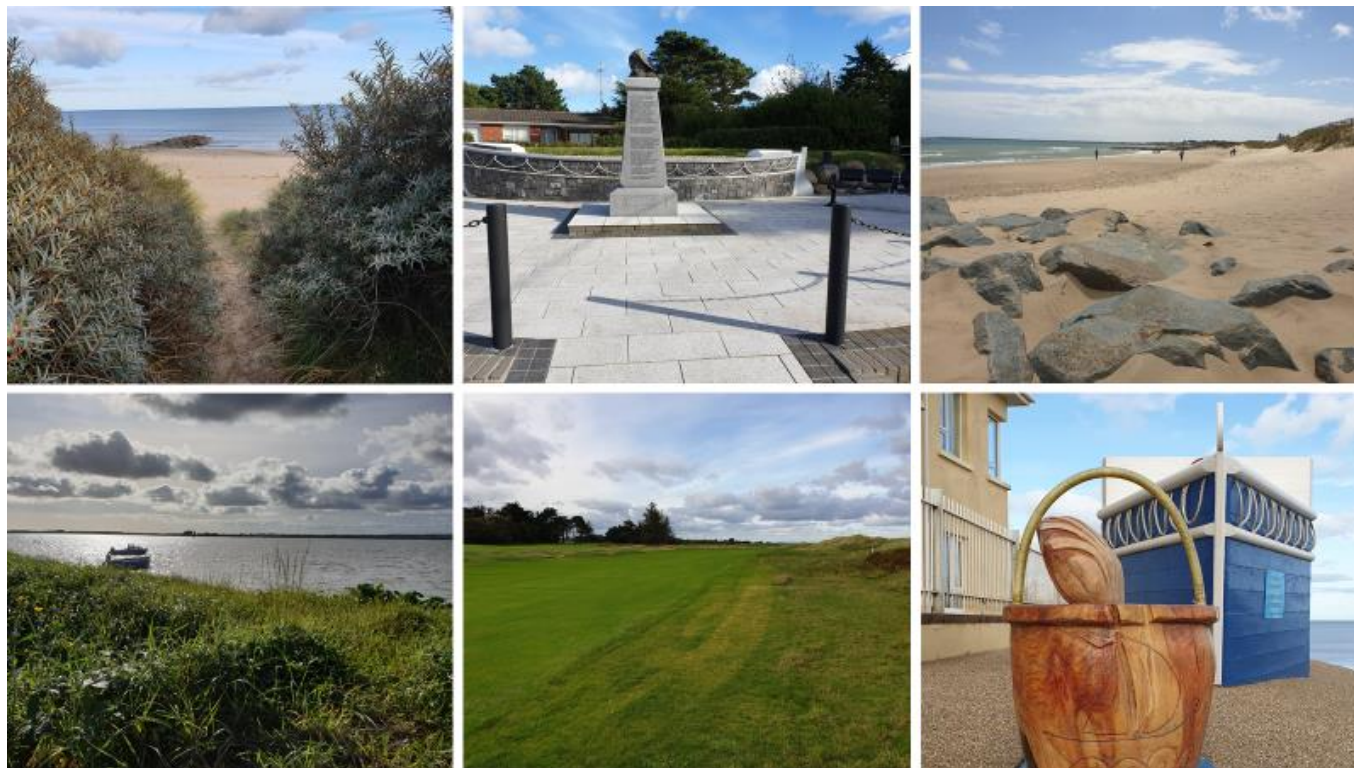


Rosslare & Environs:

5 Year Community Plan 2020-2024



Report Status: **FINAL**

Date: March 2020

Commissioned
by:



Facilitated by:



A report prepared by:



In collaboration with:

*Rosslare
Development Association
&
Rosslare Community Development Association*

Disclaimer:

While reasonable care has been taken in carrying out this study, the author shall take no responsibility and accept no liability whatsoever for any inaccuracy, errors or omissions or for the consequences arising from the use of the information in this report.

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We would also like to acknowledge the advice and guidance that was so kindly shared by all those who completed household / youth surveys; attended information events or gave us feedback on the initiatives that emerged from this research. Finally, we would like to thank Dr. Yvonne Byrne for her support and guidance throughout this process and in the compilation of this plan.

This report is a result of hard work over twelve months and its success will be judged by the subsequent implementation of projects over the next five years. It will also need the continued support of everyone in Rosslare to continue to contribute their ideas as the details of the plan are executed and to assist in the development of these initiatives. We hope that the result will be a community that we can all continue to be very proud to be part of and that this will have a positive benefit for all who live in Rosslare.



Executive Summary



Executive Summary

Introduction

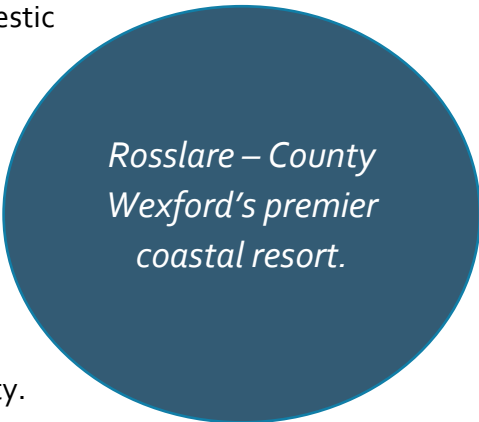
Wexford County Council (WCC) commissioned the preparation of this five-year plan which was prepared by Dr. Yvonne Byrne in collaboration with Rosslare Development Association (RDA) and Rosslare Community Development Association (RCDA). This study focused on six dimensions: Coastal Protection & Public Infrastructure, Community Services and Facilities; Tourism; Economy; Environment and Heritage / Culture. The study recommendations were based on a household and youth survey; desktop research; analysis of socio-economic statistics; and site visits. Prior to finalising this plan, a public information event was held in January 2020 and the community were given the opportunity to provide feedback on this plan.

The Context

Rosslare is a very strategically important coastal tourism resort with premier hotels, Championship Links Golf Club and a wide range of shops, cafes, pubs, accommodation providers and community facilities. This village attracts large numbers of domestic and overseas visitors, particularly in the summer months and a large proportion of the housing stock is classified as holiday homes. However, there is huge potential to further capitalise on this area's unique assets to grow the tourism industry over the next five years. There is also an urgent need to up-grade the public infrastructure in this locality to support the increasing number of tourists that visit Rosslare and to address the critical issues of coastal erosion and climate change.

This research highlighted the community's deep appreciation of Rosslare's natural beauty and how passionate people were to ensure it was safe-guarded into the future. The household and youth survey also revealed a diverse range of additional facilities and services people would like to see developed in this locality.

It is vitally important to have a comprehensive study in place, which clearly articulates the strategic direction for the community, tourism and economic sectors in this village. In addition, it is recommended that a submission to the County Development Plan is made, to ensure that appropriate development takes places in this highly picturesque, coastal village.



*Rosslare – County
Wexford's premier
coastal resort.*

Demographics

Data from the CSO, Pobal and WCC were analysed for the purpose of this study and key statistics are highlighted below (*rounded to nearest %*).

- **Total population** of Rosslare village is 1,620 in 2016.
- In 2016, the **unemployment rate** in Rosslare is 16% compared to the average in County Wexford of 17%. This is higher than the national average of 13% in 2016 but below the average for this county.
- The **education** attainment level is high in Rosslare at 19% with a degree, postgrad or PhD compared to 14% in the county and 21% nationally.
- Rosslare has a **youth dependency rate** of 39% which is higher than the average for County Wexford of 35%. This also exceeds the national average of 32%.
- Rosslare has an **old age dependency rate** of 38% which is significantly higher than the county average of 23% or the national average of 20%.
- 84% of people living in Rosslare have **Irish nationality** which is lower than the county or national average. Non-nationals include 5% from the UK and 4% from Poland.
- In 2016, the proportion of people with a disability in Rosslare is 15% which equals the county average of 15% and is closely aligned to the State average of 14%.
- On the census night in 2016, 54% of all houses in Rosslare were classified as **holiday homes** which is a striking statistic compared to the county average of 10% or 3% nationally. Only 4% of houses were classified as vacant (excluding holiday homes).
- The **rented housing sector** in Rosslare is above the average. 23% of homes are privately rented in Rosslare compared to 15% in the county or 18% nationally. In addition, 19% of properties are classed as 'social rented' compared to the county average of 10% and 9% nationally.

What's the vision?

Rosslare has a deserved reputation as the foremost unspoilt holiday resort in County Wexford. Rosslare attracts visitors in increasing numbers from all over Ireland and overseas due to its unique set of assets which sets it apart from all other locations in the county.

The business assets of Rosslare revolve particularly around the tourism & catering industry. These include two good quality hotels, four mobile home parks, shops and restaurants, hundreds of holiday homes and a good community sports complex. A unique dimension is the operation of the mainline train service through the village and the Rosslare Championship Golf Links which is a major high-profile asset. There is also a well-structured community network with professional leadership skills who are highly motivated to deliver a range of ambitious projects over the next five years.



Vision

- To protect the premier tourism resort of Rosslare from coastal erosion and potential storm / flood damage.
- To actively nurture the socio-economic development of Rosslare for the benefit of all who reside in the area.
- To mobilise all of the community's assets to ensure this coastal resort reaches its full potential as a thriving destination which supports a diverse range of businesses and a strong tourism economy.
- To safeguard and promote this area's rich natural, cultural and built heritage.

Routes to Delivery

There are 18 main recommendations that we envisage will be implemented, subject to available funding and resources. These are summarised below, and they are categorised into 6 pillars: Coastal, Community, Tourism, Economic, Environment and Heritage / Culture.

Pillar No.	Recommendation No.	Project Theme
Pillar 1 Coastal Protection & Public Infrastructure	Recommendation 1	Advance vital plans to extend coastal protection and beach enrichment works in Rosslare
	Recommendation 2	Road / footpath improvements, investigate one-way system, railway bridges, bus shelters
	Recommendation 3	Develop new access points to the beach with infrastructure such as parking
	Recommendation 4	Enhanced development of Rosslare village
Pillar 2 Community	Recommendation 5	New community services, classes, events and training
	Recommendation 6	Investigate new modular affordable housing initiative for young families
	Recommendation 7	Extend and up-grade facilities including dressing rooms, gym and Men's Shed
	Recommendation 8	Enhance youth facilities and activities
Pillar 3 Tourism	Recommendation 9	Invest in new tourism infrastructure, facilities and tourism businesses
	Recommendation 10	Investigate the viability of a beach promenade, slipway and marine infrastructure
	Recommendation 11	Advance Greenway developments to Waterford / Rosslare Harbour and Wexford Town
Pillar 4 Economic	Recommendation 12	Prepare an enterprise plan to attract innovative businesses Design and deliver training courses
	Recommendation 13	Improve broadband connectivity
Pillar 5 Environment	Recommendation 14	Public realm works, public toilets, clean-up patrol and pilot waste management project
	Recommendation 15	Actively embrace green technologies and biodiversity in all future developments
	Recommendation 16	Create a wildlife recreation sanctuary and protect the sand dune systems
Pillar 6 Heritage & Culture	Recommendation 17	Explore the viability of developing a historical museum and visitor centre
		Create a heritage walking trail and celebrate the Marconi legacy
Collaboration	Recommendation 18	Maintain dialogue with key stakeholders, tourism operators, businesses, community groups and the public

Action Plan

As part of this report there is an outline action plan (2020-2022) identifying the priority projects for development in the short to medium term.

