/enterprise skill sets in the town.	Local Enterprise Office, Chamber of Commerce, Tipperary Co Co Limerick Institute Technology (LIT), Tipperary Education and Training Board, Local Enterprise Office, NTLP.	Medium
ETE 1.11		Seek funding to support the implementation of the Roscrea Enterprise Centre.	Tipperary Co Co, Local Enterprise Office, Roscrea Chamber of Commerce.	Medium
ETE 1.12		As part of the Town Centre Forum investigate the set up of a Town Centre Retail Forum to promote the retail offering in Roscrea in a co-ordinated manner in order to increase footfall and turnover. Develop a focused retail action plan.	Chamber of Commerce, Local Enterprise Office, Roscrea Town Enhancement Steering Group, Tipperary Co Co Planning Section.	Medium
ETE 1.13		Develop promotional material for the town and catchment area aimed at potential entrepreneurs or investors detailing available premises, town zoning, workforce profile etc. This brochure will showcase how ripe Roscrea is for potential investors. Provide enterprise clinics by appointment in Roscrea.	Chamber of Commerce, Local Enterprise Office, Roscrea Town Enhancement Steering Group.	Medium
ETE 2.1	Tourism in Roscrea	Support and develop a Roscrea Tourism Group to feed into the County Tipperary Tourism Company and Strategic Plan http://www.tipperarycoco.ie/community-and-economic-development/tipperary-tourism-company .	Chamber of Commerce, Taste of Roscrea Committee, Tipperary Co Co, LEO	Short
ETE 2.2		Work on a promotional tourism image for Roscrea in preparation for advertisement on the Tipperary Tourism website. Link the current Roscrea Tourism website www.visitroscrea.ie with the Tipperary Tourism website and support its development.		Short
ETE 2.3		Continue to support the development of the Tourist Information Hut on Castle Street Roscrea.	Chamber of Commerce, Taste of Roscrea Committee, Tipperary Co Co	Short
ETE 2.3		Work together with Roscrea Men's Shed and Roscrea Tidy Towns to further enhance the appearance of the Hut, to make it welcoming and eye catching.	Chamber of Commerce, Taste of Roscrea Committee, Roscrea Men's Shed, Roscrea Tidy Towns, Tipperary Co Co,	Short
ETE 2.4		Seek funding to supply the Tourist Information Hut with necessary	Taste of Roscrea Committee, NTLP,	Short

ETE 2.5		<p>IT and communication equipment.</p> <p>Support and Campaign for the delivery of the Roscrea Signage Strategy under the Roscrea Town Enhancement Plan.</p> <p>Continue to support the 'Taste of Roscrea' Festival and other potential festivals for the town with mentoring and marketing and promotion supports.</p>	<p>Chamber of Commerce.</p> <p>Roscrea Enhancement Group, Town Centre Forum, Chamber of Commerce, Tipperary Co Co.</p> <p>LEO, Taste of Roscrea, Roscrea Town Enhancement Steering Group</p>	<p>Short</p> <p>Short</p>
ETE 2.6		<p>Seek opportunities to support the sustainable provision of an attendant at the tourist information point and develop appropriate training to local trade, businesses and the wider community which builds their local knowledge of the tourism products on offer.</p>	<p>NTP, Taste of Roscrea Committee, Chamber of Commerce.</p>	<p>Short/medium</p>
ETE 2.7		<p>Improve access to Damer House and Roscrea Castle and provide better facilities for visitors to Damer House to create an interactive experience for visitors and local people. Maximise its potential as a valuable resource for attracting tourism to the town.</p>	<p>Chamber of Commerce, Heritage Group, Roscrea Enhancement Group, OPW.</p>	<p>Short/medium</p>
ETE 2.8		<p>Form tourism links with Birr town. Develop an inter town forum in which tourism package can be developed that showcase the best of both towns and promote travel between the towns.</p>	<p>Roscrea Town Centre Forum, Chamber of Commerce, NTP.</p>	<p>Medium</p>
ETE 2.9		<p>Maximise the potential opportunity of The Failte Ireland – Ireland Ancient East proposal for Roscrea</p>	<p>Chamber of Commerce, Tipperary Tourism Company</p>	<p>Medium</p>
ETE 2.10		<p>Maximise the opportunity for Roscrea to be bundled as part of the Butler Trail product in the county.</p>	<p>Chamber of Commerce, Tipperary Tourism Company</p>	<p>Medium/long</p>
ETE 3.1	Youth Training and Employment	<p>Continue to deliver and support Work Winners Project in Roscrea. Role out of additional courses as needed and as resources allow, to support young unemployed people in Roscrea.</p>	<p>Tipperary Regional Youth Service, NTP.</p>	<p>Short</p>
ETE 3.2		<p>Deliver appropriate education supports to young people living in disadvantage areas in Roscrea including youth development funding for summer camps and breakfast clubs. Provide short skills based training courses that move learners closer to the labour market and personal development courses.</p>	<p>NTP, Tipp Education and Training Board</p>	<p>Short</p>

