

November 2013

**Rylane**

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**Community-led  
VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT**



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# **Community-led VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT**



Comhshaoil, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil  
Environment, Community and Local Government





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## 1 Introduction and background

The process of preparing the Community-led Village Design Statement (VDS) for Rylane commenced at the end of 2012 and was prepared in conjunction with the two neighbouring villages of Aghabullogue and Coachford.

The hard work of the ACR Community Council resulted in the securing of VDS funding from West Cork Development Partnership. Following a tender process, URS were engaged to support the community in their preparation of this Village Design Statement.

The people of Rylane have generated ideas that are summarised here into a Vision for the village and an Action List with a series of Projects. These can be initiated within the short, medium and long term.

The status of a Village Design Statement is shown in the diagram to the right. A VDS is a mechanism for protecting, celebrating and enhancing local distinctiveness. It does not deal with statutory land use zonings and is separate from the Local Area Plan for Rylane prepared by Cork County Council. A submission has been made by the community to Cork County Council to include a policy in the new Development Plan supporting the output of Village Design Statements.

The vision set out in this Village Design Statement is inspirational yet realistic and achievable. The community now have a “road-map” for progressing projects in the village, a tool for engaging with state and funding agencies and a plan for realising the goals and aspirations of the people of Rylane.

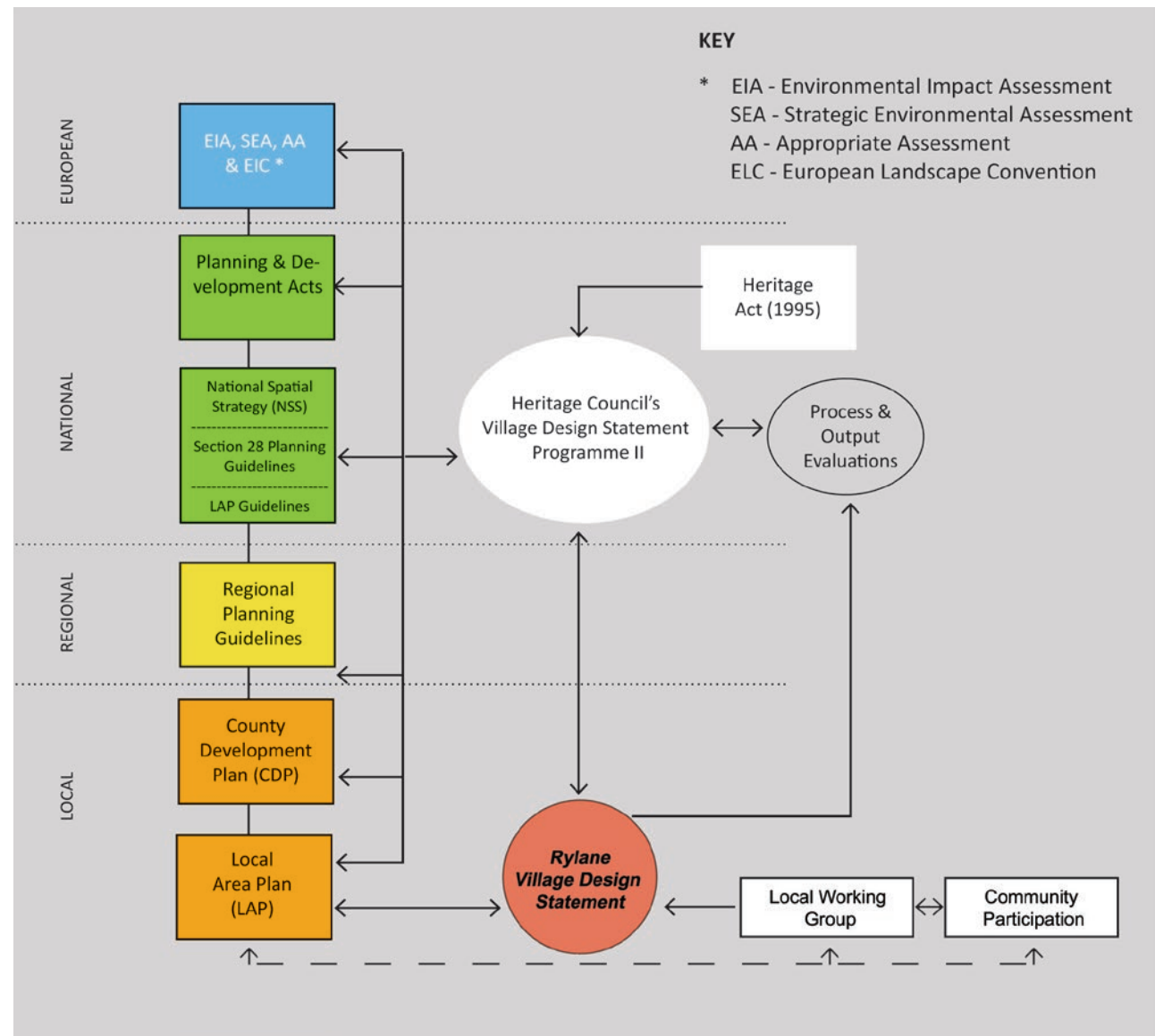


Diagram is based on the 'Community-Led Village Design Statements in Ireland, Toolkit 2012, Page 8, by The Heritage Council and Partners.

In summary, the following has been achieved by the preparation of a Village Design Statement for Rylane:

Capturing of the knowledge contained within the community and sharing of information about the village, its landscape and heritage;

Development of a useful 'tool' to ensure that future developments and changes add to local distinctiveness and character;

A link into the planning system so that planners can use the VDS to improve the local distinctiveness of design proposals;

A summary of local opinion to assist local authority planners, architects, developers and others; and

A process which helped capacity building within the community and now provides a clear setting out of projects for future progression by the community.



## 2 The Collaborative Process

The Village Design Statement process has been based on the Toolkit developed by the Heritage Council in 2012. The community led approach embraces a new collaborative and participative approach to village planning and design.

The collaborative process included three elements:

- A village walkabout with community representatives and URS
- Questionnaires issued to the village community
- A Community Workshop open to all held in Rylane School Hall

It was considered essential to involve a wide range of people in the shaping of the Village Design Statement - people of all age groups, people who had lived in Rylane all their lives, and others who recently moved to the area. The questionnaire focused on questions relating to the following:

- What are the unique features and qualities of Rylane?
- What are the issues of concern to the community?
- What is the character of the village?

It was considered very important to gather the opinions of children in the village. This was achieved with the kind help and support of the teachers and school principal. The pupils also explored the following two questions during an arts project:

- What do you like most about Rylane?

- What would you like to have in your village?

The outcome resulted in wonderfully colourful, inspirational and imaginative drawings. The drawings were shown at the workshop. We wish to thank the school and everyone involved for their support in this project.



The participants at the community workshop engaged thoroughly with the marking of maps and drawings and worked through the following questions:

- What do you like about your village?
- What do you dislike about your village?
- Where is the centre of the village – Where and what is its historic core?
- How can Rylane be a healthy place for children, for older people, for everyone?
- What would you like your village to be like in twenty years time?
- What can you do to help?