Conclusions

The commissioning of this strategic plan is very timely as there are likely to be significant changes in this locality over the next five years including: The effect of Brexit and possible impacts on UK visitor numbers; The threat of global warming, more extreme weather events and rising sea levels; The proposed Greenway developments; and the continuing increase in visitor numbers which puts pressure on Rosslare's public infrastructure. This research has revealed the extensive range of built and natural assets in this locality which warrant further development and demonstrate huge potential for enhancement.

The community of Rosslare has consulted widely with members of the public and Government Agencies to assist in the formulation of this plan. This has generated a large number of ideas and identified a series of major proposals that could benefit the local community socially, economically and environmentally over the next five years.

It is hoped that stakeholders, local businesses and the community will use this report as a means of directing actions for the benefit of all who live in this area. If Rosslare is strategically developed, it has the potential to attract significant increases in overseas and domestic visitor numbers all year round. In addition, this locality has the capability to support innovative new enterprises to create new employment opportunities for this community.

It is recommended that the implementation of this strategy is phased over the short, medium and long term so that it is achievable from a financing and voluntary effort perspective. It is foreseen that elements of this plan could be considered and potentially incorporated into WCC's - County Development Plan to ensure that a strategic framework is given to these proposals.

Summary

The on-going raising of local funds; accessing grants and seeking agency supports for the implementation of this plan needs to be considered by relevant stakeholders to ensure this study is implemented over the next five years. It is recommended that a series of working groups are established to oversee the implementation of some of these recommendations.

Section 1

Introduction



1. Introduction

1.1 The Plan – An Overview

Rosslare has developed as a thriving coastal holiday destination with premier hotel and golf facilities, located 8km from Rosslare Harbour. However, this village is facing threats from coastal erosion and the increasing frequency of extreme weather events, which have the potential to threaten its Blue Flag beach status and create significant damage to the village itself. In addition, this community has experienced substantial tourism growth over recent years which has positively impacted on local businesses but also adversely caused increased traffic congestion and parking issues. This growing pressure on the village infrastructure during the summer months, needs careful planning to ensure this attractive locality is not adversely affected by its own popularity or threatened by climate change.

Wexford County Council (WCC) in collaboration with Rosslare Development Association (RDA) and the Rosslare Community Development Association (RCDA) commissioned this five-year plan to ensure that a cohesive and strategic approach could be embraced for the development of new services / facilities in the area with enhanced public infrastructure and coastal protection works. This would positively impact on both local residents and visitors to the area and also safeguard the future of this economically important tourism resort in County Wexford. During the consultation process community groups, local businesses, households and visitors were invited to give their views on how Rosslare could be developed. This plan is based on their feedback whilst also building on the commitments and achievements to date by the voluntary efforts of the community.

1.2 Background

Vision:

- To protect the premier tourism resort of Rosslare from coastal erosion and potential storm damage.
 - To actively nurture the socio-economic development of Rosslare for the benefit of all who reside in this area.
 - To mobilise all of the community's assets to ensure this coastal resort reaches its full potential as a thriving destination which supports a diverse range of businesses and a strong tourism economy.
 - To safeguard and promote this area's rich natural, cultural and built heritage.
-

Objectives:

1. To identify the key issues that are of interest and concern to the community of Rosslare.
2. To review the natural, historic, community and human resources within Rosslare and their potential for development.
3. To develop a five-year plan based on the consultation process.

1.3 Study Remit

The remit of this plan is to:

- Assess the community's current resources and their potential for development.
- Identify activities and services that could be developed by the community and consider their eligibility for grant aid.
- Liaise with WCC and relevant stakeholders regarding public infrastructure works.
- Draft conclusions on the potential feasibility of these proposals and draw up recommendations.

1.4 Methodology

This report has been directed by members of the RDA and RCDA. The consultation process involved meetings, surveys and site visits. There will also be a public information event to present the draft findings and invite feedback prior to finalising the report. National and regional publications were analysed during the compilation of this plan and incorporated into this research where relevant.

1.5 Structure of the Study

This report is structured as follows:

- Section 2 sets out the research process;
- Section 3 details the socio-economic profile of Rosslare;
- Section 4 illustrates an audit of the assets in this locality;
- Section 5 presents the consultation findings;
- Section 6 outlines the SWOT analysis for Rosslare;
- Section 7 presents the vision of the community and recommendations emerging from this research;
- Section 8 details the action plan; and
- Section 9 draws up the conclusion.

2. Research Methodology

2.1 Background

Discussions were held with WCC Officials in January 2019 and this highlighted the need for a 5-year plan in Rosslare so that the socio-economic development of the village could be strategically planned to meet the needs of local residents and visitors to this premier tourism resort.

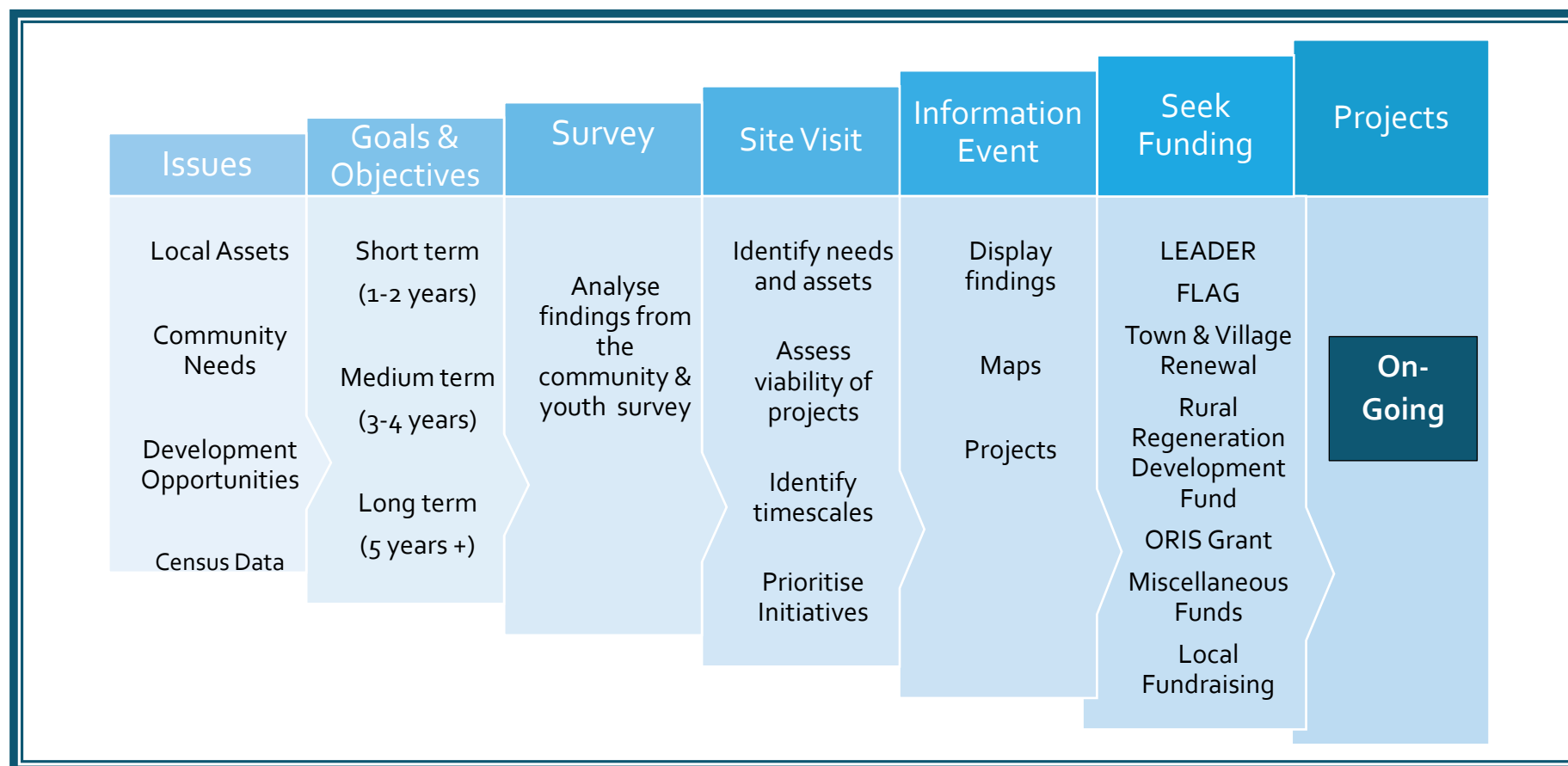
It was agreed that this 5-year plan would be undertaken in collaboration with the RDA / RCDA who had previously organised public meetings and had consulted with politicians regarding the need for a far-sighted, planned approach to the development of Rosslare. The group had prepared a preliminary plan based on their consultation process and this was kindly shared and the findings have been incorporated into the preparation of this plan.

A scoping meeting was held with the RDA / RCDA in February 2019 and the methodology and consultation process was agreed as outlined in the diagram overleaf. The full consultation schedule is detailed in Appendix 1. It was agreed that six core pillars would underpin this research, and these are illustrated below.

Rosslare: Pillars for Development



Community Consultation Process used in the Preparation of this Five-Year Plan



This diagram illustrates the approach that was used to complete this community plan over a twelve-month consultation period. It is envisaged that this will inform the development of projects over the next five years and assist in securing grants and other funds.

2.2 Issues & Survey Process

At the initial scoping meeting the core assets in this locality were identified and some of the emerging issues and opportunities were discussed. Assets of particular interest to the community were examined during site visits as part of this research and are depicted below.



Coastal Erosion



Beach Access Points



Pedestrian Safety at Railway Bridges



Possible One-Way Traffic System



Biodiversity & Heritage Promotion



Coastal Walking Trails



Connectivity to Rosslare Harbour



Enhanced Community Facilities / Services



Public Realm Landscaping



Traffic Congestion & Parking



Additional Marine & Beach Facilities



Proposed Greenway

Arising from the public consultation process a wide range of issues were identified which were incorporated into the household / youth survey for further consideration. The RDA / RCDA administered the survey process. A copy of the household survey is in Appendix 3.

2.3 Working Groups

Once the research process had been completed, it is recommended that the RDA / RCDA proceeds to establish a series of Working Groups to progress particular initiatives in more detail.

2.4 Consultation with Public Agencies

The findings from this research will need on-going discussion with WCC, Office of Public Works (OPW), Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM), Sport Ireland, and other relevant stakeholders.

2.5 Draft / Final Report

The report will be completed in Q1 - 2020 and a public information event will be held to present the draft report to the community and relevant stakeholders.

2.6 Summary

This research process revealed the unique range of stunning assets in Rosslare which are ideally placed for further enhancement. It also identified a complex range of issues that need to be addressed so that Rosslare can reach its full potential as a premier tourism resort with a comprehensive range of socio-economic facilities and infrastructure to support the well-being of people living in this locality.

Typical Household Survey Questions

Q1 How often do you use facilities and services in Rosslare?

Q2 What opportunities for employment could be developed in this area?

Q3 What community facilities / services do you feel you need?

Q4 What additional tourism facilities should be developed?

Q5 Which groups require more supports in your community?

