



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA
GAILLIMHE



Study on Community Infrastructural Needs in Moycullen, Co. Galway

Summary Document (Launch 30th Jan 2009)

Full report and appendices are available for download at
www.moycullen.net/survey / www.maighcuilinn.net/survey

Report for
Forbairt Phobail Maigh Cuilinn Teo
Moycullen Community Development Association (MCDA)

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Report and related documents are available at:
www.moycullen.net/survey
www.maighcuilinn.net/survey

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January 2009

Directions on how to obtain documents

All documents and appendices are available for download at www.moycullen.net/survey / www.maighcuilinn.net/survey.

- Full Survey Report
- Short summary report (this document)
- Appendices:
 1. List of officials consulted during the survey process
 2. List of study subcommittee members
 3. Written submissions from various community groups
 4. Survey questionnaire (80+ questions)
 5. Compiled survey responses (graphical summary of responses to each survey question)

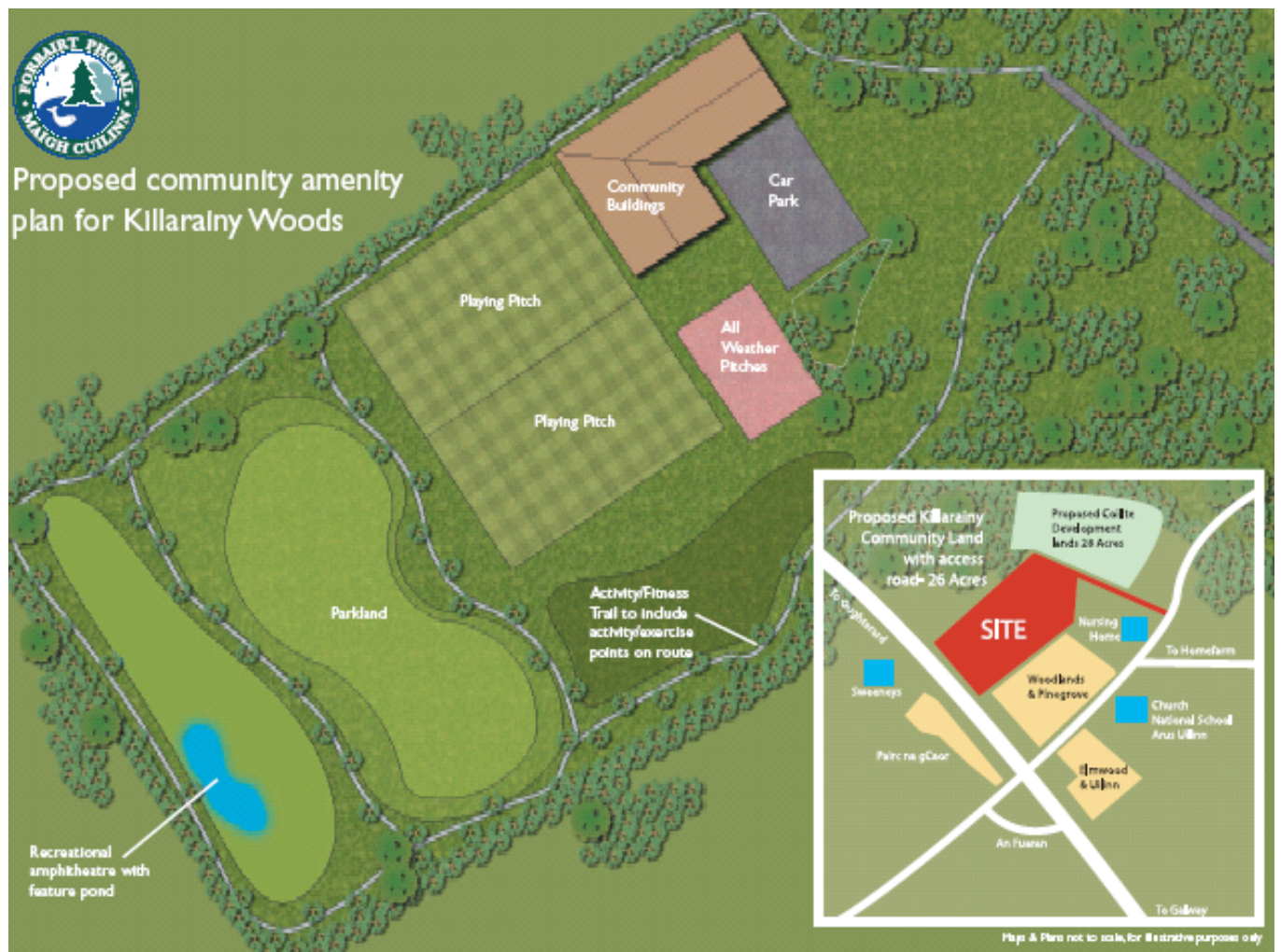


Figure 1: Proposed Community Amenity Plan at Killarainy Woods

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2. Acknowledgements

The support and efforts of the following individuals and groups are gratefully acknowledged:

- The people of Moycullen Community for completing and returning a total of 619 completed survey questionnaires
- Moycullen Community Development Association (MCDA) members for distribution and collection of survey questionnaires (approx 1130 households)
- Fearghal Morgan (MCDA) for support throughout, with co-ordination of funding, preparation of the survey, the survey distribution and collection process, results processing and assistance with report compilation.
- Pat O' Toole, Niamh Makin, Helena Pidgeon for assistance with processing of data from the returned survey questionnaires
- The study subcommittee members for support and review of the work of the study (listed in appendix 3)
- Various local groups who contributed to the report
- Various individuals and community groups from outside Moycullen who provided information on their own community projects.
- Various official bodies who provided input during the consultation process
- Conradh na Gaeilge and Fionnuala Lanigan for support in preparing survey questionnaire and report documents as Gaeilge.
- Study sponsors:
Moycullen Community Development Association (MCDA)
Údarás na Gaeltachta
Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Bus Éireann