The evening sparked a lively debate about the different aspects of the village, its past, the current condition and its future.



After a careful analysis of all information gathered, a draft vision for the village was established. The workshop outcomes and a draft village vision were set out on posters which were put on display. The workshop outcomes were also shared with the relevant state agencies who were invited to join an Inter-Agency Group (members listed in Appendix II). All agencies expressed support for the Village Design Statement process and output. These relationships will grow as various projects set out in this document are progressed.

In many ways, the process of developing the Community-Led Village Design Statement has been as valuable as the document itself, bringing together local people and providing a focus around which all members of the community were given the opportunity to participate. The process also provided a mechanism for engagement with Cork County Council and other state agencies.

## COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

### RYLANE VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT

**Play your part in the preparation of a  
Village Design Statement for Rylane**

The aim of the workshop is to generate ideas  
for the future of Rylane.

We need everybody's input to achieve a shared vision for the village.

**Thursday, 8/11/12, 7pm  
Rylane School Hall**

The Village Design Statement will emerge from the ideas and knowledge  
of the community. It will be supported by expert input from landscape architects,  
road engineers, recreation and heritage consultants from URS.  
This project was initiated by ACR Community Council.

Programme – Workshop, 8th November 2012

Rylane - Preparation of a Village Design Statement (VDS)

7.00pm Introduction

- What is a community-led Village Design Statement?
- Overview of the collaborative and participative process
- Purpose of this evening's workshop

7.20pm Workshop

- What do you like about your village?
- What do you dislike about your village?
- Where is the centre of the village – Where and what is its historic core?
- How do we make Rylane a healthy place for children, for older people, for everyone?
- What would you like your village to be like in twenty years' time?
- What can you do to help?
- Feedback from groups

8.30pm Summary

Summary of main points of agreement and explanation of next steps

8.40pm Open discussion

9.00pm Thank you and evening close



### 3 Context and history





Rylane Cross (Irish: Reighleán an Rince, possibly translated as *Dancing Green*) is a village in County Cork in the Parish of Aghabullogue. The population of the Mountrivers electoral division, which includes Rylane and a small rural area around the village is 668.

The good land in this part of Cork means that there have been people living here for millennia. There are many examples of stone circles, standing stones, wedge tombs ringforts, ogham stones and fulacht fiadhs in the locality. There are also great examples of traditional stone walls in the village.

There are many standing stones found in fields around Rylane. They may have been used to mark burials or have had a commemorative or ritual function. They may even have served as boundary markers or as posts on old roads. Most are thought to date from the Bronze Age.

There are also three fulacht fiadhs located on the land nearby. Fulacht fiadhs are low mounds dating back to the Bronze Age. They were used for cooking when hot stones were used to boil water.

Almost all the megalithic tombs in Cork are wedge tombs dating back to between 3,000 and 1,500 BC. They are communal burial chambers consisting of a long narrow burial gallery with an entrance, which normally faces in a south-westerly direction. The roof is formed of slabs, which are laid on sidewalls, often there is also an outer wall. 59 wedge tombs are found in Cork with 43 of these in the Mid Cork area. They are known by a number of other names such as dolmens, cromlechs, druidical altars and giant's graves. They are normally found in upland areas (above an altitude of 700 feet.)

A megalithic wedge tomb lies nearby in Knockagoun about 1 mile north of Rylane Cross. It consists of a short narrow gallery covered by two overlapping roof slabs. It runs in a NW (entrance) to SE direction. It is 2.6 metres long and around 0.9 metres wide. According to the land owner, an attempt made about 1900 to knock the tomb was abandoned due to an unexplained misfortune which befell those involved in the demolition.



A stone circle is also found in Oughtiherra. These were built for ritualistic or ceremonial purposes. Stone circles may be loosely divided into those with 5 stones and those with a greater number of stones. The stone circles found in the south west of Ireland are unlike those found in the elsewhere in Ireland and Britain.



The stone circle in Oughtiherra is aligned in an ENE - WSW direction and has an internal diameter of 2.7 metres. Five stones are present in circle although there were probably seven originally. An ogham stone and St. Olan's holy well are present midway between Mountrivers and the village of Aghabullogue. These are the best known monuments in the locality and the well is still in use as a holy site. St. Olan is the patron saint of the parish, but the origins of St Olan's well lie in pre-Christian times. We know that the Irish people in pre-Christian times worshiped water. The arrival of Christianity saw many of these wells blessed and used by Christians. Pilgrimages (known as rounds) are still made at the well especially on the feast day of St. Olan on September the 5th. Here prayers are recited and water is used to cure ailments especially those of the eye. Votive stones are left behind symbolising the leaving behind of pains and illnesses. Nobody interferes with these stones for fear of picking up that ailment. The well is preserved and Stations of the Cross and a Statue of the Blessed Virgin were added in the 1970's. The well itself is a beehive shaped structure with a small opening at the base, a Whitethorn grows at the top of the well.

The ogham stone stands a few feet from the well. Ogham is the oldest form of writing in Ireland, it is based on the Latin alphabet. About 300 ogham inscriptions exist in Ireland mainly in the south-west, they are also found in Wales, Scotland and the Isle of Man. The letters are represented by lines or dots, which are marked on the stone. Ogham is read from the bottom up. The stone in Dromatimore in Aghabullogue was originally located in Mountrivers before it was moved to its present site in 1851. The inscription has been decoded as "MADORA MAQI DEGO" or "NO MAQI DEGO". The translation is unclear but it is thought to be in honour of some important chief or warrior of the Clana Deaghda tribe. These were a tribe of knights who lived in Ireland and held their territory in West Munster.



In the early days, at best the road was a muddy boreen (little road) or cart track. In 1747, John MURPHY of Castleisland was commissioned to build a new and improved turnpike route which became the first true Butter Road.

Another description of the journey from farthest Kerry was rendered to a Select Committee of Employment of the Poor at Killarney in 1823. It read:

*'I should think the peasant had to travel a distance of about seventy miles from his house and his load was generally two firkins of butter, that was one hundred weight; they travel without lodging, with merely buying a piece of bread or a sup of milk upon the road...he travels night and day'*

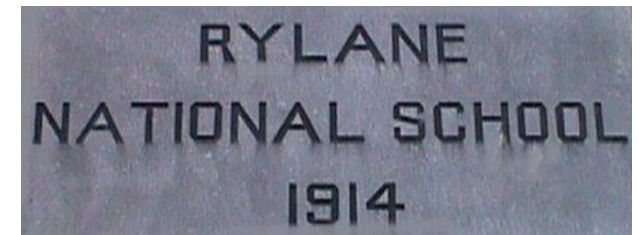


Half way along this road, near Millstreet, is a flat rock called 'The Kerryman's Table', a traditional meeting spot and resting place for those travelling along the way. When you stand on this lonely road today, with only the song of skylarks overhead and a clear view for miles over bogland and heather, you can almost hear the babble of voices and different accents as folk from far distances.