Q7 What do you like most about Rosslare and its environs?

Q8 What are the biggest issues facing Rosslare and its environs?

Q9 How has life in Rosslare changed since 2010?

Q10 What is your opinion on the future of this area for the next five years?

Q11 What three things in Rosslare would you do in Rosslare to make it better?

Q12 Do you have concerns about certain issues?

Q13 What is your opinion on the following possible initiatives?

Section 3

Socio-Economic Profile



3. Socio-Economic Profile

3.1 Location

Rosslare is located on County Wexford's south coast and it has a rich marine heritage which has shaped the evolution of this seafaring community over many centuries. In 1642, Rosslare Fort was constructed at the tip of Rosslare Point with a garrison and 7 cannons. In 1760, the Fort measured about forty statute acres and it was built as a protection against possible invasion by sea. It also served as a customs post and pilot and lifeboat station. In 1891, it had a population of 43 people but erosion became a major problem and the Fort was devastated by a succession of heavy storms in 1924 and 1925 resulting in the Fort being abandoned.

Rosslare is also associated with Marconi, who established the first wireless telegraphy station in south-east Wexford in the early 1900s and Commodore John Barry, who was a very influential figure in America's naval history and earned the title '*Father of the United States Navy*'. Rosslare's proud maritime legacy is also borne out by its brave lifeboat men who have saved hundreds of lives over the last two centuries. One of the most famous rescues was in 1914 when the Rosslare Lifeboat 'James Stevens' went to the aid of the Norwegian schooner 'Mexico' off the south Wexford coast. (Environmental and Heritage Information, Rosslare Community Development Association)

The village of Rosslare is also internationally famous for its tourism facilities. This includes: the Rosslare Golf Course, founded in 1905, and one of only 40 Links Courses in Ireland; and Kelly' Resort Hotel & Spa known as '*The Jewel in Irish Tourism*' which is one of the top 4 star hotel resorts in Ireland. This village is situated close to Rosslare Harbour and is located on the main railway line between the Harbour, Wexford Town and Dublin. This seaside village has a Blue Flag beach, Championship 18 and 12 hole golf course, driving range, tennis courts, crazy golf, playground, access for all garden and sustains a wide range of hotels, B&Bs, shops and services. This includes supermarkets, post office, pharmacy, cafes, pubs, take-away outlets, restaurants, hairdressers, creche and other bespoke shops.

Anecdotally, the community perceive that local businesses have experienced a positive economic climate in recent years and this section will now consider the CSO data for the Rosslare Electoral Division between 2011 and 2016 to examine socio-economic trends. In addition, visitor statistics for County Wexford will be reviewed as this area relies significantly on the tourism industry to create local employment.

The data sources used for this report include the County Monitor commissioned by WCC and prepared by Spatial Insight Solutions; Pobal Deprivation Index and Fáilte Ireland statistics. Some data is highlighted in red to illustrate interesting characteristics in Rosslare.

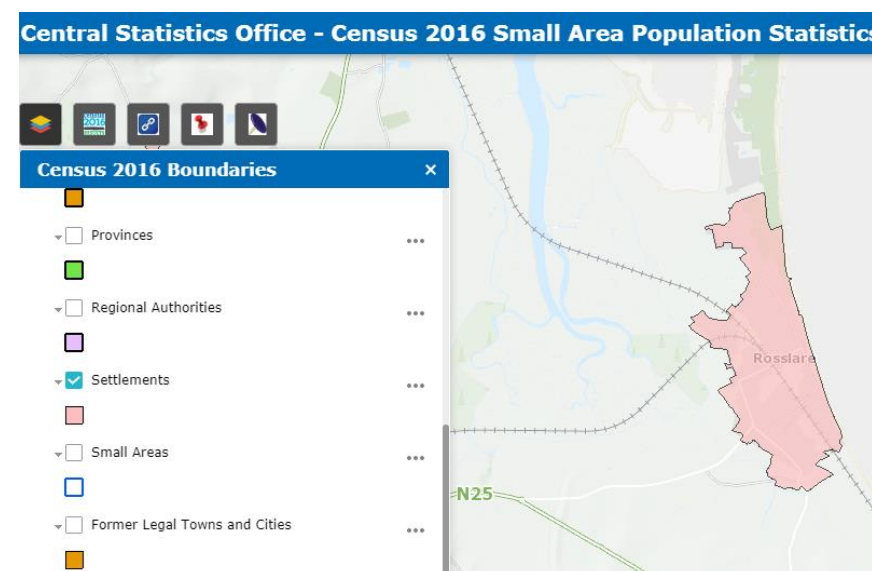
3.2 CSO Data Trends: 2011-2016

Population Profile

County Wexford has experienced a population growth of 3% over the last 5 years. This trend is mirrored in Rosslare to a lesser extent with the population increasing slightly between 2011 and 2016 and now has a population of 1,620. Within the Rosslare Electoral Division (ED) there was a total population of 2,112 people in 2016 compared to 2,057 in 2011 which represents a 0.04% increase over this period. For the purpose of this research, data from the County Monitor Map was analysed to assess the socio-economic characteristics of Rosslare.



Source:



Electoral Division Map & County Monitor Map

<http://census.cso.ie/sapmap2016/>

Distribution Description: Population & Household Profile of Rosslare based on 2016 and 2011 CSO Data

CSO Data	Year: 2016 Rosslare	Year: 2011 Rosslare	Year: 2016 Co. Wexford	Year: 2016 State
Population	1,620 people	1,547 people	149,722	4,761,865
Nationality (Irish)	84% (1,338 people)	86% (1,281 people)	90%	87%
Non-Irish National	14% (214 people)	14% (205 people)	9%	11%
Lithuanian	1% (16 people)	1% (21 people)	1%	1%
Poland	4% (64 people)	4% (58 people)	3%	3%
Age Profile				
0-4 age group	8% (135 persons)	9% (146 persons)	7%	7%
5-12 age group	11% (180 persons)	10% (156 persons)	12%	12%
13-17 age group	5% (89 persons)	5% (74 persons)	7%	7%
18-24 age group	6% (90 persons)	6% (90 persons)	7%	8%
25-44 age group	23% (377 persons)	26% (407 persons)	27%	30%
45-64 age group	25% (400 persons)	24% (376 persons)	25%	24%
65+ age group	22% (349 persons)	19% (298 persons)	15%	13%
Household Structure				
One Person Home	29% (161 homes)	30% (161 homes)	24%	24%
Cohabiting Couple	3% (16 home)	4% (21 home)	4%	4%
Husband & Wife	19% (107 homes)	18% (97 homes)	17%	15%
Husband, Wife, Children	19% (106 homes)	18% (97 homes)	30%	31%
Father & Children	1% (7 homes)	1% (4 homes)	2%	2%
Mother & Children	11% (62 homes)	11% (59 homes)	10%	9%

Source: Wexford County Council, County Monitor: 2019

Note: The reason that the categories do not tally to 100% is that the 'Not Stated' category is excluded from the data sets.

This table illustrates that Rosslare has a much higher proportion of people aged 65+ at 22% compared to County Wexford at 15% and the State average of 13% (statistics highlighted in red). However, there are slightly lower percentages of the population aged between 5 to 44. The high proportion of people aged over 65 is a reflection that Rosslare is perceived as an attractive location to move to once people retire.

The household profile illustrates that there is a much greater proportion of single people living in Rosslare (29%) compared to the County Wexford average of 24% or 24% across the State. In addition, there is a much smaller percentage of families with children (19%) compared to the county average of 30.2% or the State average of 31%. In Rosslare there is a slightly higher proportion of households with a mother and children 11% compared to the State (9%) or county average (10%).

These statistics have an influence on the youth and old age dependency rates in Rosslare. According to the 2016 census there is an old age dependency rate of 38% in Rosslare compared to 23% in County Wexford and 20% nationally which is as a result of the large number of people aged over 65 in comparison to the proportion of the population aged 15 to 64. This indicates the need for nursing homes and additional facilities for the elderly. Similarly, there is a youth dependency rate of 39% in Rosslare caused by the size of the population aged between 0-15 as a proportion of the population aged 15 to 64. This is closer to the national average of 32% and 35% in County Wexford.

Education

County Wexford has the fourth lowest level of educational achievement in the State based on the 2016 census and this report will consider the statistics for Rosslare in comparison to the State and average for County Wexford.

Education Profile of Rosslare based on 2016 and 2011 CSO Data

CSO Data	Year: 2016 Rosslare	Year: 2011 Rosslare	Year: 2016 Co. Wexford	Year: 2016 State
No Formal Primary	11%	13%	16%	13%
Lower Secondary	15%	21%	19%	15%
Higher Secondary	23%	22%	20%	19%
Tech / Apprentice / Cert	15%	16%	16%	15%
Non-Degree	14%	12%	11%	13%
Degree, Postgrad, PhD	19%	16%	14%	21%

Source: Wexford County Council, County Monitor: 2019

This table illustrates that Rosslare has a much higher level of educational attainment than the average for County Wexford and is on par with the State. Education statistics have also improved over the last five years with the percentage obtaining a degree increasing from 16% to 19%.

Housing

Rosslare experienced a small population increase between 2011 and 2016 and it is useful to examine home ownership patterns over this period.

Housing Profile of Rosslare based on 2016 and 2011 CSO Data

CSO Data	Year: 2016 Rosslare	Year: 2011 Rosslare	Year: 2016 Co. Wexford	Year: 2016 State
Owner Occupier	55%	57%	72%	68%
Rented from Private Landlord	23%	21%	15%	18%
Rented Social	19%	20%	10%	9%
House Built 2001 - 2010	41%	41%	32%	25%
House Built 2011 or later	3%	-	2%	2%

Source: Wexford County Council, County Monitor: 2019

This table illustrates that home ownership patterns in Rosslare are quite different to the county or State average. The percentage of homes that are owner occupied is substantially below the average for both the State and county. In contrast with this, the percentage of homes which are socially rented (includes renting from both the Local Authority and Voluntary Bodies) or privately rented is significantly higher than the average for the county or State.

This table also illustrates the number of new house builds in an area since 2001. It can be seen that in Rosslare there were a significant number of new houses constructed between 2001 and 2010 which corresponds with national and County Wexford trends, but it is more pronounced in Rosslare. In contrast, between 2011 and 2016, there were only 3% of new homes recorded, probably as a result of the economic downturn and the collapse of the construction sector. This trend mirrors the national position, which is characterised by a very low building rate in recent years, due to the economic position of the country.

Employment

Employment statistics are vitally important for any town or village and the most recent census data reveals reassuring statistics for Rosslare as illustrated in the table below.

Employment Profile of Rosslare based on 2016 and 2011 CSO Data

CSO Data	Year: 2016 Rosslare	Year: 2011 Rosslare	2016 Co. Wexford	2016 State
Labour Force Participation	52%	56%	59%	61%
Employed	85%	77%	83%	87%
Unemployed	16%	23%	17%	13%
Persons at Work by Industry				
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	2%	5%	8%	4%
Commerce & Trade	23%	23%	23%	24%
Manufacturing Industries	7%	8%	12%	11%
Professional Services	18%	23%	22%	24%
Public Administration	6%	1%	5%	5%
Building & Construction	2%	N/A	7%	5%
Transport & Communications	8%	7%	6%	9%
Other	34%	N/A	17%	18%

Source: Wexford County Council, County Monitor: 2019

Note: The labour force participation rate is comprised of all persons at work, looking for their first job or unemployed, while students, homemakers, retired persons and those unable to work are categorised as being not in the labour force.