Supervalu



Diarmaid Mulcahy, SDM Consulting Ltd

3. Foreword

It gives me great pleasure as Chairperson of Moycullen Community Development Association (MCDA) to officially launch this report 'A Study on Community Infrastructural Needs in Moycullen'.

The report seeks to present in a single comprehensive document the views of the people of Moycullen based on:

- submitted responses to a 10 page comprehensive bilingual survey questionnaire
- formal submissions from local groups
- conclusions from one to one meetings with local groups, statutory bodies and funding organisations

The report was commissioned by MCDA with the generous support of Udaras na Gaeltachta and Galway County Council, and assistance from Bus Eireann and Supervalu.

The data in the report summarises substantial feedback on a wide range of questions, and can be used to inform and seek support for future initiatives which any interested groups may wish to champion. If you are interested in pursuing any action based on the information provided in this report, I urge you to contact Moycullen Community office. MCDA will facilitate these activities. All members of the community are welcome to attend MCDA meetings, generally held on the third Tuesday of each month in Arus Uilinn.

The report was compiled by Diarmaid Mulcahy of SDM Consulting and co-ordinated by MCDA's Fearghal Morgan. Our sincere thanks must go to Diarmaid and Fearghal, along with the extended team of MCDA volunteers who facilitated them, for the many long hours of effort put into the extensive exercise of preparation, distribution, collation and finally presentation of the study results.

This study presents the results of the most in-depth and inclusive polling of public opinion ever undertaken in Moycullen, having been circulated by hand to 1130 houses in the parish. The results (with close to 55% return rate) indicate that a Community Centre, Youth Facilities, Playground and Playing Fields rank as the most preferred general facilities in the village. A Community Centre is included in over 44% of first preferences. When asked further as to the specific utilisation of Killarainey Woods the community responded with the following preferences; Community Centre (45% of first preferences), Park (with walkways and cycleway), Sports Facilities, Playground, Playing Fields, and Secondary School. These results may not come as any great surprise as I think most of us would recognise that in recent years the unprecedented expansion of Moycullen has been at a level to which the existing voluntary and community infrastructure has struggled to accommodate.