Even on the journey home, there were still dangers to be faced. Often they were carrying hard-earned money back home, and highwaymen and petty thieves abounded in this countryside, concealing themselves in bushes on the mountainside or lying in wait in remote glens. The road home was as much to be feared as the road out. With the advent of the railways in the mid 1800s, a lot of the hardship was taken out of transporting the butter.

The Butter Road (Rylane/Millstreet Road) is still there today, while it is a busy road for motorists it is also used by cyclists and walkers.

Rylane National School was established in 1914 and is at the heart of the Rylane community.



Like many villages in this part of Cork, Rylane would experience tragedy during the time of the Great Famine and a famine grave is marked by a cross at Knocknagoun.



The musical tradition of Rylane has been celebrated by the Féile Rylane.

The website [www.esatclear.ie/~kellehere/](http://www.esatclear.ie/~kellehere/) provides great information on the history of Rylane, as well as stories told by local people and a range of photographs.

## 4 The Landscape Setting



Rylane is set within an undulating and rural landscape with interweaving hills and valleys. The Boggeragh Mountains and foothills provide a very attractive setting for the village. The old Butter Road connects the village to the mountains and to Kerry beyond.

The landscape displays the layers of habitation over the millennia – with standing stones, stone circles, wedge tombs and a complex field pattern that has built up over time. The village has an unusual form with two centres with connecting roads and lanes with their own special character including old stone walls. Sean's Lane in particular is a lovely sloping road. The triangular shape of the village results in an open green field in the centre.

The surrounding landscape has a strong agricultural form, with a mosaic field pattern and tree and hedgerow field boundaries. There are areas of woodland as well as more recent conifer plantations in the wider landscape. A small bog has been planted with conifers.



## 5 The Village





1 Rylane National School



2 St. Olan's Church



3 Sean's Lane



4 Anvil Bar



5 Crowley's Shop and post office



6 Green at Upper Cross



7 Green village core



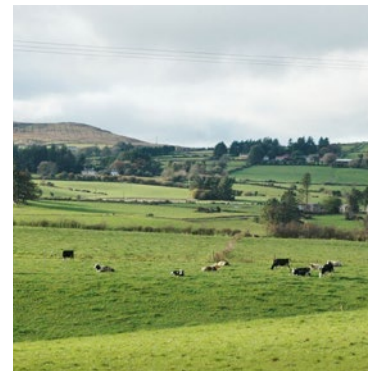
8 Knocknagoun Place



9 Thatched house at Lower Cross



10 Lower Cross



11 Rolling countryside



12 Community Hall with commemoration plaque dedicated to Johnny Tom Gleeson

## 6 Rylane today, an analysis

The following is a summary of the community analysis gained from the village walkabout, questionnaires and workshop. Further details are enclosed in Appendix IV.

### People like...

- Excellent school at the heart of the community
- Local people
- Hall
- Church
- Shop – local owners very friendly and knowledgeable
- Play green at Knocknagoun Place
- Good community spirit
- Friendliness of village
- Perfect size of community
- Post office
- Landscape and location, rural scenic setting on old Butter Road 40km from Cork city
- Views, open spaces, fresh air
- Pubs
- Soccer pitch
- Soccer club and boxing club
- Nearby woods
- Walk on top road
- Heritage and culture
- Health centre

*The people of Rylane feel that the heart of the village is at the Post Office. However, for a small village, Rylane is not very compact!*

### The community is concerned about...

- Speed of traffic
- Lack of footpaths
- Insufficient street lighting
- Unfinished eyesores
- Sean's Lane potholes / HGV usage
- The post office could go out of business
- Very poor drainage
- Litter
- Lack of bus services
- Lack of signposts and road markings
- Poor broadband quality
- Remoteness and delays for emergency services
- Childcare & play areas
- Noise at night
- Change of right of way @ Convent Cross
- Lack of access to sewage system
- Parking at National School extremely dangerous
- Lack of basic facilities in the boxing club, i.e. showers, girl's dressing room and heating
- Rylane Celtic - no dressing room only two containers and no children's team

*There are not enough footpaths in the village*

*Roads are not safe for children walking*

*Traffic goes too fast in the village*



### The people of Rylane think that these are the future threats to the village

- Emigration
- Dormitory town status
- Lack of investment and infrastructure
- Get left behind
- Lack of support for local projects
- Planning for wind turbine on the entire northern mountain range
- If at first a community project does not succeed, heads may drop and a lack of motivation sets in



## What can I do to improve the village? - This is what the people of Rylane came up with

- Donate time and money to fund-raising
- Elect a community liaison officer to delegate duties and work
- Create a voluntary labour work group
- Acquire land & buildings to improve facilities
- Volunteer groups creating skills base, bartering system to get work done
- Honesty and promotion of the benefits to the community
- Set up a maintenance group / team



## The children of Rylane would like...

- Hedge maze
- Museum
- Library
- Activities for grandparents
- Horse riding trail/pony trekking
- Youth club facilities
- Heritage centre
- Swimming pool
- Playground
- Sports ground
- All-weather pitch
- Crèche/day-care/after-school club
- Mountain biking trails
- Hill walking
- Pitch & putt/crazy golf

"The community hall needs to be made the centre of our community then this can be used for young, middle and old generations. But behind our community hall are community people – without people you have no community."

New buildings should be located in the core of the village

...there should be pathways for walking in the countryside, off the roads

...there should be more cultural activities, music, drama etc.



## People have the following ideas ...



- Harness renewable energy to become more self sufficient
- Work closer to home or from home
- Better infrastructure
- Rylane will be a hub of activity / busy village
- Local produce – farmers market
- Adult centre
- Childcare facilities
- A healthy place for all to live
- Similar size to present
- Support from and for local farmers
- Widen Sean's Lane
- Colourful brighter village
- Connected safe footpaths with lighting
- Laughter / playing on the streets
- A variety of tree species
- More buses/public transport
- New Cemetery / Graveyard
- Filling station with deli
- Sheltered accommodation – keeping friends together
- Promotion of 5000 yr old history
- Promotion of hill walks
- Community spirit, but still a dormitory village

- Start up book club
- Start up historic club
- Allotments
- Make community hall / school the centre of village
- Link farming community with village community
- More central sports field
- Day-care centre
- Save triangular walk
- Bike trails
- Café
- More people
- Regular community work days
- Youth facilities
- Improved broadband
- Lots of elderly people about
- Undeveloped site adjacent to school – convert to partial car parking for school, all weather facility for kids, green space accessible to all, soccer pitch
- Shop at lower cross and surrounding area needs face lift
- Small wall outside shop needs painting
- Knock derelict buildings and landscape vacant land
- Improve the green area at the middle of Knocknagoun Place
- Area across from Anvil Bar could be improved
- The area around the post box at the Lower Cross could be improved

- Footpaths and lighting
- Highlight walks in the area and make safe paths with lights
- Signage to local amenities – graveyard, school, community centre etc. and interpretative signage to key sites in the village (for example to grave yard, standing stones etc.)
- More social activities
- River areas developed with stone walls and garden areas
- Safe walks free of dogs and well lit up
- Seats and benches/picnic areas at upper and lower cross
- Use the local community centre more and have it upgraded with more resources such as showers, proper changing rooms, heating etc.
- Restrict HGVs using Sean's Lane
- Outreach services for the elderly
- Horse walks, clay pigeon shooting or rally events
- Coffee shop/Café
- Activity Centre





## ... to protect the following local heritage and natural features for future generations

- Village pumps protected and enhanced
- Paint the wall at Knocknagoun Place and decorate with flowers
- Stone ditches cleaned up and restored
- Crowley's shop – Centre piece of village
- The bog
- Famine grave and standing stones
- School and village hall
- Thatched house at lower cross
- The Butter Road



## ... to provide the following for Rylane's children

- After school club
- Play area for kids
- All weather facility
- Crèche – use vacant shop?