This table illustrates that between 2011 and 2016 unemployment rates have dramatically dropped in Rosslare from 23% to 16% which is very encouraging. It also reveals that the labour force participation rate has dropped slightly, largely as a result of the ageing population in Rosslare.

The importance of Commerce and Trade is significant with almost one quarter of the workforce employed in this category, closely followed by Professional Services. The industrial sectors such as: Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing; Manufacturing; and Construction only account for a small level of employment in Rosslare. This employment profile for Rosslare matches the national workforce pattern with the dominance of Commerce & Trade and Professional Services.

Health

Health and well-being are important considerations for any community and this is measured in the 2016 and 2011 census.

Health Profile of Rosslare based on 2016 and 2011 CSO Data

CSO Data	Year: 2016 Rosslare	Year: 2011 Rosslare	Year: 2016 Co. Wexford	Year: 2016 State
General Health				
Very Good	58%	58%	59%	59%
Good	30%	31%	28%	28%
Fair	8%	9%	9%	8%
Bad	1%	1%	1%	1%
Very Bad	1%	0%	0%	0%
Persons with a Disability				
Population with a Disability	15% (243 people)	14% (221 people)	15%	14%

Source: Wexford County Council, County Monitor: 2019

These statistics on general health for Rosslare are broadly in line with both the State and County Wexford average. The comparison in the data sets between 2011 and 2016 are also not substantially different.

The proportion of people with a disability is on par with the county average and has only increased from 14% of the population in 2011 to 15% in 2016. However, when actual numbers are considered, this reveals that there are 243 people with a disability which demonstrates the real need to provide facilities for people with special needs to ensure they can adequately access services and facilities in this locality.

Social Deprivation

The Pobal Deprivation Index is commonly used to classify the social deprivation of an area and in Rosslare this is classified as '*Marginally Below Average*.' This classification has remained the same for both the 2016, 2011 and 2006 census illustrating no change in the deprivation status of this locality over the last ten years.

Map illustrating the Pobal Deprivation Index in Rosslare over the last 10 years



3.3 Tourism Trends

The tourism industry is very important to Rosslare and a brief summary of tourism trends is included in this section as it influences the recommendations considered later in this report.

Irish Tourism Trends

The tourism sector has been one of the great success stories of the Irish economy over the past two decades. This period has seen considerable and sustained growth with major investment in key infrastructure and a move from a focus on low cost to quality, and a greater awareness of what makes Ireland different. The recession had a major impact, naturally: the numbers of overseas visitors plummeted around 2007 and only began to recover properly in the last six years or so.

However, business sentiment has improved significantly since 2008 (Fáilte Ireland's Tourism Barometer April 2018), and the industry as a whole remains optimistic, although perhaps less so since the threat of Brexit emerged. The tables on the right illustrate that accommodation providers were most confident about their business viability in 2016 and since then, have declined slightly, most probably as a result of Brexit and the possible decrease in UK visitor numbers. However, the findings are still very positive with 77% of respondents thinking that business will improve or stay the same in 2018.

In 2018, the tourism attraction sector shows a similar result to the accommodation sector, with 91% of respondents expecting their business to be up, or to stay the same as 2017.

These are very encouraging statistics and it is particularly positive for Rosslare as its economy is heavily reliant on the tourism industry.

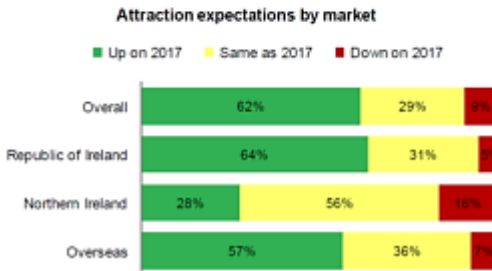
Tourism Barometer – April 2018

Business Sentiment Index

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Up	15	28	43	52	46	62	61	63	54	45
Same	11	25	26	23	26	23	24	25	27	32
Down	74	47	31	25	27	15	15	12	19	23

Base: All Accommodation Providers (weighted to available beds)

"In every sector the proportion of businesses expecting to be up greatly outweighs those expecting to be down."



Overseas Market

Fáilte Ireland statistics reveal that the overseas market continues to grow nationally, reaching 9.58 million in 2018, up from 9.023 million in 2017. Mainland Europe accounts for 3.507 million visitors (37%) whilst Britain accounts for 3.467 million visitors (36%) followed by North America at 1.955 million visitors (20%). The Rest of the World accounts for 651 million visitors (6.8%).

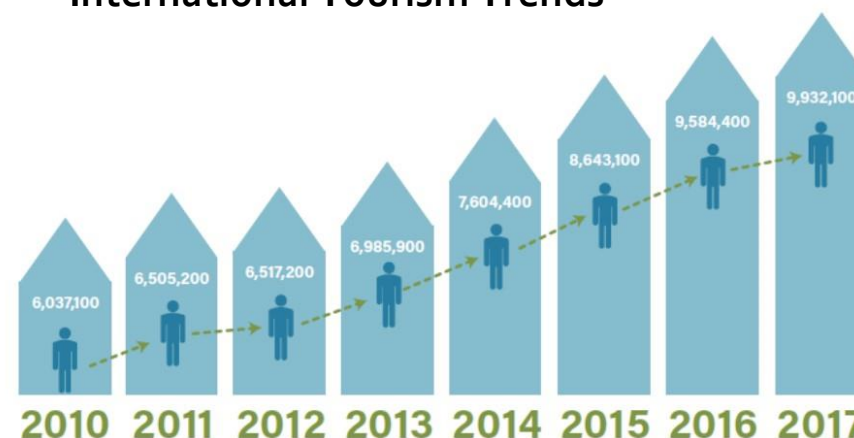
Overall expenditure, excluding carrier costs, is estimated at some €5 billion. Just over half of all overseas visitors (52%) come here during the months May-September.

Compared to the 'Big Players' in Irish tourism, Wexford is dwarfed when it comes to attracting overseas visitors. Wexford attracted just 232,000 overseas visitors in 2017 compared to an average of about 1.6m for Cork, 1.3m for Kerry and 1.7m for Galway, while Dublin welcomed 5.9m visitors. In terms of spend, Dublin secures 39% of overseas spend, while the whole of the South-East (comprising counties Wexford, Waterford, Carlow, Kilkenny and Tipperary South) got just 6% (ITIC - Irish Tourism Industry Confederation bulletin, June 2018, based on Fáilte Ireland data).

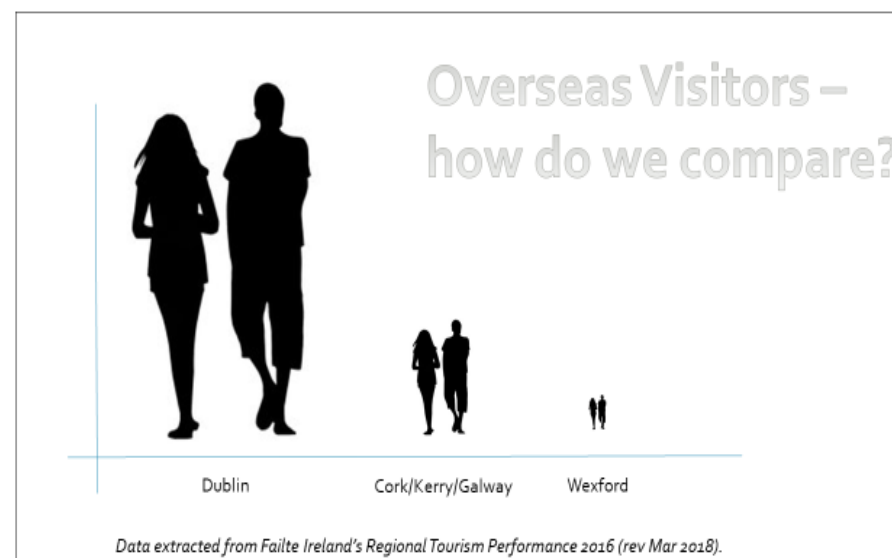
Wexford itself sits somewhere around the middle-lower section of the group (ranked 12th overall) and showing almost no growth in its number of overseas visitors since 2012 (see graph overleaf). Revenue from overseas visitors was €61 million in 2017.

The loss of Irish Ferries from Rosslare to France could have an impact on overseas visitor numbers in 2019 for County Wexford.

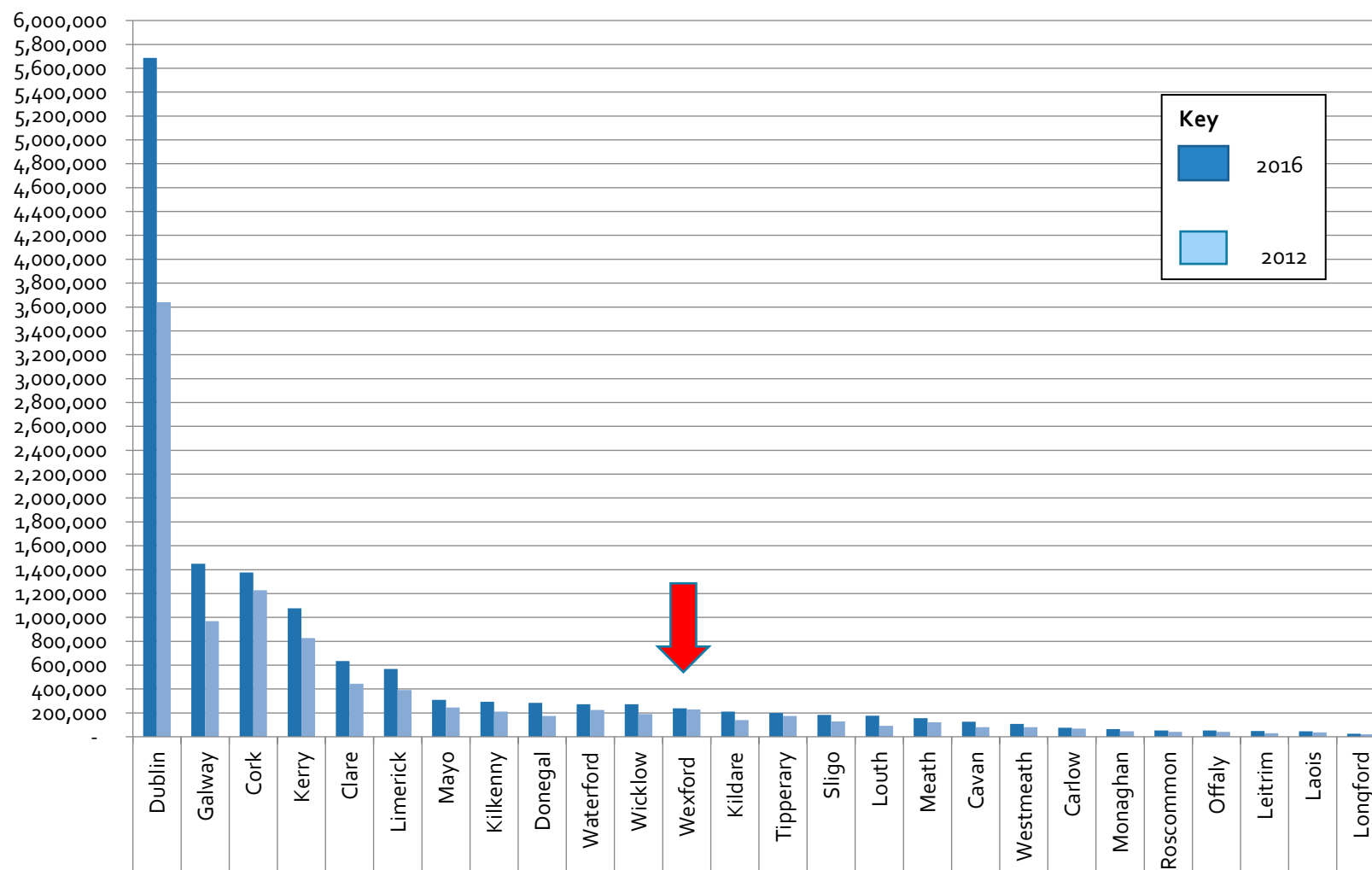
International Tourism Trends



Source: CSO, 2018



Number of Overseas Visitors to Counties 2012 vs 2016 *(rev FI March 2018 figures)*



Fáilte Ireland's Port Survey 2017 assessed the importance and rating of various characteristics of Ireland for our overseas visitors. Top in terms of importance was beautiful scenery (93%); friendly and hospitable people (88%); good range of natural attractions (88%); safety/security (86%) and natural unspoilt environment (86%). Another important consideration for visitors in coming here was our culture / history (selected by 85%).