The simple fact is that although the community has a long history of very active and successful sporting, social and cultural associations there has been a deficit in lands needed to develop the integrated community amenities suitable for such an expanding population. In an effort to address this deficit many of you will be aware that MCDA has been working on a joint initiative with Coillte Teo.

I am pleased to announce that, following much discussion and negotiation, an agreement between MCDA and Coillte Teo is due for completion in the coming weeks. This will see the transfer of circa 24 acres of Killarainey Woods land in the heart of the village to MCDA, predominately under a 999 year lease (with 3 acres as freehold).

continued ...

This report has distinctly identified the needs of the community. I hope that MCDA acquiring Killarainey lands will present the catalyst needed for us to push ahead with the creation of a balanced and community focused approach to meet some of these needs.

We have now delivered two significant goals namely:

- this study detailing the results of a comprehensive community wide consultation.
- obtaining 24 acres of land for community use.

As a voluntary body we have strived for many years to reach this position. We now call on our public bodies to respond to the efforts of the community by making available the funds and resources needed to accomplish these objectives, and for local interested groups to garner support for their projects.



John S Power

Cathaoirleach, Forbairt Phobail Maigh Cuilinn Teoranta
January, 2009

4. Executive Summary

Moycullen Community Development Association (MCDA) commissioned a study on Moycullen community facilities and infrastructural needs. This was carried out through circulating of a comprehensive questionnaire door-to-door throughout the entire community and drawing a consensus from the community response. A youth survey was also conducted.

Survey responses are detailed and priorities are listed. Results of this survey will enable MCDA to seek support for the development of community facilities and infrastructure.

Moycullen Community Development Association (MCDA) has signed an agreement with Coillte regarding lands at Killarainey woods. Pending the successful outcome of a planning application by Coillte, circa 24 acres of land on the village side of the woods will be transferred from Coillte to MCDA for community use, under a 999 year lease.

This report describes the study process. It introduces Moycullen Community Development Association and various community and sporting organisations.

Discussions have taken place with local groups and organisations and with various state authorities who have a role in the further development of Moycullen and its hinterland. The report includes formal submissions received from various community and sporting groups.

The report concludes a broad wish-list of community projects. Highest priority projects are as follows

1. community centre, incorporating various sports facilities
2. playing fields suitable for a number of sports
3. playgrounds
4. walking/cycling/green area

Cost estimates are included, and are based on benchmark community and sporting facilities detailed in the report. The cost of development of the above projects is estimated at €5.5 million. Potential funding sources are listed.

A series of recommendations is included in the report to aid MCDA and Moycullen community to develop a business plan, seek funding and embark on a series of phased projects to provide much needed facilities to Moycullen community.

Documents available for download at
www.moycullen.net/survey / www.maighcuilinn.net/survey

5. Community Survey Results : Summary

This section summarises the main data and opinions received in survey responses. A subsection is included for each survey question section A – T.

Appendix 5 (compiled survey responses) lists each question and graphically displays responses. Where opinions or suggestions were requested these are listed in the appropriate section of the compiled survey responses.

A. General demographics / Déimeagrafaic Ginearálta

B. Employment/Occupation (optional)/Fostaíocht/Gairm Bheatha (roghnach):

According to the 2006 Census, the population of the Moycullen/Tullykyne Electoral Districts is 3527.

A reasonable rate of response to questions A and B was received. While data does not allow definitive answers, the following can be deduced:

- The survey questionnaire was distributed to an estimated 1130 houses.
- The average number of people per household is 3.35, according to the returned data.
- Therefore the estimated population of the Moycullen community (based on the survey) is approximately 3700.
- On the basis of a 55% return on survey questionnaires, the number of people represented in survey responses is approx 2082.
- Slightly more females than males live in Moycullen (52% vs 48%)
- The bulk of the population are in the 5-12, 26-39 and 40-64 age groups (combined percentage is 67% of the total). The largest age cohort is the 40-64 age group, being 32% of the total.
- The population is relatively well settled in the community, with nearly 60% of respondents residing in Moycullen for more than 10 years.
- There is a high level of employment in the community. The public sector is the highest employment sector of respondents.

