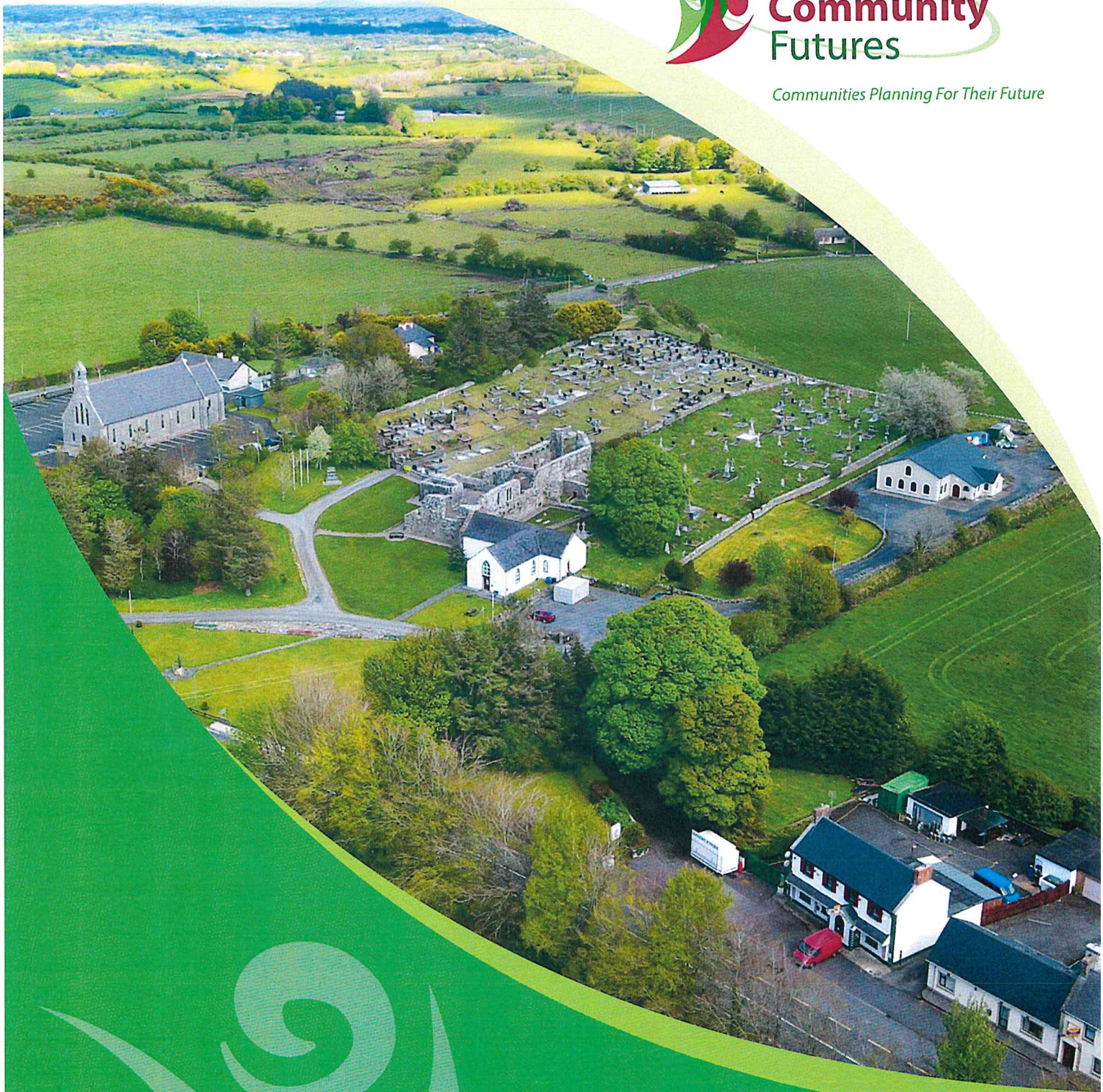


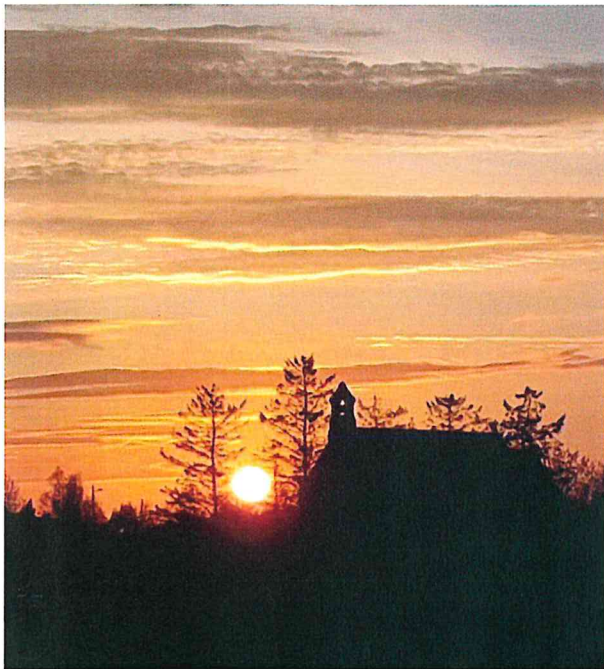