The internet remains the most important source of information amongst overseas visitors, both for choosing and planning their holidays. Friends & Family and Guide Books remain important too. The vast majority of overseas visitors (86%) arrange their own holidays here, rather than taking a package deal.

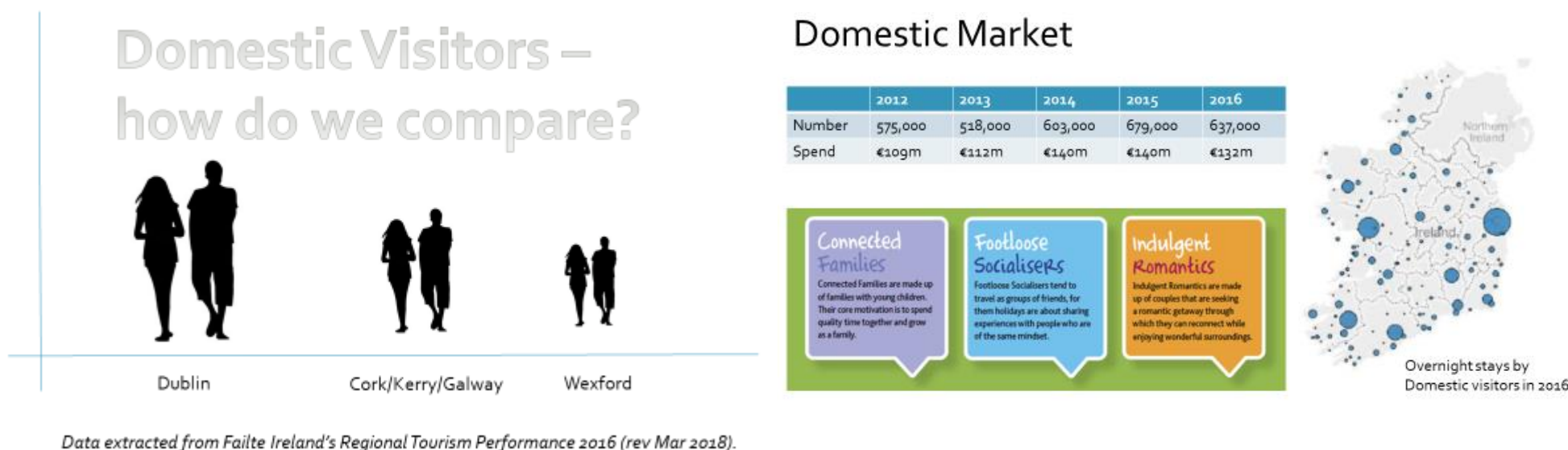
This is important information to consider when planning the strategic development of Rosslare's tourism industry as it illustrates the importance of friendliness, natural beauty and safety. These characteristics need to be carefully considered to ensure that any new developments do not negatively impact on the attractiveness of this highly scenic area on the south coast. In addition, the importance of a good website is paramount, ideally in several languages.

Stunning Beach at Rosslare

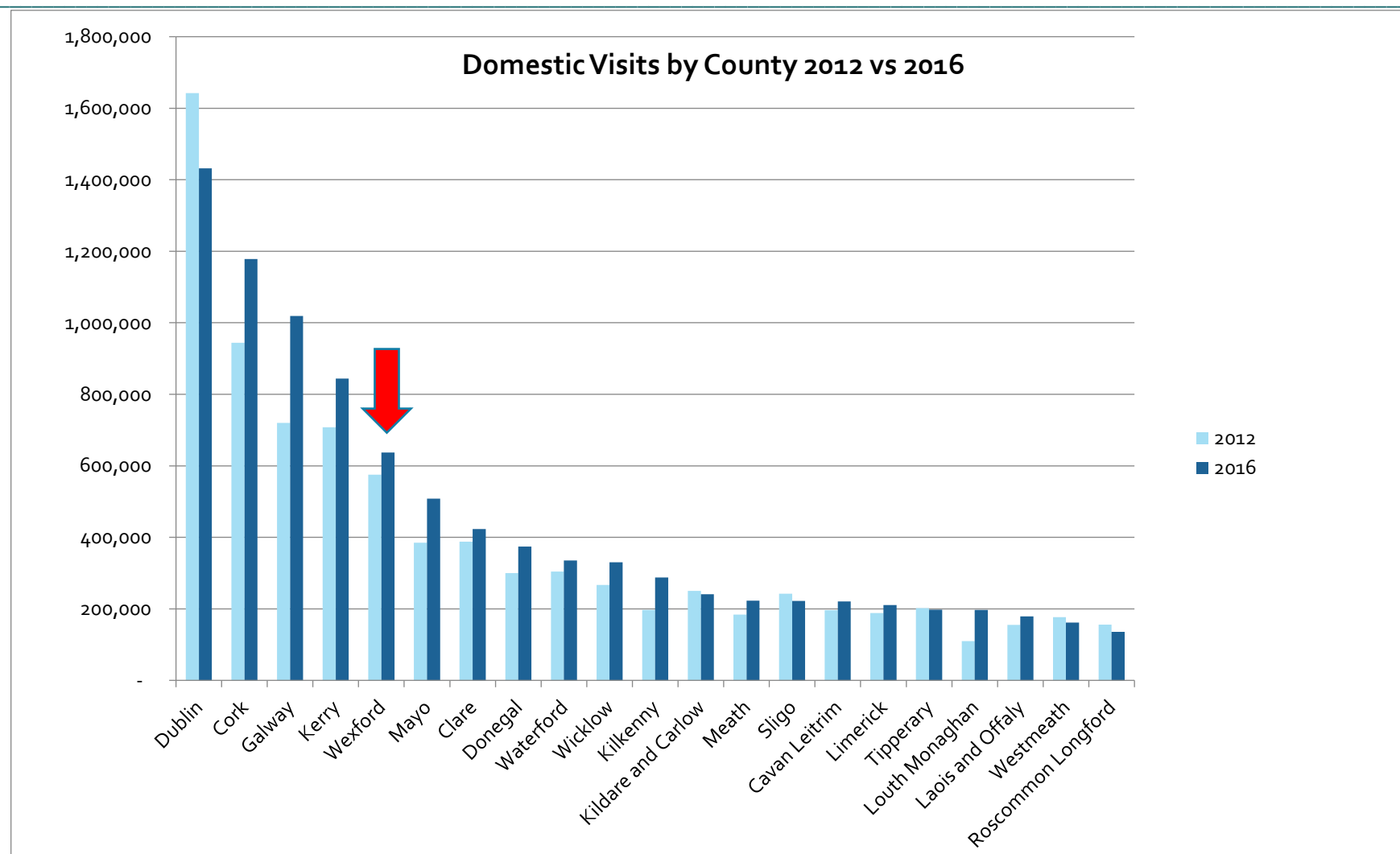


Domestic Market

Wexford performs much stronger on the domestic market, attracting 654,000 visitors in 2017 (Fáilte Ireland, 2018). The graphic below shows that Wexford punches well above its weight on this front and domestic visitors are very important for Rosslare.



Long term trends indicate that there has been a 10% growth in domestic tourism from 2012 to 2016. Spend over the same period is up 20% however, and the disparity between the two figures is easily accounted for by the overall improving economic situation with domestic visitors not only increasing in numbers but spending more. In terms of overnight stays, the county performs reasonably well also. The most important category for these visitors is likely to be 'Connected Families'.



This graph illustrates that County Wexford has the 5th highest number of domestic visitors in Ireland and this number has substantially increased to over 600,000 visitors annually in 2016. In 2017, it increased further to 654,000 visitors accounting for €146 million revenue.

The most recent information published by Fáilte Ireland on domestic tourism can be found in Domestic Omnibus 2016 and Tourism Facts 2017. The research shows that in 2017, 9.6 million trips were made by Irish residents up from 9.3 million trips on 2016. Spending was €1.9bn in 2017, compared to €1.8bn in 2016. This figure includes visits to friends and relatives, business and other trips, as well as domestic holidays. The domestic holiday figure was 4.9m trips in 2017, with a spend of €1.13 billion, which was a slightly lower spend than 2016. Short holidays (1-3 nights) were up on 2016, while longer breaks (four nights plus) were slightly lower. July-September is by far the most important period for longer breaks (67%) but short breaks are much more evenly spread across the year. Short breaks can and are taken throughout the year.

In 2016, 58% of the population took at least one holiday break in Ireland. Most breaks were booked with relatively short notice, with 56% taken within a month of the booking. Just over half of all bookings were made using the internet. 35% of holiday bed nights were spent in Hotels, while 22% were in rented accommodation and 19% in own holiday-homes. The vast majority (83%) travelled in their own cars. 60% of those travelling, and 80% of all adults, were between 30 and 69 years old.

A very useful snapshot of domestic holidaymakers published by Fáilte Ireland in 2018 (Domestic Holiday Monitor 2017) provides further insights into the main drivers for this segment. The advantages of holidaying in Ireland were convenience as compared with travelling abroad, followed by scenery, and that it was less expensive than travelling abroad. The main disadvantages, which can be seen as 'negative drivers', were the weather, the cost of accommodation and the cost of eating out.

In terms of what Irish people do when on holiday in this country, the statistics are very clear: visitors like a very wide range of activities, in almost equal measure. The top activities for the last few years have been hiking and walking (25% in 2017), and visits to houses and castles (26% in 2017).

Rosslare Community Information Hub



Tourism Profile: Rosslare

Rosslare Holiday Resort provides a nationally significant domestic visitor offering as there is an array of high quality operators which provide a luxury tourism destination for holiday makers. This includes two good quality hotels, four mobile home parks, guest houses and hundreds of holiday homes. There is also an abundance of stunning assets including its climate, Blue Flag golden sandy beach; Championship Links Golf Course; extensive sand dunes; shops and restaurants; walking trails; and good community sports complex located in the heart of the village. In addition, Rosslare is situated on the main railway line between the Harbour, Wexford Town and Dublin which makes it very accessible to all.