C. Facilities and Community activities / Áiseanna agus Gníomhaíochtaí Pobail:

Results illustrate that the top five first priorities are

- 1) Community centre
- 2) Youth Facilities
- 3) Secondary school
- 4) Playground for under 5
- 5) Health Centre

A community centre scores 44% of first preferences.

A majority of 95% of respondents (who expressed an opinion) considered either the village centre or Killarainey woods as the optimal location for such facilities.

D. Youth Facilities: (completed in consultation with young people in household).

Áiseanna don Aos Óg

Youth facilities in the village are generally rated as either poor or very poor. 70% of all respondents to this question and 82% of those who expressed an opinion (excludes 'don't know' responses) answered either poor or very poor. A number of respondents stated that they did not know.

The following are considered the highest priority facilities by Moycullen Youth

- 1) Community Centre
- 2) Youth club
- 3) Play ground
- 4) Swimming pool/leisure complex
- 5) Playing fields

A Community centre scores 67% of first preferences. The community identified considerable interest in local activities for youth (refer to compiled survey responses Appendix 5).

A separate series of survey questionnaires circulated to youth (see section 10) lists priorities in order as 1) Community centre 2) Basketball courts 3) Cinema

E. Volunteering Effort / Iarracht Dheonach

It is evident from responses that there is a high voluntary spirit within the community, with people supporting a wide range of activities within Moycullen community (380) as well as outside Moycullen (205). Responses indicate a further body of people (199 respondents), not currently involved in voluntary activity, though willing to give of their time. This group lists preferred activities as sport, music, community and helping the elderly.

F. Killarainey Woods Development / Forbairt Choillte Chill Ráine

MCDA has signed an agreement with Coillte regarding lands at Killarainey woods. Pending the successful outcome of a planning application by Coillte, circa 24 acres of land on the village side of the woods will be transferred from Coillte to MCDA for community use, under a 999 year lease. Asked to list the priorities for the use of the forest lands at Killarainey, a Community centre scored the highest priority with 45% of first preferences.

G. Sporting Organisations / Eagraíochtaí Spóirt:

Club membership numbers rank as follow:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 1) Football | 2 Hurling AND Basketball (equal ranking) |
| 3) Handball | 4) Golf |

Respondents gave varying views on the contribution of sports clubs to community life, and also offered many suggestions on how clubs could offer more.

H. Planning / Pleanáil

Respondents state that the approach to planning by the Planning Authorities is primarily in the range of adequate to very poor. Almost 68% of those who expressed an opinion (excludes 'don't know' responses) gave a rating of either poor or very poor. Respondents gave a large number of reasons for these ratings, and also list a number of suggestions for improvement.

I. Road Network in Moycullen / An Líonra Bóthair i Maigh Cuilinn

This question asked the community to rate the current local road network, sought views on the proposed Bypass and Inner Relief roads, and sought views relating to traffic management and pedestrian safety. Respondents rated the road network in Moycullen as adequate to very poor, with 68% stating that they view the network as poor or very poor.

There is a very high level of awareness of both the proposed Inner Relief Road (82.7%) and the proposed bypass (94.7%). There are many opinions both in favour of and against both of these projects.

Questions relating to traffic management show very strong opinions on a need for better traffic management on many levels. Respondents see a need for measures such as speed limits, pedestrian lights, pedestrian crossings, traffic calming and more footpaths. This information can be submitted to Galway County Council which has begun the process of defining a Traffic Management plan for Moycullen.

J. (J1 and J2) Transport/Public and other / Iompar/Poiblí agus eile.

Of the respondents, the vast majority are one and two car households (90%). The majority of people (64%) do not use public transport. 61% of respondents state that they would make use of public transport if the service were improved. 58% of respondents rate the bus service as not very good. Times and frequency are a serious concern, with 64% of respondents stating that the times of buses are unsatisfactory, and 67% seeing a need for both earlier and later services from both Moycullen and Galway. 137 respondents suggested times for additional services, summarised as follows:

- Hourly service
- Inward (to Galway): increased frequency, 7am-9am (peak at 7.30am), 11am-2pm (peak at 1pm), evening service
- Outward (to Moycullen): 3pm, steady demand 5.30 - midnight

J3 BEALACH Rural Transport Initiative (questions provided by Galway County Council).