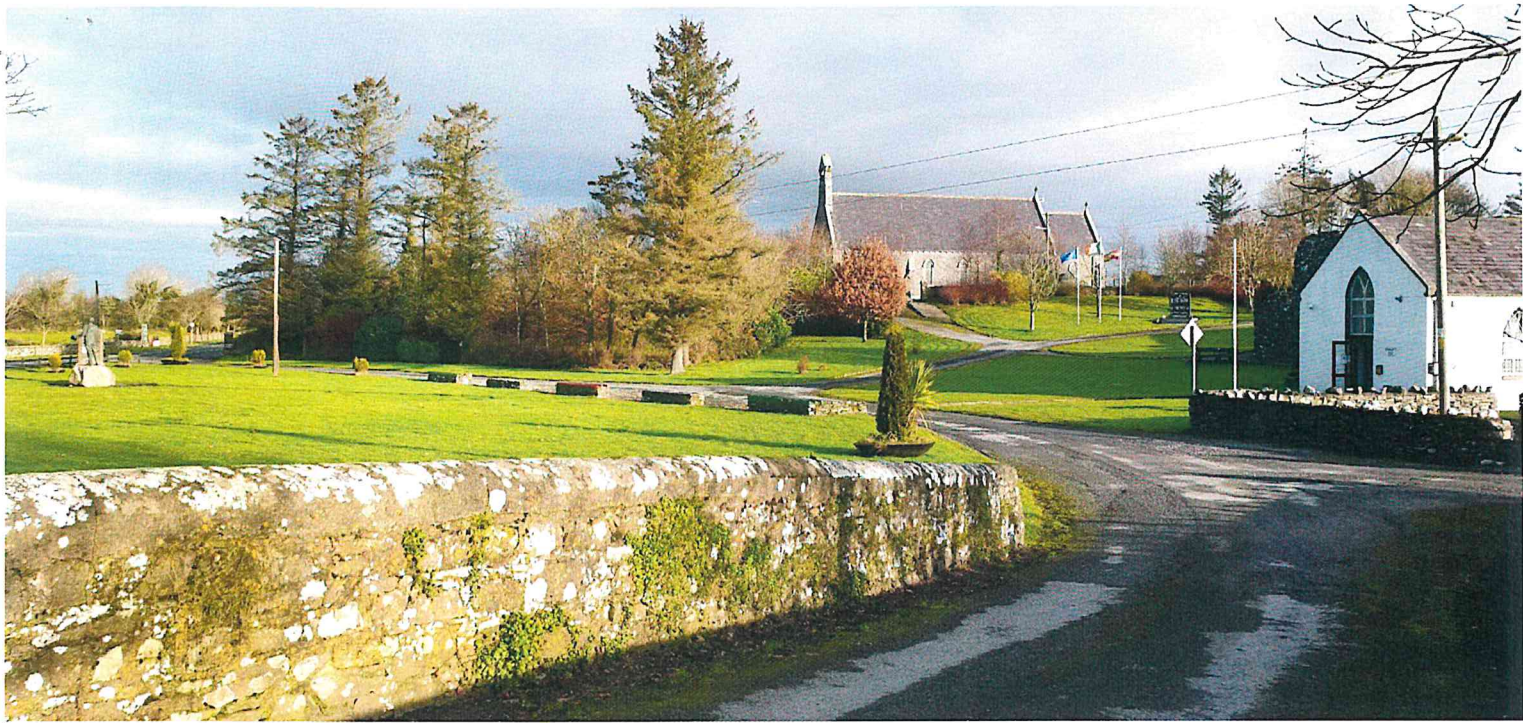