The CSO records information on dwellings and in the Rosslare Electoral Division in 2016 there was a total of 1,858 permanent dwellings. Of these, 745 properties were occupied, 35 were temporarily absent, 1,010 were unoccupied holiday homes and 68 were vacant. This means that on the census night in 2016 only 40% of all properties were occupied. It also reveals the importance of the tourism sector to the local economy as 54% of all houses were classified as holiday homes.

In 2011, there was a total of 1,873 permanent dwellings in the Rosslare Electoral Division of which 38% were occupied on the night of the census. This is broadly comparable to the statistics for the 2016 census.

This illustrates that there has been very little change to the total housing stock in this area over the five-year period. The 2011 census does not indicate if the unoccupied properties are holiday homes, but it is very likely that the majority of the 1,154 unoccupied houses in 2011 were for visitors to Rosslare.

Rosslare's Tourism Assets



3.4 Summary

- The population of Rosslare village was 1,620 in 2016 which has increased slightly from 1,547 in 2011 (WCC, County Monitor: 2019). The population of the Rosslare ED increased from 2,057 in 2011 to 2,112 in 2016. This mirrors trends both nationally and within the county.
- There were 404 people aged under 18 years of age and 349 people aged 65+ living in Rosslare in 2016. As a result, there were higher than average youth and old age dependency rates in Rosslare. This illustrates the need to actively deliver services and facilities for both the young and the old. (WCC, County Monitor: 2019).
- In 2016, the unemployment rate in Rosslare was 16% compared to the average for County Wexford of 17%. Unemployment in Rosslare has decreased over the last five years from a high of 23% in 2011. (WCC, County Monitor: 2019).
- Home ownership patterns in Rosslare are quite different to the county or State average. In 2016, only 55% of homes were owner occupied in Rosslare compared to 72% in County Wexford. In contrast, the percentage of homes which were socially rented (includes renting from both the Local Authority and Voluntary Bodies) or privately rented is significantly higher at 42% compared to the average for County Wexford of 25% or the State average of 27%. (WCC, County Monitor: 2019).
- In 2016, only 40% of all properties were occupied (745 homes) on the census night. There was also a greater proportion of single people living in homes in Rosslare (29%) compared to the State and county average of 23% in 2016. It also revealed the importance of the tourism sector to the local economy as 54% (1,010 homes) were classified as unoccupied holiday homes. Only 4% of properties were identified as vacant although the recent site visit identified several derelict properties along the main street. (WCC, County Monitor: 2019).
- In Rosslare, 44% of all properties have been constructed since 2001 which compares to 34% in County Wexford and 27% nationally. This illustrates the rapid expansion the village has witnessed over the last 20 years which has significant implications for service provision. (WCC, County Monitor: 2019).
- Rosslare has a much higher level of educational attainment than the county average and is on par with the State. The education statistics have also improved over the last five years with the percentage obtaining a degree increasing from 16% to 19%.
- In 2016, the proportion of people with a disability in Rosslare is 15% which is just above the State average of 14% and is on par with County Wexford. (WCC, County Monitor: 2019).

Section 4

Audit of Assets



4. Audit of Assets

4.1 Overview

Rosslare is a coastal tourism resort situated on Wexford's south east coast, 8 kms from Rosslare Harbour. It is a premier holiday resort which boasts a national and international reputation linked to Kelly's famous 4 star Resort & Spa Hotel and Rosslare's Links Golf Club.

"In keeping with its deserved reputation as the foremost unspoilt holiday resort in County Wexford, Rosslare Strand attracts visitors in increasing numbers from all over Ireland and also from abroad" (RDA, 2019)

The village sustains a vibrant local economy which is estimated to provide 435 jobs in the summer months (RDA, 2019). Considerable revenues accrue to the local and national economies as a result of this thriving tourism industry in the premier resort of Rosslare.

It has experienced a significant increase in its settlement size over the last 20 years as 41% of all housing stock in Rosslare has been constructed since 2001. However, due to the tourism nature of this area a large proportion of properties are unoccupied for many months of the year.

This section of the report will now consider the main assets in this locality and explore issues that are affecting the coastal resort of Rosslare.



Source: Google Maps, 2019

4.2 Assets

A site visit was held in July 2019 with WCC Officials to assess the array of unique assets in Rosslare and some of these are illustrated below.

Unique Assets in the Premier Holiday Resort of Rosslare



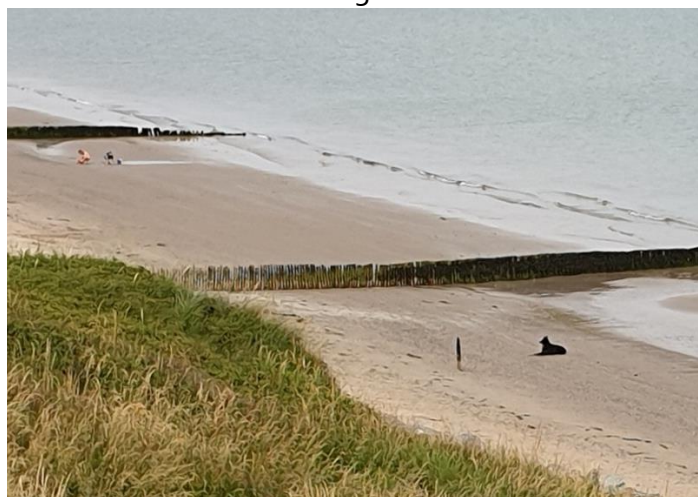
Blue Flag beach



Stunning sandy beach



Proximity to Rosslare Harbour



Groynes and sand dunes protecting the beach



Heritage features



Rich coastal ecological habitats



Kelly's Resort Hotel & Spa



Rosslare Golf Club



Rosslare Sports & Community Complex



Boardwalk to the beach



Coast Rosslare Strand Hotel



Crazy Golf

4.3 Environmental Assets

The community have undertaken extensive research into their local environment and have identified several sites of interest.

- **Rocks:** The large granite boulders along the cliff top are glacial erratics from Carnsore Point. The granite is some 428 million years old.
- **Sand Dune Flora:** Marram, a native maritime grass, binds and holds the sand. Sea-buckthorn, a spiny shrub with narrow, shining, pale silvery green leaves is widely planted to help stabilise and bind the sand. These are very prevalent on the sand dune system in Rosslare.
- **Marine Seashells:** The strand is a good source of empty bivalve seashells cast up on the beach from molluscs living offshore in fine sand. The Otter Shell is usually the most common species.
- **Woodland:** The Grove is the largest stand of old woodland in the Rosslare area. Its main interests are its trees, wild flowers and woodland wildlife, however it is currently closed to the public.
- **Mudflats & Sandflats:** When the tide ebbs at Rosslare Back Strand, the very extensive area of mudflats and sandflats that are exposed attracts wetland birds that feed on life forms living in the freshly exposed muddy substrate. Common Cockle, Lugworm, Catworm, Ragworm and Mud Shrimps are abundant in the muddy sand.
- **Saltmarsh:** This is dominated by sea-purslane, a much-branched, sprawling shrub.
- **Grange River:** This lowland river collects water from a number of streams draining Rosslare village and lands surrounding the neighbouring villages of Tagoat and Kilrane.
(RCDA, 2019)

Funding has been sought to develop an environmental and heritage walking trail around Rosslare and additional information will be depicted along this trail.



Rosslare is contiguous to the Wexford Harbour and Slobs Special Protection Area (SPA) as illustrated in the map on the right. This location provides an important wetland habitat for a range of bird species.

Table illustrating the Birds in the Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA

Little Grebe	Mallard	Knot
Great Crested Grebe	Pintail	Sanderling
Cormorant	Goldeneye	Dunlin
Grey Heron	Red-breasted Merganser	Black-tailed Godwit
Bewick's Swan	Hen Harrier	Bar-tailed Godwit
Whooper Swan	Coot	Curlew
Light-bellied Brent Goose	Oystercatcher	Redshank
Shelduck	Golden Plover	Black-headed Gull
Wigeon	Grey Plover	Lesser Black-backed Gull
Teal	Lapwing	Little Tern
	Greenland White-fronted goose	

Source: NPWS, 2012

The objectives of this SPA are to create a favourable conservation status of this habitat to ensure:

- Its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing;
- The specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future;
- The conservation status of its typical species is favourable. (NPWS, 2012)

In addition, there is an objective to create a favourable conservation status of the bird species in this habitat to ensure that the bird populations are maintained on a long-term basis.

Map of the Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA



Source: NPWS, 2012

4.4 Heritage Assets

Rosslare has a rich maritime heritage and the community have documented the key sites of interest which include:

- **Three guns** formed the Battery of the Royal Navy Volunteers' Reserve Base on the Rosslare beach.
- **Old Coastguard Station** which was established in 1822 and has since been converted into apartments.
- **The Murder Hole** – In 1649, Oliver Cromwell dispatched a company of dragoons and foot soldiers to attack the fort in Rosslare. The inhabitants of the Fort were forced to surrender and were later murdered in the sand dunes, now known as the Murder Hole.
- **Kelly's Resort Hotel**. Kelly's Hotel was founded more than a century ago and is now managed by the fifth generation of the Kelly family. From modest tea rooms it has now grown into one of Ireland's premier resort hotels.
- **Convent of Mercy**. This was established in 1911 in one of Rosslare's fine Georgian houses. The nun's made their presence felt, most notably in the field of education. This has been recently purchased and restored as a Parish Centre for Rosslare.
- **Rosslare Golf Club** was founded in 1905 and has continually brought an influx of visitors into the village.
- **Commodore John Barry** spent his childhood days in Rosslare and later earned the title of '*Father of the United States Navy.*'
- **Lifeboat Memorial**. There was a lifeboat station at Rosslare Fort which was transferred to Rosslare Harbour in the mid 1920's following a series of storms. The Rosslare lifeboat men were involved in many dramatic rescues, most notably the rescue of the Norwegian Schooner 'Mexico', for which they were awarded All Ireland Gold Medals by the GAA.
- **Rosslare Fort**. In 1642, a defensive fort at the tip of Rosslare was constructed. This was a sizable fort and in 1760 it extended over 40 acres. However, it was destroyed by heavy storms in the mid-1920s and is now under the sea.
(RCDA, 2019)



The community of Rosslare are very proud of its rich heritage and are continuously seeking to protect and promote it for the benefit of all.

4.5 Summary

There is a wealth of natural and historic assets around Rosslare which are highly valued by the local community. There is huge potential to further enhance and develop these assets for the benefit of local residents and also visitors to this area. This would increase the visitor dwell time in the village and also enhance the quality of life for everyone who lives in this attractive seaside village. The illustration below gives an overview of the key assets in this locality that merit further development over the next five years.

Characteristics of Rosslare



Section 5

Consultation Findings



5. Consultation Findings

5.1 Consultation Process

Section 2 of this report details the consultation process that was completed during the preparation of this five-year plan. This included a household and youth survey, public meetings, site visits and meetings. The key findings from this research will be detailed in this section of the report. In addition, WCC commissioned a Coastal Risk and Flood Management Plan for Rosslare in 2019 which included a beach user and Kelly's Hotel clientele survey and a summary of their key findings will be illustrated in this section of the report.