## ... to enhance local business

- Easier access to the village centre with footpaths and lighting
- The post office is vital to the community and people should make every effort possible to make good use of it like paying bills, savings accounts etc.
- Campaign to encourage people to shop local and support the local industry
- Central notice board advertising local special offers and services
- A local business directory
- Entertainment in pubs – live music, poker night, pub quiz.
- Faster broadband
- Better road surfacing
- Post office to issue tax for cars
- Café/Diner
- More local businesses



## The people of Rylane would like to see these events and festivals in the village

- Féile Rylane (reinstate as a more family orientated festival)
- Family fun day
- Sports day
- Christmas Bazaar
- Car boot sales
- Meet your neighbour nights
- Local farmers market
- Athletic club
- Rylane Community Social
- Set Dancing
- Music teaching in hall
- Car or bike shows with camping for weekend
- Zumba
- Walking festivals
- Running events through the school is a good way to get support

## 7 The Shared Vision

“**RYLANE**, a **VIBRANT** and **COLOURFUL** village, **HUB** to a range of **ACTIVITIES** for **YOUNG** and **OLD**, **BUSTLING** with **PEOPLE**, a **SELF-SUFFICIENT COMMUNITY** ahead of its time.”

Having identified its distinctive features and the issues and opportunities associated with the village, we can now look to the future. What kind of place would you like Rylane to be? The exercises carried out at the community workshop resulted in the formulation of a shared vision for the village.

This **Shared Vision Statement** represents the aspirations that the people of Rylane have for their village. All future development and regeneration projects in Rylane should now seek to contribute to the realisation of this vision.



## 8 Key Ambitions

### 1 Make walking and driving around Rylane better

- Create a continuous network of footpaths, traffic calming measures including footpaths and lighting
- Improve drop off and pick up area at school
- Develop links with the wider countryside
- Better public transport

### 2 Become a more self-sufficient village

- Instigate a community renewable power scheme
- Promote local growing and selling of food, provide allotments
- Upgrade insulation in buildings
- More social activities, clubs and events
- More working from or close to home

### 3 Improve our community facilities

- Provide sheltered accommodation in village
- Retain and improve community services
- Ensure public buildings are accessible for all
- New café for the village
- Improve sports facilities
- Central notice board

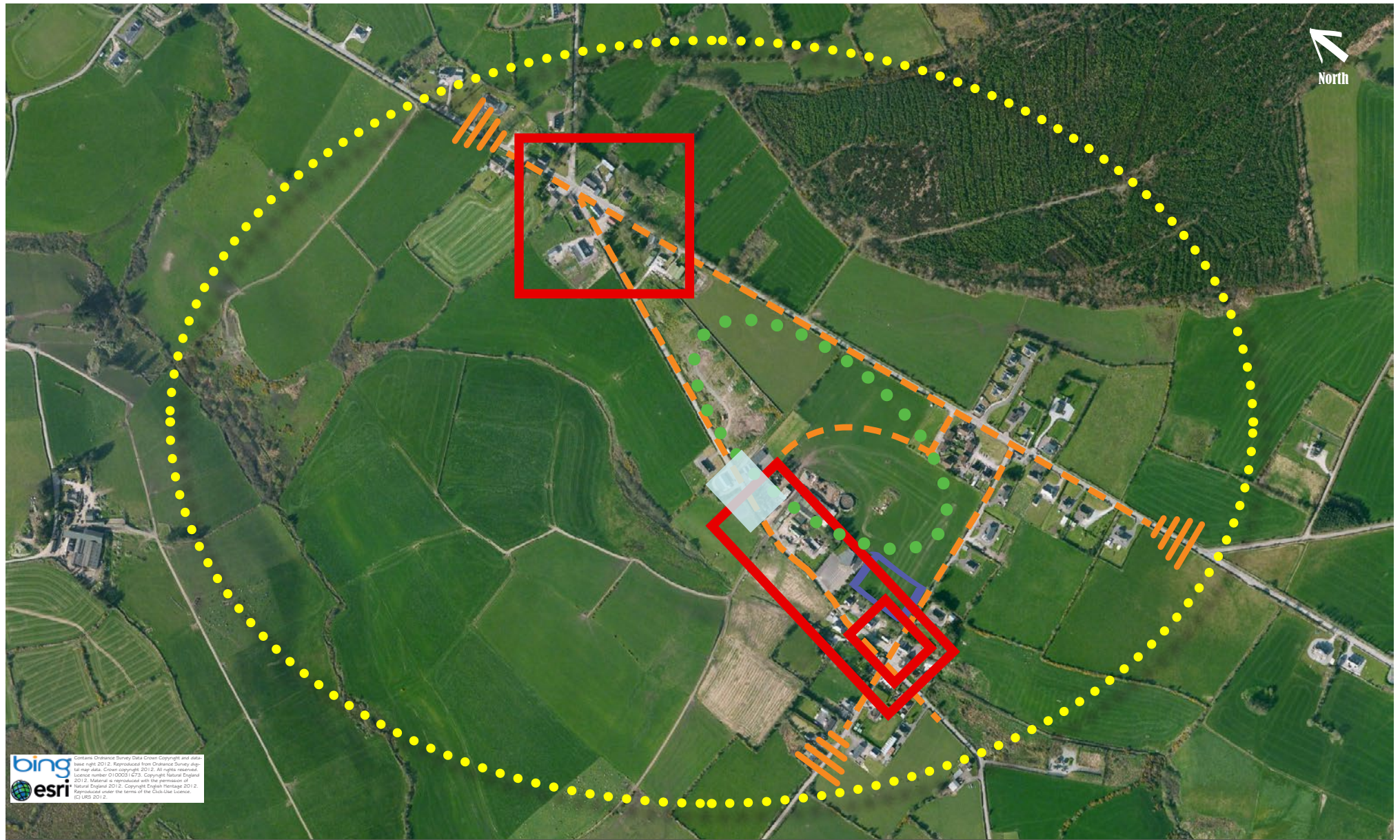
### 4 Celebrate our living heritage

- Promote and cherish 5,000yr heritage
- Retain rural village character
- Start-up Féile Rylane again and walking festivals
- Develop interpretation signage for local sites of interest
- Promote heritage tourism in Rylane along with Aghabullogue and Coachford

### 5 Utilise the power of volunteers

- Elect a community liaison office to organise volunteers
- Acquire land and buildings for the community
- Create volunteer skill base and barter system
- Set up a village maintenance team
- More fund-raising

## 9 Village Design Concept



## The Village Heart(s)

Rylane is unusual in that it has developed around two crossroads, known as Upper Cross and Lower Cross. The third point to the village triangle contains a number of houses. This triangle encloses a green core. In the future, Rylane will feel more cohesive and the various parts will connect better. It will retain and expand its services and become a vibrant place for all ages. Any new developments should follow building lines that contribute to the sense of a cohesive settlement. Footpaths along the roads and connections across the green core will link the school and church better with the houses within and around Rylane. There is plenty of space for providing great public spaces in the village and there are great opportunities for improving Upper and Lower Cross with trees, paved areas and more organised parking. These could become a hub of business and activity and a great setting for local events or festivals.