BEALACH Tionscnamh Iompair Tuaithe (ceisteanna curtha ar fáil ag Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe) 526 respondents from 215 households state they would use such a rural transport service if it was available, with many households being multi-user. There are distinct preferences for certain routes, primarily to give access to bus services to Galway, and access to the village for shopping and service to/from the local GAA pitch. There are also distinct preferences for weekday daytime and Saturday daytime services. POBAL are developing plans for such a service.

K. Parking / Páirceáil

The majority of respondents state there is insufficient parking in Moycullen (57.2%). 78.7% of respondents state that more public parking should be made available in Moycullen. There is no definite trend in opinion on enforcement of parking regulations in the village, but there is a strong wish for more public parking to be made available by Galway County Council (42.2%), and Developers (56.4%). Note that the survey questionnaire was completed prior to the opening of Cearnóg Nua shopping centre and car park.

L. Education provision / Soláthar Oideachais

Numbers attending schools (pre-schools, primary schools and secondary schools) inside and outside Moycullen are reported. 78% of respondents rate educational facilities in Moycullen from adequate to very good, with 54% of respondents rating it as good or very good. There is strong opinion that the existing primary school should be extended. The Parents Association of Scoil Mhuire have also collected 1674 signatures supporting a petition seeking a school extension, and letters signed by both parents from 219 households have been sent to the Minister of Education (see Appendix 3). There are also some views that the primary school should be relocated.

There is a strong wish for a secondary school to be built in Moycullen (76%). There is a body of opinion suggesting that Killarainey is the optimal location for school buildings in Moycullen. A majority of respondents (69%) state that they would send children of suitable school-going age to secondary school in Moycullen. 50% of respondents see a need for a Gaelscoil in Moycullen, and 46% state that they would send their children to a Gaelscoil if it existed. Many people pointed out that there are existing Gaelscoileanna (primary schools) in the community already.

M. Health services/centre provision / Soláthar seirbhísí sláinte/ionad sláinte

The majority of respondents who expressed an opinion (67%) (excludes 'don't know' responses) are satisfied with current levels of Health Services in Moycullen, but 87% of respondents who offered an opinion also see a need for an improved Health Centre. A significant body of people offered no opinion on either question.

N. Senior citizens centre/housing / Tithíocht/Ionad do Sheandaoine

A majority of respondents offering an opinion (78%) (excludes 'don't know' responses) state that there are insufficient facilities for senior citizens in the community. A majority (97%) of people offering an opinion are in favour of a senior citizen's centre in the community. A significant body of people offered no opinion on either question. A social dropin centre, sheltered housing, social inclusion programme and transport are considered the highest priority needs.

O. Care facilities for people with disability (Intellectual, Physical or Sensory disability)

Cúram dóibh siúd le míchumas(míchumas Intleachtúil, Fisiciúil nó Céadfaíoch

A majority of respondents offering an opinion (90%) (excludes 'don't know' responses) state that there are insufficient facilities in the community for people with disabilities. Again, many people stated they do not know. Day care facilities, improved accessibility, respite care and better transport are considered the highest priority needs.

P. Tourism / Turasóireacht

The majority of respondents offering an opinion (71%) (excludes 'don't know' responses) rated the approach to tourism as poor or very poor. Suggestions and comments for improvement are included in the compiled survey responses (Appendix 5).

Q. Pride in Moycullen village / Bród sa tsráidbhaile

Respondents offered many opinions on the aspects of the village which make it unique and on buildings which should be protected. There is strong support for participation in Tidy Towns, with 89% of respondents supporting participation in the scheme. 77% of respondents would consider assisting with this effort. 51% state that the environment is insufficiently protected and 62% are dissatisfied with the level of recycling services. Suggestions and comments for improvement are included in the compiled survey responses (Appendix 5)

R. Policing/Community alert Póilínteacht/Pobal ar aire

74% of respondents are dissatisfied with the level of policing in Moycullen. 54% of people are aware that Moycullen has a Community Alert scheme.