5.2 Household Survey

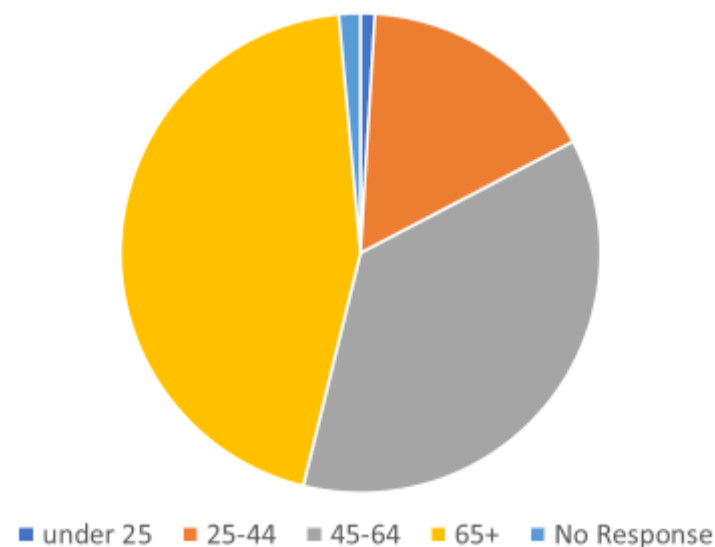
A comprehensive household survey was distributed to 700 houses in April 2019 by the RDA and the RCDA and 208 were returned giving a **30% response rate**.

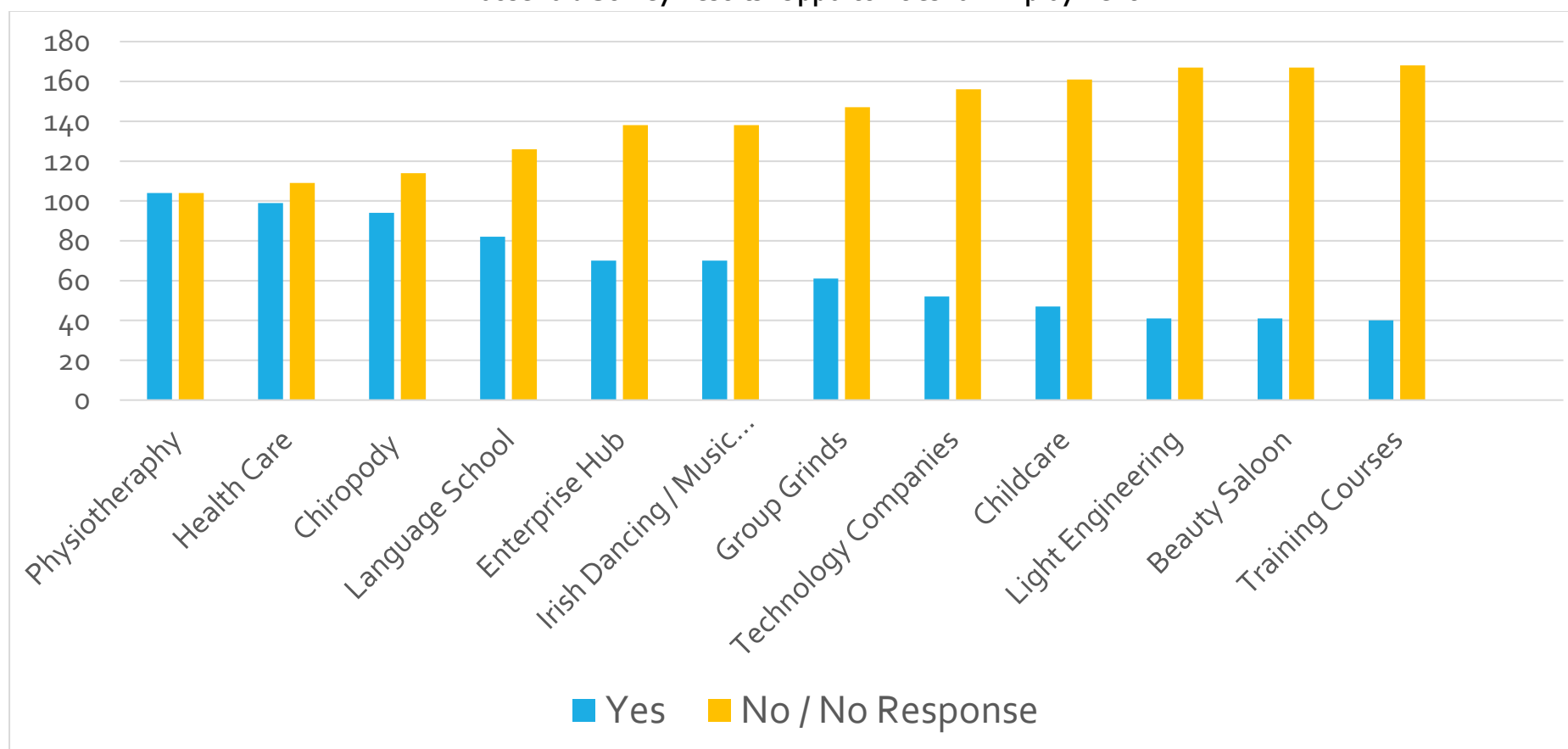
In terms of the demographics of the respondents, 81% were over 45 years of age and 88% lived full-time in the area. 41% were in employment whilst 49% identified themselves as 'retired'.

Families with children were relatively poorly represented in the household survey. 76% of households had no children under 12 and 80% had no children aged 12-18 years of age. However, a youth survey was completed to capture the views of young people in Rosslare and these survey results will be considered in section 5.3.

The household survey findings will be detailed next and a copy of the full survey results are illustrated in appendix 4. This will be considered under the following themes: Enterprise; Training; Community; Tourism; and Public Perception of Life in Rosslare.

Age Profile of Respondents



Enterprise**Household Survey Results: Opportunities for Employment**

Households were asked to identify opportunities for employment and the responses focused predominately on **services** targeted at people living in Rosslare such as physiotherapy, health care, chiropody, grinds, music / dancing lessons and beauty saloons etc. There was also an interest in stimulating new enterprise developments to create employment such as a language school and an enterprise hub.

Training

The community were asked to consider their interest in training and a wide range of ideas emerged as illustrated in the table below.

Household Survey Results: Opportunities for Training

Computing (x3)	Swimming Instructor/First Aid
Training in use of i-phone, laptop, tablet	Youth FAS Scheme
Excel, Word etc.	Cookery
ECDL Training	Secondary School
Training - Environmental Studies	Ballet Class
Learn new skills, adult reading and writing	Training Course: First Aid Manual Handling, Lifts at Work etc.
Irish Language Courses	Driving Courses
Part-Time Degree Courses in Relation to WIT	Training Courses for the Elderly
Healthy Eating / Cookery Classes	Hospitality Industry, Waitering, Bar, Catering Training
Dance Classes	Customer Care, Personal Development, Writing, Public Speaking, Family Law, Investment, Pensions, Home Care, Proof-Reading
Sign Language	Business Courses and PC Courses
Similar courses to Heritage Park or Kilmore Quay Centre	After School Study

These survey results can be utilised by the RCDA to inform their schedule of training courses that could be delivered in the Community Centre. The results show the significant interest in computing classes as well as a wide range of other subjects.

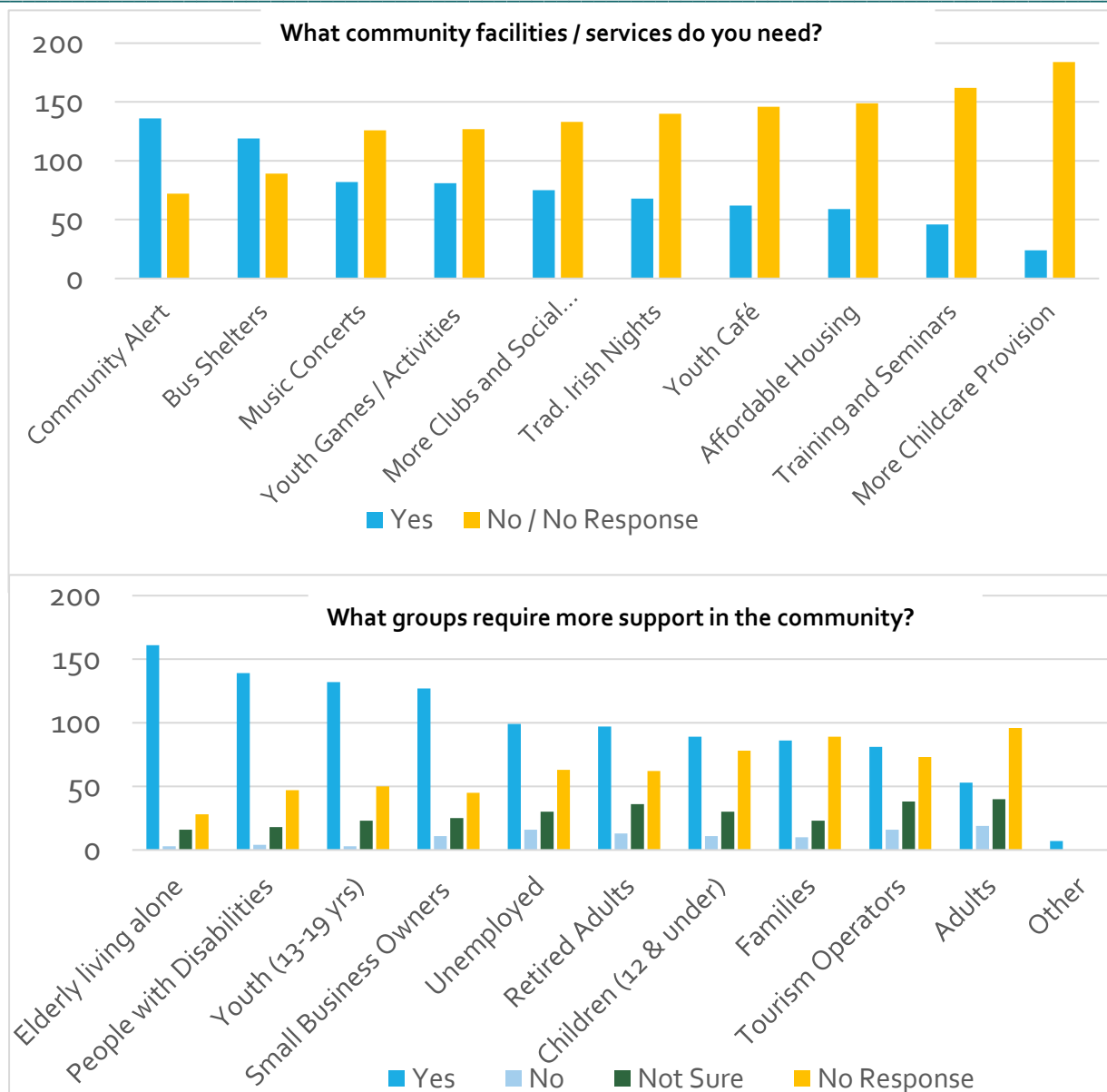
Forging collaborative links with existing training providers such as third level colleges could also be an interesting dimension to explore.