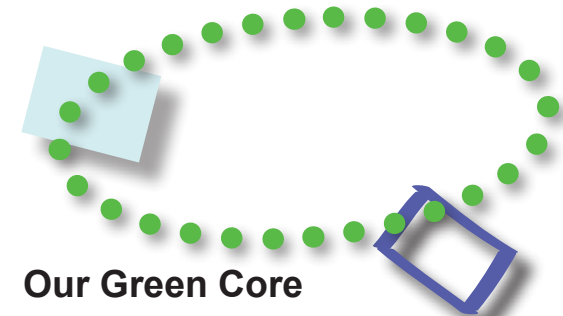
## Our Landscape

Rylane sits in a stunning setting with an incredible wealth of ancient monuments and great stories. The community wish to connect the village more with this heritage through walks, festivals and promotion. Any new interventions in the village will respect the high quality of the surrounding landscape. The links with the Butter Road connect the village with Kerry and Cork City, and to Ireland's agricultural heritage and options for developing this link will be explored.



## Taming the road

While there are some footpaths in the village, there needs to be much more to connect the different key areas. Traffic speeds can be a problem, the area around the school can be dangerous and Sean's Lane is too narrow for heavy traffic. Therefore a comprehensive plan is needed to calm speeds, construct footpaths and associated drainage, provide school drop-off facilities and improve lighting. Any traffic calming measures should be in tune with the rural character of the village, and any oversized signs should be avoided. Narrowing the carriageway and making the road feel more like a village road will reduce traffic speeds. All these suggestions will require further detailed design and road safety audits. The phasing and prioritising of interventions will require careful planning to ensure success.



## Our Green Core

There is so much potential for the green core – housing, better organised school parking and circulation, a new cemetery, sports pitches, community park, paths and connections, allotments. There were many ideas raised over the course of the Village Design Statement preparation. It would be sensible to draw up a plan for the area, bearing in mind its importance in connecting the various parts of the village.



*View southeast from the upper cross junction near the post office*

Upper cross is a hub of the village with the post office, shop, pub and health centre. A project to make clear distinctions between pedestrian and vehicle areas would benefit this area. This would take the form of footpaths, organised pull-in parking and new planting. New foot-path construction would incorporate drainage features to address some of the drainage issues in this location at present. New lighting would make this part of the village feel more like a hub of the community and new footpaths would make the link to lower cross, the school and church safer.

Any works along the road carriageway would need to be carried out in conjunction with Cork County Council and with all relevant safety measures undertaken. Any design and materials would need to be in character with the landscape.





Lower Cross contains some of the larger buildings in Rylane as well as a lovely thatched cottage and a small green area beside the stream. There is an opportunity here to create a real sense of place with some works to tie this space together. This might include paving and kerbs, seating, landscaping, lighting and tree planting. It would be important that a new use be found for the old shop to animate this space. A few ideas were raised at the community workshop.

Any works along the road carriageway would need to be carried out in conjunction with Cork County Council and with all relevant safety measures undertaken. Any design and materials would need to be in character with the landscape.

*View northeast from the lower cross roads*



## 10 Action Plan

### What is the 'Action Plan'?

This Community-Led Village Design Statement is the jump off point for a series of projects that have been identified over the course of the process. The key actions are concerned with the following:

- Improve footpaths, calm traffic in the village and organise car movements at school
- Retain and expand community services and facilities
- Improve self-sufficiency of Rylane
- Improve links with surrounding landscape and protect the heritage features in and around Rylane for future generations

Positive change will depend on partnerships forming between the community, Cork County Council, Cork Roads Design Office, West Cork Development Partnership, private developers and government agencies such as Coillte and the Heritage Council.

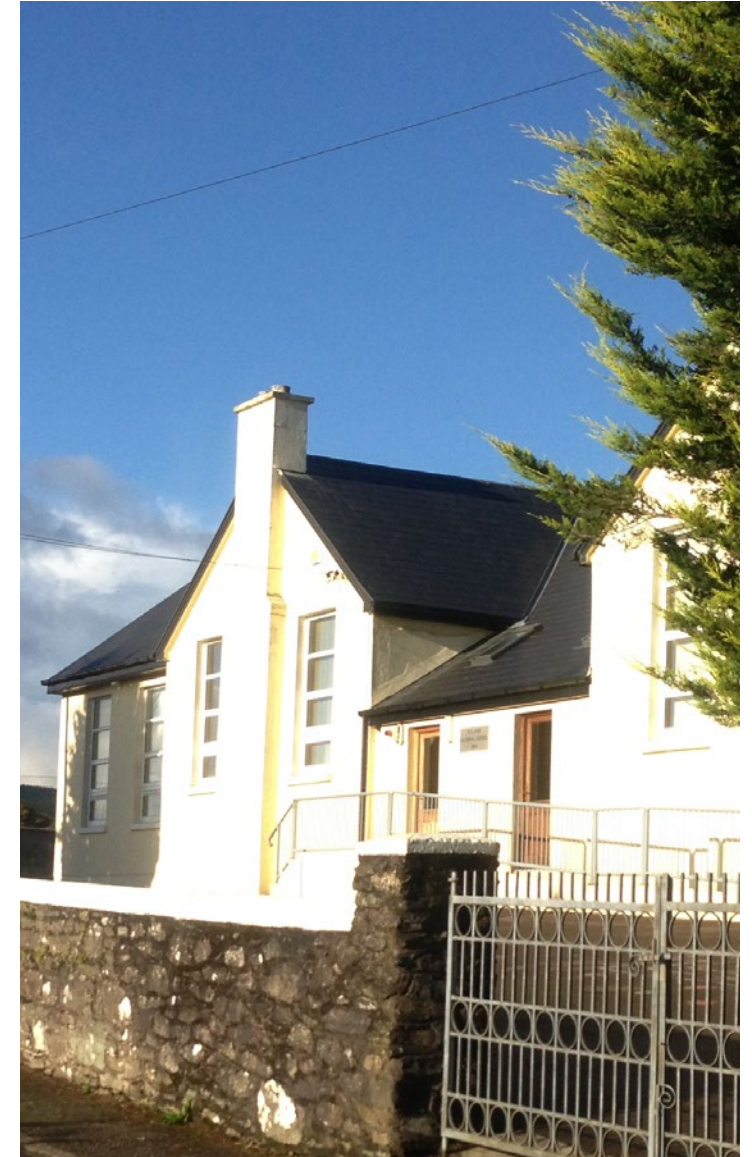
Success will depend on the Village Design Project teams to progress specific actions as laid out in the Action Plan. The process has received great support from Cork County Council and this will continue as the community picks up the various actions for implementation. Specialist input may need to be sought on a voluntary or paid basis (e.g. local history, public realm design, traffic calming, drainage management).