Mayo
**Community
Futures**

Communities Planning For Their Future



STRAIDE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2021 - 2026



INTRODUCTION

STRAIDE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

The Straide community participated in the Mayo Community Futures programme in 2013 which resulted in the Straide Community Action Plan 2014 -2019. This plan summarised our community's view on:

- What Straide was like then
- The vision for the future of our area
- The issues that mattered most
- The priorities for projects and action

The plan guided our community development over the 5 years since the plan was launched.

We have now finalised a process of renewing the Action Plan by identifying projects and actions which the community wishes to focus on over the next 5 years 2021 – 2026. The preparation of the renewed plan has been carried out by the Straide Community Futures Group with guidance and support from Mayo Community Futures. The review process was undertaken during the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions and has no doubt influenced the priorities identified by our Community for inclusion in the renewed Action Plan.

LOCAL PEOPLE HAVE THEIR SAY

This Renewed Action Plan is the result of the following process:

Progress Update: we evaluated what we had achieved from our plan, what was no longer relevant and what we had left to achieve

Community Household Survey: a household survey was distributed electronically, with a small number printed, to all the houses in the parish

Business Survey, Youth and Older People Consultations: these were conducted to gather the specific views of our businesses, our youth and our older people

Updated the Community Profile: we had a look at the housing and population demographics and any other significant changes since we last did our Action Plan

Community Voting Event: data from the household survey, the business survey, the youth consultation, the older people consultation and the progress update were collated into themes. Everyone in the community was invited to prioritise actions by voting for what they thought was most important. This was conducted electronically, with a small number printed

Renewed Action Plan: the results of the Community Voting Event were devised into this Community Action Plan by Mayo Community Futures

OUR COMMUNITY NOW

We have summarised below the main changes from the Community Profile since the 2014-2019 Action Plan.

STRAIDE COMMUNITY PROFILE 2021

Population

The most recent available census figures for 2016 show that the population of Straide has grown from 590 in 2011 to 602 in 2016, an increase of 12 or 2%.

Housing

There are 257 occupied households, 18 holiday homes and 57 vacant/uninhabitable dwellings. Like so many rural communities, there is currently a significant demand for housing which cannot be met.

Education

The local primary school, *S.N. Peadar & Pól*, has 3 class teachers, 1 Special Needs Assistant (SNA), 1 full-time Special Education Teacher (SET) and 1 shared SET (determined by hours granted by NSCE and part of a cluster arrangement with local schools). The school has 65 pupils enrolled and is currently engaged in facility upgrades to the yards and external works. Local children are attending secondary school in Foxford, Balla and Castlebar. There is no preschool, Montessori/childcare facility or parent/toddler group in Straide or within a 5 km radius of the village.

Health and Care Services

Straide relies on surrounding villages and towns for health care needs including GPs, Dental, Opticians etc. Mayo General Hospital provides Acute Care Services, Accident & Emergency, General Surgery and Adult mental Health Services. The Public Health Nursing Service is based in Ballyvary and in Foxford. Meals on Wheels are provided by Foxford Social Services. Fire Services are provided by Castlebar and local policing by Foxford and Castlebar Garda Stations.