ETE 4.1	Career Skills and Job seeking	Support who are long term unemployed and or living in Disadvantage areas of Roscrea in relation to career skills such as one to one support and group training on CV preparation, job seeking, interview skills, education and training options and self employment options.	NTLP	Short
ETE 5.1	Education	Promote Roscrea Community College - Colaiste Pobal and advertise the advantages of supporting local educational establishments and keeping young people in the community.	Colaiste Pobal, Comhairle na nOg	Short
ETE 5.2		Where community houses exist, seek to roll out locally appropriate educational supports for adults and youths in the area.	NTLP, Residents Groups	Short
ETE 5.3		Continue to support and develop homework clubs in estates designated as very disadvantaged on the Pobal Deprivation Index	NTLP, residents groups. Tipp Education and Training Board	Short
ETE 5.4		Continue to support the Youth Reach Programme available in Roscrea for young people who have not engaged appropriately with the state education system.	Tipperary Education and Training Board, NTLP and Tipperary Co Co	Short
ETE 5.5		Support Community IT Facility. Seek funding to upgrade outdated hardware currently available in the facility.	NTLP, Tipperary Education and Training Board	Short
ETE 5.6		Support people in disadvantaged areas in Roscrea and people who are long term unemployed to progress into the appropriate education and training options - Focus on delivering targeted interventions to long term unemployed to assist in enabling access to job opportunities and in particular to focus on those estates where >40% male unemployment.	Tipperary Education and Training Board, NTLP	Short
ETE 5.7		Deliver appropriate adult education courses in Roscrea which address skills deficits and in particular that which seeks to improve the % with lower secondary education/primary education found in areas of disadvantage in Roscrea.	Tipperary Education and Training Board, NTLP, Tipperary Regional Youth Service (TRYs)	Short
ETE 5.8		Provide education and literacy supports for adults in Roscrea such	NTLP, Tipperary Co Co, Tipperary	Short/medium

ETE 5.9		<p>as the Adult Learning Scheme http://www.tipperaryals.com/ in Roscrea.</p> <p>Confusion around PPN structure and community role in same. Deliver training to community groups around Roscrea around same. Ensure that all community groups are registered with the PPN.</p>	<p>Education and Training Board.</p> <p>Tipperary Co Co, NTLP</p>	<p>Short/medium</p>
ETE 5.10		<p>Youth service agencies to focus on delivering innovative youth focused education initiatives in the town which address the needs of those youths who have not engaged appropriately with state education.</p>	<p>Tipperary Co Co, NTLP, Tipperary Education and Training Board, Youthreach.</p>	<p>Medium</p>

3.4 Corporate Structure

The Corporate structure recognises that various agencies and community reps will contribute to the overall mission and goals of the CAP Roscrea. It will encourage the ongoing progression of the Community Action Partnership (CAP) and Plan for Roscrea by sharing the responsibility for implementation of actions across the board. Currently the CAP Roscrea is in the early stages of its development and will require facilitation and support to ensure the plan is progressed satisfactorily. At this early stage in the formation of an implementation team the following agencies will participate in the progression of the corporate structure with a view to involving community reps at the earliest time possible. It is proposed that at the next CAP Roscrea Meeting each of the community focus groups 1. Environment and Safety 2. Community Wellbeing – Youth and Families and 3. Enterprise, Training and Employment will nominate 2 representatives to sit on the CAP Roscrea at all future meetings. These community representatives will feed back issues and information to the core group for discussion and analysis.