Funding will need to be sourced for various projects. The proposed improvements to the pedestrian environment may for example be funded via roadwork budgets within the County Council. This project in particular would

require close working with agencies responsible for road safety and design. Funding may also be sourced from state agencies, or through funding programmes in local and central government, European programmes and the private sector.

The Action Plan for delivery provides an important tool by which the implementation of the VDS projects can be managed. It sets out priorities, relevant agencies for partnership and a timeframe. Some projects are easily achievable in the short term and some will require longer planning and more specialist input. The projects in the Action Plan are for the community to drive forward on their own, with input from specialists and agencies as necessary. The success of this Community-Led Village Design Statement will ultimately come from the sustained enthusiasm and commitment of the community. This document shows how much can be achieved in a short time, and sets out how much can be achieved in the future.





## Agreed Village Design Action Plan - Part 1

Concept	Project	Priority	Timeframe	Agencies responsible
<b>Welcome to Rylane</b> Arrival at our village	Village entrances to be announced with integrated landscape treatment, speed limit signs (50km/h), traffic calming ahead sign and road marking as necessary. Entrance areas should be fitted with lighting, welcome signage, kerbs and trees to encourage psychological traffic calming.	H	ST	Cork Roads Design Office, Community, Macroom Area Engineer's Office
<b>The Village</b> Place making	<b>Roads:</b>			
	Reduce/widen the local road width throughout village to the minimum required standard within a 50km/h zone.	M	ST	Cork Roads Design Office, Community
	Redevelop and reduce the junction sizes within the village centre to a minimum to encourage speed reduction.	M	ST	Cork Roads Design Office, Community
	Provide for sufficient and safe parking/drop off at the National School.	H	ST	Cork Roads Design Office, Community, Local landowners
	Review rights of way at all road junctions within the village as well as possible restrictions to HGV traffic along selected roads to improve safety of roads and for pedestrians.	H	ST	Cork Roads Design Office, Community, Local landowners
	<b>Footpaths:</b>			
	Develop new footpaths and connect existing stretches of footpath throughout the village (along triangular local road network). Ensure that all footpaths have the minimum required width.	H	ST	Cork Roads Design Office, Community
	Widen existing footpaths to the minimum required standard width and apply new surfacing where required.	H	ST	Cork Roads Design Office, Community
	Develop a clear division between vehicular space and pedestrian space throughout the village. Implement improved street lighting along all footpaths throughout the village, provide for pedestrian crossings (with lowered kerbs), tree planting along footpaths within the village and parking bays including designated spaces for disabled car users.	H	ST	Cork Roads Design Office, Community

## Agreed Village Design Action Plan - Part 2

Concept	Project	Priority	Timeframe	Agencies responsible
<b>The Village (continued)</b> Place making	<b>General:</b>			
	Ensure the retention of the post office. Investigate the possibility of an extension of services offered.	H	ST	An Post, Community, WCDP TÚS or Rural Social Scheme (RSS)
	Actively engage in the organisation of upgrading the broadband and telecommunication facilities available.	H	ST	Relevant telecommunication provider, Community, WCDP TÚS or Rural Social Scheme (RSS)
	Establishment of Childcare facilities.	H	MT	Private Investor, Community
	Agree a colour palette for the village and encourage house owners (public and private) to consider using one of the recommended colours when repainting their house in the future in order to achieve a harmonious, eye-catching and visually cohesive appearance of the village.	H	MT	Dulux Paint Funding, Community, Local Businesses, WCDP TÚS or Rural Social Scheme (RSS)
	Motivate house owners (public and private) to brighten up their houses with flowers where it has not already being done.	M	MT	Community, Local Businesses, WCDP TÚS or Rural Social Scheme (RSS)
	Implement street furniture, i.e. seating, cycle stands and bins.	H	ST	Cork County Council, WCDP TÚS or Rural Social Scheme (RSS)
	Ensure public buildings are accessible for everyone.	H	ST	Cork County Council, Local Businesses, Community, WCDP TÚS or Rural Social Scheme (RSS)
	Preserve and protect old trees within the village.	H	ST	Cork county Council, Community, WCDP TÚS or Rural Social Scheme (RSS)
<b>Facilities</b>				
	Establishment of café/tea rooms for all community generations and visitors.	H	ST	Private Investor, Community
	Provide essential facilities to the boxing club / community hall such as heating, shower rooms and gender separated dressing rooms.	H	ST	Boxing Club, Hall Committee, Cork County Council, Community, West Cork Development Partnership
	Establishment of Youth Club based in the community hall or in new café/tea rooms.	H	ST	Community
	Establishment of sheltered accommodation for older generations.	H	MT	Private Investor, Cork County Council

## Agreed Village Design Action Plan - Part 3

Concept	Project	Priority	Timeframe	Agencies responsible
<b>Facilities (continued)</b>	Development of a day care centre for the elderly.	H	MT	Private Investor, Cork County Council
	Development of a 'Green Core' in the centre of Rylane (triangle) providing seating and picnic facilities, playground, sports field (all weather pitch) and allotments.	H	MT	Private Land Owners, Cork County Council, Community, West Cork Development Partnership
	Replace and upgrade direction signage with the village.	H	ST	Cork Roads Design Office
	Provision of signage/information system within village to direct visitors to parking facilities and local amenities.	H	MT	Cork Roads Design Office, Community
	Establishment of a local community bus between villages and Cork city centre.	H	MT	Private Investor, Local Businesses, Cork County Council
	Development of a new cemetery.	H	MT	Cork County Council, Local landowners
	Improve the visual appearance in the vicinity of the post office on public ground and across Anvil's Bar. Implement tree and shrub planting and improved surfacing.	H	MT	Cork County Council, Local landowners
<b>Water and Energy Management</b>	Development/Connection to a centralised sewage system.	H	LT	Cork County Council, Office of Public Works
	Upgrade insulation in all village buildings to improve energy efficiency.	H	MT	Private Investment, Western Cork Development Board
	Review, analyse and upgrade drainage system within and around the village.	H	MT	Cork County Council, Office of Public Works
	Development of a small community wind farm at a suitable area in the village environs to provide a source of renewable energy for the village.	M	LT	Private Investor, ESBI
<b>Living Heritage</b>	Retain and restore existing village pumps.	H	ST	Heritage Council, Community, Cork County Council
	Paint wall at Knocknagown and decorate with flowers.	H	ST	Dulux Paint Funding, Community
	Clean and restore stone ditches throughout the village.	H	MT	Community, Cork Roads Design Office
	Develop a new village information board with brief history, local heritage features and location information.	H	MT	Community, Cork County Council, Heritage Council, West Cork Development Partnership