Roads and Transport

Significant improvements were made to improve safety at the railway crossings. The speed limit on the N58 Foxford to Ballyvary road was reduced from 100km to 80km and reduced further to 60km through Straide Village. There has been additional Bus Éireann services on route 52 (Ballina to Galway) with coaches stopping in Straide.

Community Organisations, Clubs & Groups

There are a wide variety of clubs and groups in Straide including East Mayo Anglers, Michael Davitt Memorial Association, Moy Davitts GAA, Moy Davitts Ladies GAA, Pastoral Council, PBKS Water Scheme, Rural Social Scheme, *S.N. Peadar & Pól* Board of Management, *S.N. Peadar & Pól* Parents Association, Straide & Districts War Dead Memorial Committee, Straide & Foxford United AFC, Straide Badminton Club, Straide Community Development Group, Straide Historical & Cultural Society, Straide Text Alert, Straide Women's Group and Youth Indoor Soccer Club.



STRAIDE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2021-2026

Employment and the Local Economy

Local businesses include Agricultural Contractors, Builders, Civil Engineering, Construction, Dog Grooming, Farming, Fast Food Takeaway, Glaziers, Painting & Decorating, Plant Hire, Publicans, Stonemason, Tarmac Contractors, Undertaker and Vet.

Straide Davitt Community Hall

Following a successful LEADER funding application together with significant local fundraising, a €220k refurbishment project was completed on the Community Hall and the doors re-opened in August 2019. The Hall is now a warm, inviting, fit for purpose facility, providing a much needed and vital community space for a variety of activities including badminton, indoor soccer, basketball, social dancing and sean nós dance classes, Tai Chi, Pilates etc. as well as accommodating birthday parties, meetings and training seminars. The community can once again come together to enjoy gatherings and celebrations.

Straide Pride of Place

Nominated by Mayo County Council to represent the County in the 300 – 1,000 population category at the Pride of Place 2019 Competition. The Community came together to showcase Straide, it's heritage and natural beauty, it's people and enduring community spirit. The judges were so impressed by their visit to Straide, we were chosen for an Overall National Special Award, an achievement the whole Community can be proud of. The short video presentation for Pride of Place judging was further developed by the PoP Committee into a 1-hour Pride of Place documentary, which offers a remarkable snapshot of Straide and community life.

Disabled Anglers Facility

The opening of the East Mayo Anglers Association Disabled Anglers Facility took place in March 2019. A significant €200,000 facility, comprising of a 76-meter fishing platform, changing room and car-parking catering for wheelchair users on one of the best pools of the famous River Moy.

Heritage

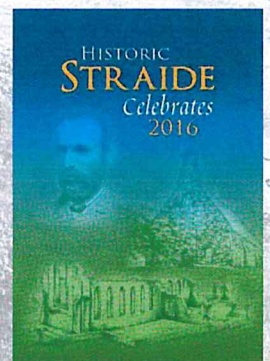
Straide Historical and Cultural Society was established and has facilitated a number of events including a series of lectures and oversaw St. Peter & Paul's Church Centenary celebrations. They also published a Community magazine "Historic Straide Celebrates 2016", documenting our local history. *Straide & Districts War Dead Memorial Committee* was established. The committee erected and unveiled a monument to commemorate those from the Parish who fought in various wars.

St. Peter & Paul's Church has undergone major restoration and conservation works. Apart from a grant from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, all funds required were raised throughout Ireland, the UK and the US by a local fundraising committee.

The Michael Davitt Museum, now under the auspices of Mayo North East, goes from strength to strength. It facilitates guided tours, audio visual presentations, exhibitions, talks and lectures. Plans are underway to expand the building to include an auditorium. In 2019 the Museum received full accreditation under the Heritage Council's Museum Standards Programme for Ireland.

Environment

Straide is a rural area with land use mainly for small scale dry stock farming and a handful of intensive dairy farmers. It has a range of habitats including bogland, cut-away bog, managed forestry, grassland, lakes and rivers. The significance of the Moy system as a habitat is evidenced in its designation as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), part of Pollagh townland is designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for the conservation of the corncrake.