Focus Group Members:

- Ann Ryan (Tipperary Co Co C+E)
- Eleanor Forrest (Tipperary Local Enterprise Office)
- Deborah Ryan (Tipperary Education and Training Board)
- Tracy Thompson (Tipperary Co Co Housing Tenant Liaison Officer)
- Oliver Henry (An Garda Siochana)
- Sandra Smith (NTLP Community Development Worker)
- Deidre Cahir (NTLP Youth Programme)
- Fionnuala Kenny (TUSLA)
- Joe Slattery (Community Substance Misuse Team)
- Thurles and Templemore Municipal District Manager (To be confirmed)

3.4 Corporate Structure (4 Actions)				
No	Issue	Action/Outcome	Partners	Term
CS 1.1	Corporate Structure	Roscrea Community Action Plan to be recognised as the combined agreed priorities for the town 2016-2019	Tipperary Co Co, LEO, Tipperary Education and Training Board, NTLP	Short
CS 1.2		Set up a Roscrea Community Action Plan Implementation structure to allow appropriate representation from the relevant stakeholders in the town from an social, cultural, health, education, economic and community perspective. Appropriate sub groups to be set up to assist in progressing actions.	Tipperary Co Co, LEO, Tipp Education and Training Board, NTLP	Short
CS 1.3		Support the development of appropriate network structures behind the community based representatives so that all appropriate issues can be fed up into the CAP structure and information can through to the grass roots.	Tipperary Co Co, LEO, Tipp Education and Training Board, NTLP	Short
CS 1.4		Seek, support and facilitate the CAP Roscrea through the assignment of a full time CAP Co-ordinator role for a 2 year period starting January 2016.	Tipperary Co Co, LEO, Tipp Education and Training Board, NTLP	Short
CS 1.5		A Code of Conduct document to be developed by the CAP Roscrea to guide and govern conduct of community groups participating in the structure.	Tipperary Co Co, NTLP	Short

Tipperary County Council, North Tipperary LEADER Partnership, HSE, An Garda Siochana, Education and Training Board, Local Enterprise Office etc

ROSCREA STRATEGY DOCUMENT

CAP Roscrea

MEET 3 times a year

Environment and Safety Focus Group

SUPPORT AGENCY:
TIPPERARY Co Co

MEET 6 times a year and feed back to CAP Roscrea

Community Wellbeing – Youth and Families

SUPPORT AGENCY:
NTLP

MEET 6 times a year and feed back to CAP Roscrea

Enterprise, Training and Employment

SUPPORT AGENCY:
LEO and TIPPERARY ETB

MEET 6 times a year and feed back to CAP Roscrea

The Strategy Document is the best way to communicate the communities needs and aspirations so review it regularly and distribute it often to agencies and funding bodies.

The Strategy Document belongs to the community of Roscrea. Use it to leverage resources and supports.

Meet and record progress, issues and opportunities in Roscrea. Work towards common goals for all the community.

5. References

Publications:

Limerick Institute of Technology (2015) *Roscrea Community Survey*, Thurles, Co Tipperary, Ireland.

The Paul Hogarth Company (2013) *Roscrea Town Centre Enhancement Plan*, Belfast, Co Antrim, UK.

South Tipperary Co Co, Community and Enterprise Department (2004) *Carrick on Suir Rapid Strategic Plan*, Clonmel, County Tipperary, Ireland.

South Tipperary Co Co, Community and Enterprise Department (2004) *Clonmel Rapid Area Implementation Team Strategic Plan*, Clonmel, Co Tipperary, Ireland.

Websites:

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www.maps.pobal.ie

www.northtipperarychildcare.ie

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