**Key:** **Priority:** H - High, M - Medium, L - Low  
**Timeframe:** ST - Short term, MT - Medium Term, LT - Long Term

## Agreed Village Design Action Plan - Part 4

Concept	Project	Priority	Timeframe	Agencies responsible
<b>Rolling Landscapes</b> Integrate our village into its surroundings	Development of looped, designated and signposted walking and cycling paths starting from the centre of the village to the village environs, the Boggeragh Mountains and local sights of interest.	M	MT	Community, Failte Ireland, Local Landowners, Cork County Council, Heritage Council
<b>Moving closer together</b> Connection of our village to Coachford and Aghabullogue	Development of a designated cycling and walking network using the existing local road network or tracks linking Rylane with Aghabullogue and Coachford.	M	LT	Private landowners, Cork County Council, Communities, Failte Ireland, LEADER Development Officer, Rural Recreation Officer (RRO), National Trails Office (NTO), Cork County Council, Coillte, ESB
	Development of a joint website for the villages of Rylane, Coachford and Aghabullogue providing information about the villages such as facilities, things to do, upcoming events, community hall bookings, local business directory and history.	H	ST	Community, Failte Ireland
	Promote Rylane together with Coachford and Aghabullogue. Develop tourism with focus on heritage features, walking and cycling.	H	ST	Community, Failte Ireland, LEADER Development Officer and Rural Recreation Officer (RRO), National Trails Office (NTO), Cork County Council, Coillte, ESB and private landowners
<b>Ourselves</b> The village community	Actively engage in the planning of future buildings to ensure sustainable development to strengthen the heart of the village and retain a similar size of the village.	H	MT	Community, Cork County Council
	Establish farmer's shop to sell local products.	M	MT	Private Investor, Community
	Involve disability groups in any future planning for the village.	H	ST	Community
	Support Local Businesses, i.e. shop local.	H	ST	Community
	Remove litter in the village on a regular basis to keep village clean.	H	ST	Community
	Increase the number and the promotion of cultural events (such as regular farmer markets, dancing events, sport festivals, Christmas Bazaar, family orientated days with barbeques etc.). Establish a village committee to plan and oversee these events and to support existing groups planning for existing events already.	H	MT	Community

Key: Priority: H - High, M - Medium, L - Low  
Timeframe: ST - Short term, MT - Medium Term, LT - Long Term

# Appendix I

## Information Sources

### Planning Policy - European

- European Landscape Convention, 2004  
[http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/Landscape/default\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/Landscape/default_en.asp)
- Aarhus Convention, 1998, UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe)  
<http://www.unece.org/env/pp/introduction.html>

### Planning Policy - County

Cork County Development Plan 2009 - 2015  
[www.corkcoco.ie](http://www.corkcoco.ie)

### Planning Policy - Local

Macroom Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2011

### Useful contacts

Cork County Council – 021 427 6891

- Planning Department – 021 428 5900
- Heritage Officer – 021 427 6891
- Area Engineer (Macroom Area Office) – 026-41047
- The Heritage Council – 056 777 0777

West Cork Development Partnership (Clonakilty Office) – 023 883 4035

Cork Enterprise Board (South Cork) – 021 497 5281

Coillte (Macroom Office) – 026 20270 ask for Recreation & Trails officer or Park Manager & Forest Manager

Cork Roads Design Office, N71 – 021 485 8155

National Rowing Centre / Rowing Ireland - 021-7434044

URS Ireland Limited (Dublin Office) – 01 293 3200

## Appendix II

### Members of the Inter-Agency Group for the Rylane Village Design Statement

Peter Dineen	ACR Community Council
Suzanne Gunnip	Planning Department, Cork County Council
Grainne O'Mahony	Divisional Office, Cork County Council
Faughna Keohane	Area Engineer, Macroom Area Office
Connor Nelligan	Heritage Office, Cork County Council
Lisa Cashman	West Cork Development Partnership
Mary O'Brien	Coillte

# Appendix III

The **Macroom Electoral Area - Local Area Plan 2011** is the statutory planning document for Rylane.

Its vision for the village up to 2020 is.....

***“to realise its potential as the primary focus for the development of the surrounding rural areas, to retain and improve local services and facilities.”***

The Macroom Electoral Local Area Plan 2011 describes some of the problems and opportunities in Rylane / Seiscne:

**The following are extracts of planning objectives as set out in the Local Area Plan 2011:**

18.3.1 It is important that the village achieves some additional development to support its rural hinterland, retains its existing level of community facilities and where possible secures additional community facilities.

18.3.2 Any future development in the village should maintain the integrity of the settlement and existing services and facilities should be retained. Additional services should be provided where possible

18.3.3 The existing road network in the village is substandard, particularly the road leading directly north of Seiscne, connecting to the upper road. Any proposals for residential development along this road should make provision for the setting back of the roadside boundary.

18.3.4 There is an opportunity to improve the village centre areas by renovating older or derelict buildings and development of infill sites where appropriate.

18.4.1 It is considered that the village could accommodate up to 40 new dwellings up to 2020 provided that the existing infrastructure is at an appropriate standard to cater for this level of growth.

18.4.3 There may be opportunities to enhance the village core areas of Rylane and Seiscne through the re-use and redevelopment of existing structures.