Theme 1 Community Facilities and Activities

The community have highlighted the need for a playground and picnic area along with a multi-use sports facility and a recreation area which would meet the needs of all age groups in the community. The upgrade of the Community Hall has been a great success and the community would like to expand its use whilst continuing to offer a wide variety of classes, training and events. Erecting a Community Notice Board will allow people to see what events are happening in the community.

Straide has many historical sites and ruins that are currently not promoted. Creating heritage walking trails, bog walks, cycling and running trails along with making more of the river and fishing in the area would offer a variety of outdoor activities to locals and tourists

In the process of compiling this plan, the community has identified several steps they would like to see taken in relation to community facilities and activities.

Main Priorities

Playground, Picnic Area and Recreation Area

- Identify potential sites
- Consult with Mayo County Council on amenities that could be developed on identified sites
- Update the community on findings

Multi-use Sports Facility

- Research a potential site that will meet the needs of this facility
- Contact other communities with similar facilities to see how they developed their projects
- Consult with Mayo County Council and relevant agencies to see what is required to develop this type of facility

Community Hall and Community Notice Board

- Continue to support and expand classes, activities and events
- Look at establishing an Active Age/Retirement Group
- Research the use of the Community Hall for funerals, hot desks/working hub, an industrial kitchen that would cater for events and classes
- Erect a Notice Board in a central location to allow people to see what events are taking place in the community

Outdoor Activities

- Research and identify local heritage sites and look at creating a trail
- Identify bog walks, cycle and running trails, river walk and work with the Walking Officer and Mayo County Council Tourism Officer
- Look at expanding use of the River Moy and fishing in the area

Theme 2– Infrastructure

The community would like to see the provision of a footpath and lighting through the village.

The need for improvements to signage, traffic calming, flooding problems and upgrading road surfaces are also highlighted.

The availability of good quality Broadband in Straide is necessary for both businesses and residents and the National Broadband Plan will be an important factor in this.

The need for a Bus Shelter in the village has been identified as being important for anyone travelling on public and community transport.

The following priorities have been identified to improve infrastructure in the Straide area.

Main Priorities

Footpaths, lighting, roads, traffic calming and flooding

- Create a footpath and lighting through the main village
- Identify problematic flood areas/road access in townlands
- Consult with Mayo County Council and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) on footpaths, lighting, signage, village traffic calming, the upgrade of roads, and flooding hotspots

Better Broadband

- Look at current proposals of the National Broadband Plan and how it will impact Straide in the short-term
- Research the current suppliers of Broadband and identify the local black spots
- Lobby local politicians to speed up the roll-out of the National Broadband Plan

Bus Shelter

- Consult with Mayo County Council and relevant agencies on the provision of a village bus shelter



Theme 3 – Local Economy and Services

The community in Straide would like to have a local shop and coffee shop which would offer basic grocery needs and a place for all ages to meet. Childcare is of great importance to the community and they would like to see a complete wrap-around childcare system (pre-school and after-school programmes) made available in the area. The establishment of a Parent and Toddler Group in the community would benefit new people to the area as well as existing residents. The older people in Straide would like to see the provision of retirement and/or assisted living housing which would allow them to remain in their community. Improvement in public transport would give Straide residents access to services and facilities in other towns. Businesses in Straide would like to establish a Business Network and opportunities to volunteer their skills in community projects. The creation of a Straide website could provide regular updates of events and business listings.

Here are some of the priorities the community have put forward in relation to Local Economy and Services.