S. Optimal use of existing community infrastructure

An úsáid is fearr a bhaint as an infrastruchtúr pobail atá ann cheana

Awareness of the Community office and its services are 80% and 56% respectively. 88% of those offering an opinion (excludes 'don't know' responses) are satisfied with the services provided by the community office.

There is very high awareness of Moycullen Matters (97%) and high level of regular readership (81%). There are many suggestions relating to subjects for inclusion (included in the compiled survey responses (Appendix 5))

66% of respondents are aware of the community website www.moycullen.net/ www.maighcuilinn.net. 58% of households have accessed or emailed the website. A majority of people (81%) are not seeking to publicise their group or business activities on the website. There are a number of suggestions for consideration (listed in the compiled survey responses (Appendix 5)).

T. Details of any issue needing to be considered by Moycullen community

An extensive list of suggestions and issues has been submitted by respondents for consideration (included in the compiled survey responses (Appendix 5)).

6. Conclusions : Priority Community Projects

Moycullen is a community of approximately 3700 people across a wide range of age groups. It is a very vibrant community, with local people engaged in very many activities both in daily life and in community and leisure pursuits. The community has shown itself to be very publicly minded through the level of local volunteerism and the level of interest and engagement with its own future through participation in this study.

The local community believes that there are insufficient facilities within the community to support the full needs of its population. This contention does bear through, considering the current population, current community facilities and infrastructure, with the existing range and standard of community, voluntary and sporting organisations, and the projected growth of the local population. In addressing the need for expansion of community facilities and infrastructure, Moycullen Community Development Association has looked to identify priority projects and areas.

Statutory Documents such as the County Development Plan 2003-2009 [reference 3], Draft Galway County Development Plan, 2009-2015 [reference 6], Gaeltacht Local Area Plan 2008 [reference 5], and Moycullen Local Area Plan 2005-2011 reference 2] highlight the level of state support for community groups. They also highlight the identified need for development and expansion of community, educational and recreational facilities in the Moycullen area.

Priorities

Based on the results of the community survey, the opinions of the youth in the area, various submissions and discussions, priority projects for MCDA and Moycullen community have been identified and confirmed as follows:

1. Community Centre
2. Various Sports facilities
3. Playing fields suitable for a number of sports
4. Playgrounds
5. Walking/cycling/green area

These were agreed at a public meeting held on 23rd Oct 2007.

The community of Moycullen also seeks

1. Improved Health centre facilities
2. Centre for Senior Citizens and sheltered housing
3. Day care centre (including respite care) for people with disability
4. Secondary school (possibly a Gaelscoil)
5. Extension to the primary school and improvement to its general facilities

Development of the above facilities and infrastructure would provide an improved social, cultural, educational and activity-based focus for Moycullen community.

The community further seeks

- improvement in the provision of public car parking, improvement in the road network and improvement in public safety.
- improved public transport, both through Bus Eireann services on main routes and the provision of a Rural Transport service giving better access from outlying areas of the community to the village and to main bus and transport routes.
- an improved approach to Tourism, demonstrating great pride in the village

The community has identified

- a list of buildings which should be preserved
- a strong interest in participation in Tidy Towns
- the need for improved management of recycling bring-banks in the community.

The community

- is aware of the community office and is happy with its service levels
- has a good readership of Moycullen Matters community magazine
- is aware, and occasionally using the community website
www.moycullen.net / www.maighcuilinn.net

The community has identified an extensive list of further issues within the area which it wants to address.

Preferred Location for a future community centre

The lands at Killarainey are the preferred location for much of the proposed community facilities development. The community believes that the community centre, sports facilities, walking areas, playing fields and senior playground should be located here. Consideration should also be given to locating school buildings on this site, as it may be beneficial to locate these close to sports and parking facilities. The preferred location for a playground for younger children is on the Spiddal road, where it is considered most accessible from all areas of the village.