**There are some specific planning objectives in the current Local Area Plan for Rylane / Seiscne**

*Objective no. C-01*

*Provision of a site for a new cemetery and ancillary car parking*

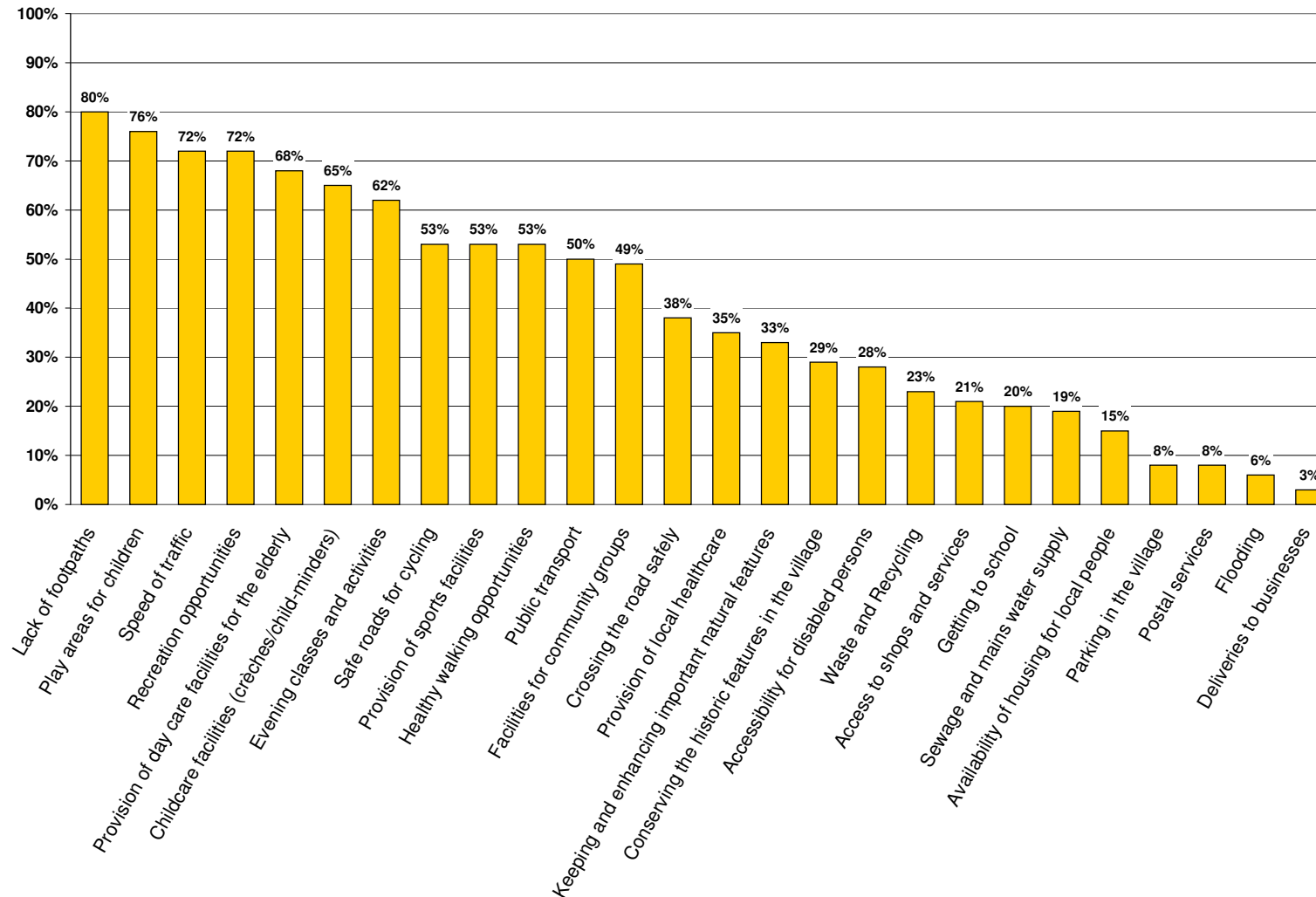
*Objective no. O-01 and O-02*

*These objectives relate to the central open area in the Rylane Triangle - the Local Area Plan suggests that this area should be a combination of passive and active open space with 2ha left as is and 2.6ha developed for open space and recreation uses.*

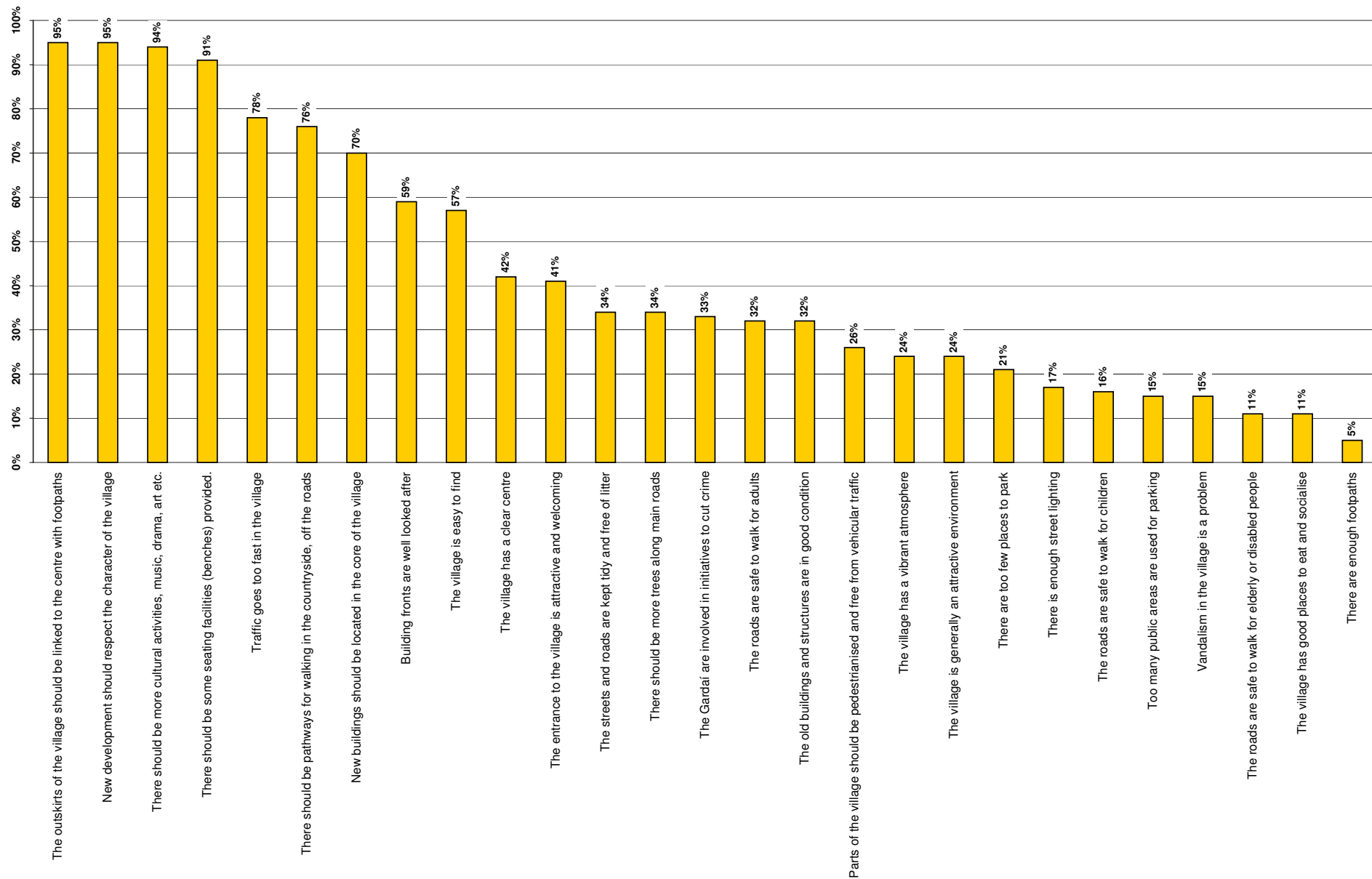
## Appendix IV

### Summary of the questionnaires completed by the Rylane community

The community of Rylane has the following main concerns ...



The community of Rylane agrees to the following ...



## Notes



*West Cork*  
DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP



Comhshaol, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil  
Environment, Community and Local Government



The European Agricultural  
Fund for Rural  
Development  
Europe investing in rural  
areas



**URS**