Main Priorities

Local Shop/Coffee Shop

- Research and promote the establishment of a shop/coffee shop

Better Broadband

- Set up an action committee and research options
- Consult with communities that have established these services
- Liaise with relevant agencies and supports

Retirement/Assisted Living Housing

- Consult with the community to establish interest
- Set up an action committee
- Consult with communities that have built similar housing
- Liaise with relevant agencies and supports

Public and Community Transport

- Consult with Bus Eireann and Local Link on meeting the transport needs of the community
- Ensure accessible transport for all people

New Website and Business Network

- Develop a Straide website for the community
- Set up a Business Network of local businesses and link in with Straide Website to promote businesses and services
- Encourage the support and promotion of local businesses



Theme 4 – Environment

The residents of Straide would like to explore ways in which they can make their community more environmentally sustainable. As a first step they would like to create a Recycling Bank for a wider variety of recyclable materials. The establishment of a Farmers Market would give people the opportunity to buy and sell locally grown produce. They would like to create a Community Garden where plants, fruits and flowers could be grown and in time the addition of allotments, and a compost facility could also be established. The creation of a Biodiversity Plan along with community projects such as cycle to school or work and sustainability workshops should be supported and encouraged. The community would like to explore Renewable Energy initiatives as part of an overall strategy to make their community more energy efficient.

The community has highlighted a number of priorities that they would like to see initiated to make Straide a more Environmentally Sustainable Community.

Main Priorities

Recycle Bank

- Identify what variety of recycle banks are needed and a suitable site

Farmers Market

- Research other Farmers Markets and identify local producers
- Establish a group that will oversee the set-up and running of this market

Community Garden

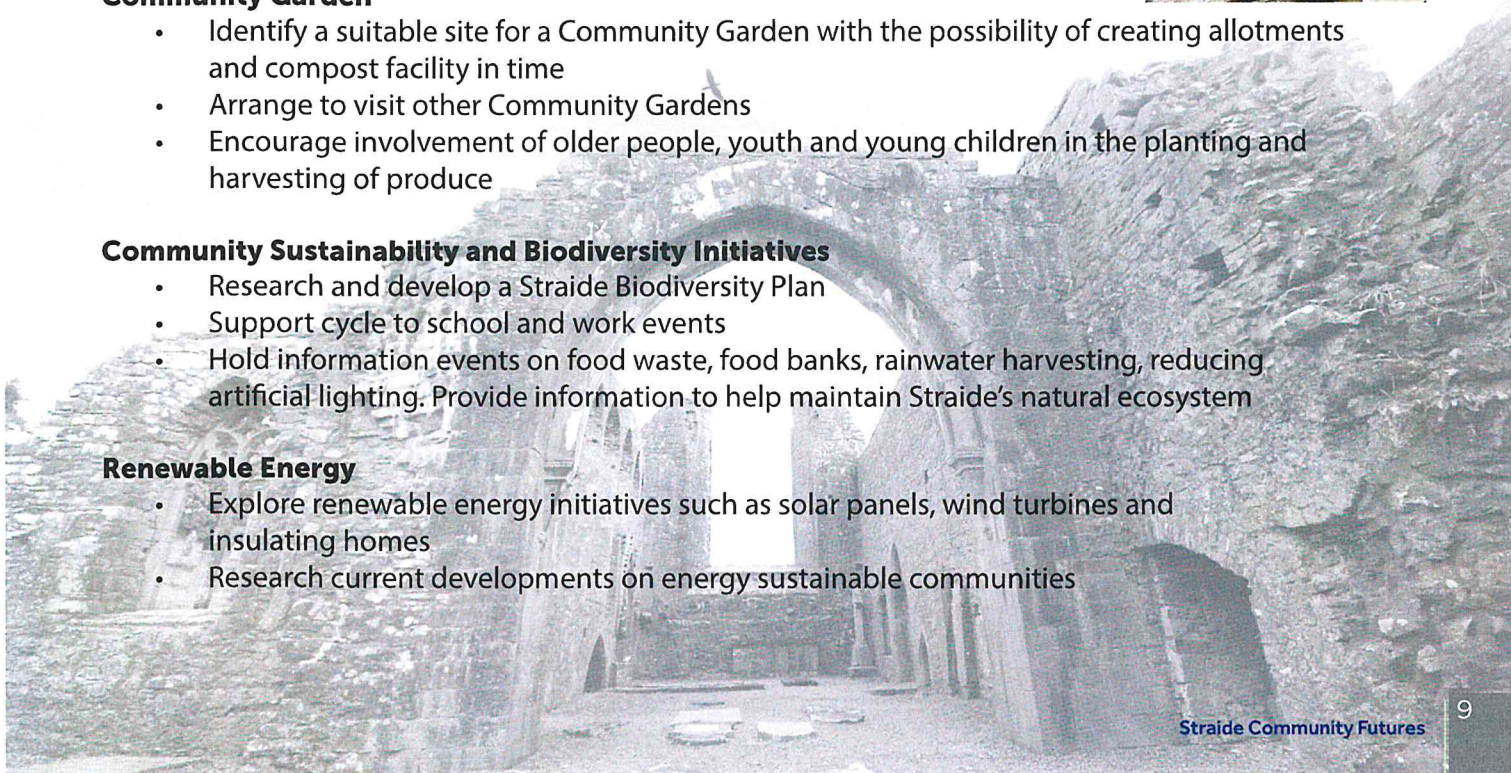
- Identify a suitable site for a Community Garden with the possibility of creating allotments and compost facility in time
- Arrange to visit other Community Gardens
- Encourage involvement of older people, youth and young children in the planting and harvesting of produce