7. Youth Survey Results

A short youth survey questionnaire was distributed to 65 young people traveling on two school buses from Moycullen to schools in Galway on 26th Feb 2007 (40 on Ballinahallia bus, 25 on the Woodlands Park bus). 29 completed survey questionnaires were returned (18 on Ballinahallia bus, 11 on Woodlands Park bus), giving a return rate of 45%.

Young people were asked three questions

- 1) rate current youth facilities in Moycullen
- 2) what facilities would you like to see in Moycullen for youth in Moycullen?
- 3) what new activities would you like to see in Moycullen for youth?

Youth facilities were rated from adequate to very poor, with 86% of respondents rating facilities as poor or very poor.

On facilities required for youth, the top three items on first preferences were a Community Centre, basketball courts and a cinema. A community centre received top priority (42%) of first preferences. The top three new activities proposed were hockey, a youth club and badminton.

8. Summary Recommendations

The factors in favour of Moycullen Community projects on land at Kilarainy include

- Active community committed to its own future. Moycullen Community Development Association (MCDA) is the identifiable local representative organisation for the community of Moycullen. MCDA is well placed to progress the above projects with and on behalf of Moycullen community. The Community Development Association and local fundraising groups are already in place.
- Land asset, free of any future financial burden to the community.
- Repatriation of funds currently paid out by the community for use of external facilities will support loan repayments.
- Current active support of various State Agencies, and commitment to support future development as outlined in the Moycullen Local Area Plan 2005-2011.

The following recommendations are made:

MCDA to:

- Rec.1 Conclude transfer of lands at Killarainey as soon as possible. This will provide MCDA, acting for Moycullen community, with a substantial and suitable land bank for development of the community projects which are identified
- Rec.2 Seek support for the appointment of a full time Community Development Officer (CDO) to support the substantial effort in making the development plan a reality. Funding support may be available from Udaras na Gaeltachta and other public bodies. The CDO will act as a coherent link between different local organisations and outside agencies.
- Rec.3 Extend its membership to ensure the success of the community infrastructural development project.
- Rec.4 Select and appoint an action-based, goal-orientated implementation team, holding appropriate skills to advance the project.
- Rec.5 Co-ordinate a series of focused community meetings to consider each major survey area and formulate an action plan.
- Rec.6 Decide on best use of three acres of land at Killarainey Woods currently in community ownership
- Rec.7 Consider the future use of Arus Uilinn in the overall facilities and infrastructural development for Moycullen community.

- Rec.8 Discuss with local community groups, various public bodies, potential partners and funding agencies, to define projects and partnerships which can be included in the overall programme
- Rec.9 Conduct benchmark visits to identified buildings and facilities to decide on exact make up, scale and cost of community facilities proposed
- Rec.10 Draw up Terms of Reference for full Framework Plan for community projects at Killarainey
- Rec.11 Commission Architectural firm or Quantity Surveyors to draw up accurate plans for community buildings and prepare a business plan and accurate projections for income and expenditure on proposed facilities. This should take account of partnership possibilities and financial considerations relating to other potential projects. The Business Plan will allow Moycullen Community Development Association to open discussions with Funding Agencies
(plan should consider multi use, energy efficient buildings, (possibly using CHP heating), given the potential for increasing energy costs)
- Rec.12 Commission a Plean Gaeilge, both from an Irish language development perspective, and as pre-requisite for requesting financial support from Roinn naGaeltachta.
- Rec.13 Scrutinise planning/zoning considerations to allow progression to planning application
- Rec.14 Define a phased project implementation
- Rec.15 Identify stand alone items within the overall programme which may be met on individual basis by single funding agency (e.g.County Council for all weather pitch, MFG/LEADER for playground).
- Rec.16 Seek improved policing for the community
- Rec.17 Support Tar Isteach (MCDA sub-committee) in securing a playground for small children, proposed for the Mountain road.
- Rec.18 Facilitate formation of a local committee to consider future schools projects (secondary and/or primary) in the overall plan.
- Rec.19 Seek further support for the ongoing efforts of Sonas, The Brothers of Charity and other local groups in seeking improved health centre facilities, a centre for Senior Citizens, sheltered housing, a day care centre for people with disability, including respite care for disabled and their carers.