Community Sustainability and Biodiversity Initiatives

- Research and develop a Straide Biodiversity Plan
- Support cycle to school and work events
- Hold information events on food waste, food banks, rainwater harvesting, reducing artificial lighting. Provide information to help maintain Straide's natural ecosystem

Renewable Energy

- Explore renewable energy initiatives such as solar panels, wind turbines and insulating homes
- Research current developments on energy sustainable communities



Theme 5 – Village Enhancement

Straide would like to build on work already started to enhance their village area. They would like to see more trees planted, some landscaping in the centre of the village, outdoor seating, and lighting up the Abbey.

The community held workshops on Wildflower Seed Saving and they hope to incorporate the planting of wildflowers in some of the road verges throughout the village. Litter continues to be a problem and the community would like to have regular litter pick days and encourage people to keep their townland areas as litter free as possible. The community would like to set up a Tidy Towns Group and some discussions have taken place on this.

The following priorities have been identified in relation to Village Enhancement.

Main Priorities

Landscaping, Trees, Wildflowers and Seating

- Look at creating a landscape design plan for Straide that incorporates more trees, wildflower verges, seating, lighting up the Abbey and provides a variety of different elements that will enhance the village
- Continue to work with the Rural Social Scheme on projects in this area

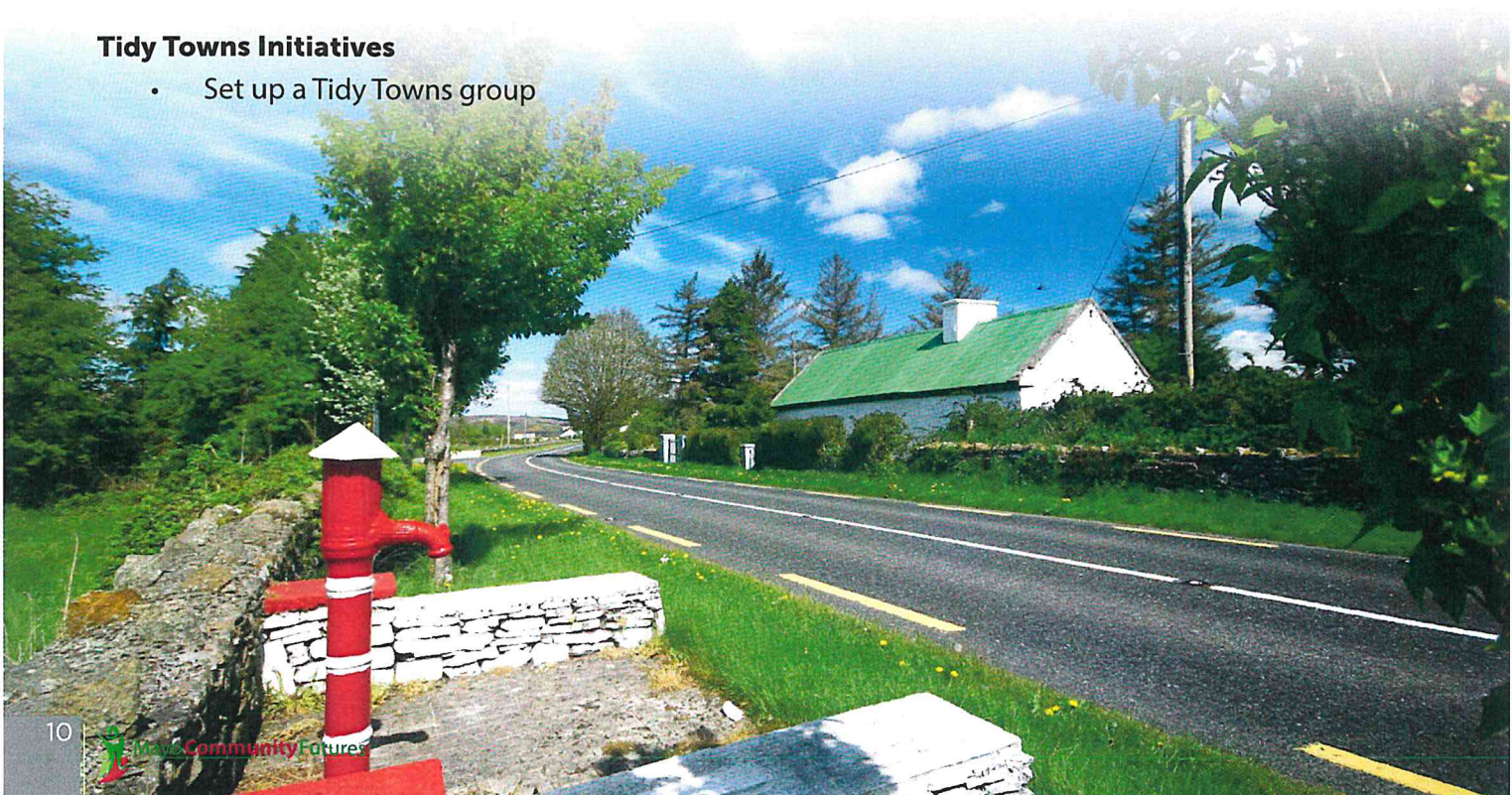


Community Litter Pick

- Continue the community litter picks
- Raise awareness of litter problem on N58 with Mayo County Council and discuss placing signage along the route

Tidy Towns Initiatives

- Set up a Tidy Towns group





STRAIDE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2021-2026

STRAIDE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2021 – 2026

This plan guides our community and our organisations on the actions to be implemented over the next five years.

*THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO TOOK PART IN THE PROCESS
THE RESPONSES HELPED TO INFORM THE PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED IN THIS PLAN*

MAKING IT HAPPEN!

Straide Community Futures will take responsibility for overseeing the delivery of the plan as a whole. We are keen to work in a coordinated and inclusive manner and we are anxious not to duplicate or overlap the good work that is being done at present by a variety of active voluntary groups. We welcome anyone in our Community who may be interested in getting involved in any of the projects or priorities to contact us. We will continually strive to ensure that we are a truly representative community organisation, open and transparent and that we adhere to good governance practices.

REVIEWING THE ACTION PLAN

REVIEWING THE ACTION PLAN

We will, from time to time, look at how we are all doing at implementing this plan. We will convene a REVIEW meeting annually to take stock of what has been achieved to date, as well as agreeing on updated actions for the next year. This will be incorporated in an Annual Progress Report for Mayo Community Futures.

FOR GENERAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

Straide Community Futures
Email: scdg16@gmail.com

MAYO COMMUNITY FUTURES

The Community Futures programme assists communities to prepare their own action plans in a way that is inclusive and participatory. The process not only leads to good action planning that really reflects the priorities of communities but also encourages people to get involved in making things happen locally. Plans prepared in this way strengthens the communities ability to access funding for their priority projects and effectively represent their interests at area, county and national levels.

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

Mayo Community Futures is funded and supported by Mayo County Council. If you would like to know more about Mayo Community Futures please contact;

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