Community

The graph opposite illustrates the wide range of community facilities and services that people would like developed in Rosslare. Of highest importance is a Community Alert scheme and Bus Shelters, both of which should be possible to implement within a short time frame. Other facilities and services people would like include concerts, youth activities, social clubs etc. The findings from these results are likely to be influenced by the high level of survey returns from people aged over 45 years of age.

Households would most like to support the 'elderly living alone'. This corresponds with the CSO data which illustrated that there was a large cohort of people aged 65+ and there were 161 homes in Rosslare with only one person living in it.

The household survey also revealed the need to cater more for people with disabilities and for young people aged 13 to 19 years of age.



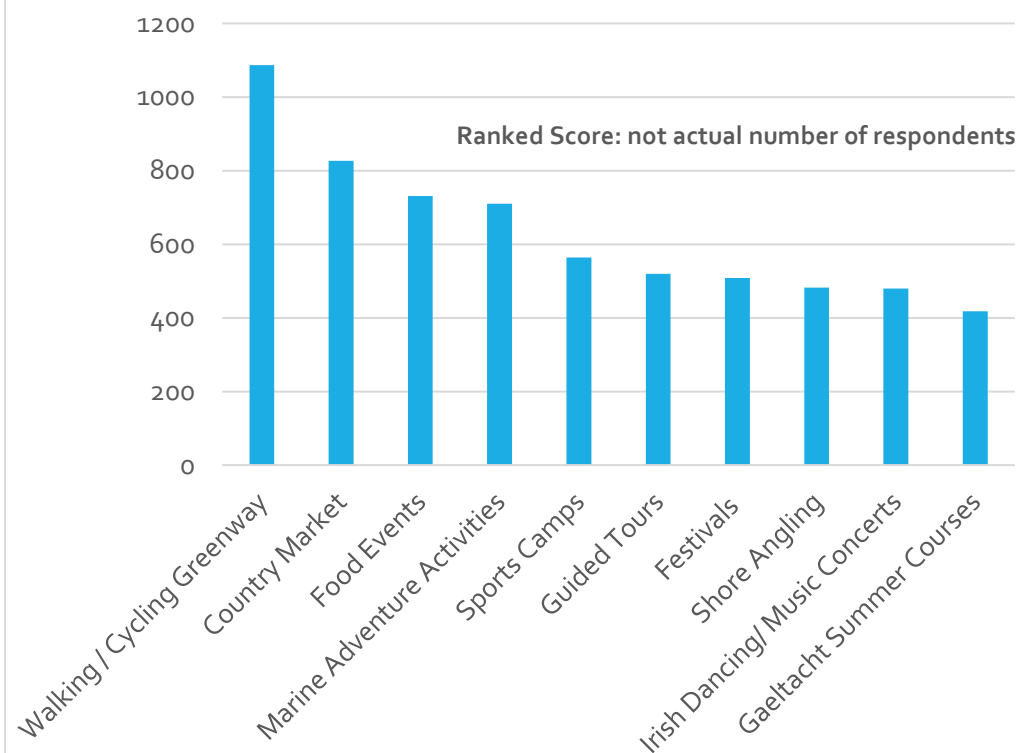
Tourism

Rosslare is one of the premier coastal resorts in the south east and in order for it to retain its attractiveness as a tourism destination it is essential that it continues to invest in its tourism infrastructure.

The household survey shows the huge interest in walking and cycling in this locality which would greatly assist in developing Rosslare as a tourism destination all year round. WCC are currently exploring the viability of developing two Greenways in this locality and this research demonstrates the strong demand for this proposal.

This research also illustrates other tourism activities which could be developed in this locality including country markets; food events; marine adventure; sports camps and guided tours. There is also interest in Irish cultural activities such as Irish dancing, music and Gaeltacht Summer courses.

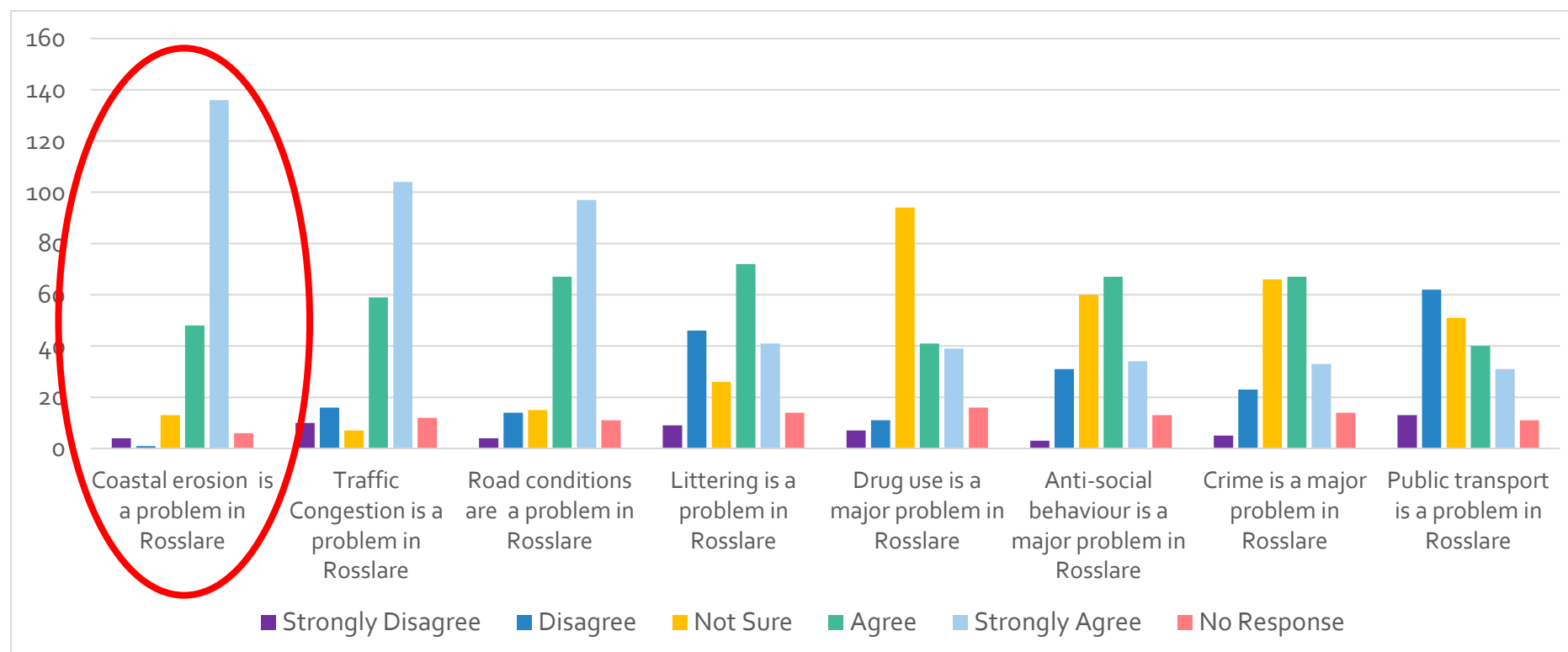
What additional tourism facilities should be developed?



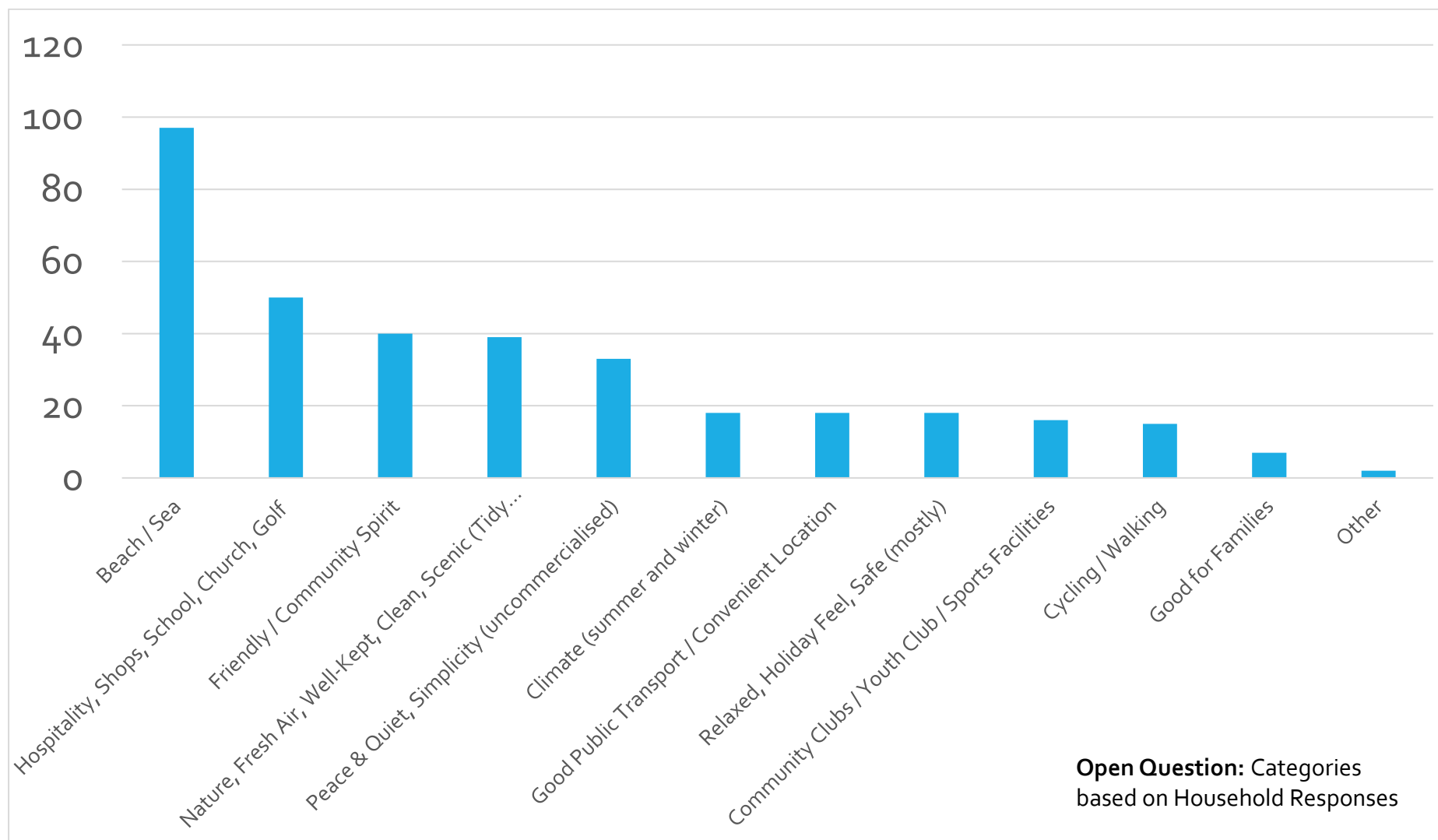
Public Perception of Life in Rosslare

The graph below illustrates that households in Rosslare are most concerned about coastal erosion with over 75% of households stating that this is a significant problem in Rosslare. Over 50% of respondents are worried about traffic congestion, closely followed by road conditions.

People's Perceptions of Rosslare – What people identify as the biggest issues?

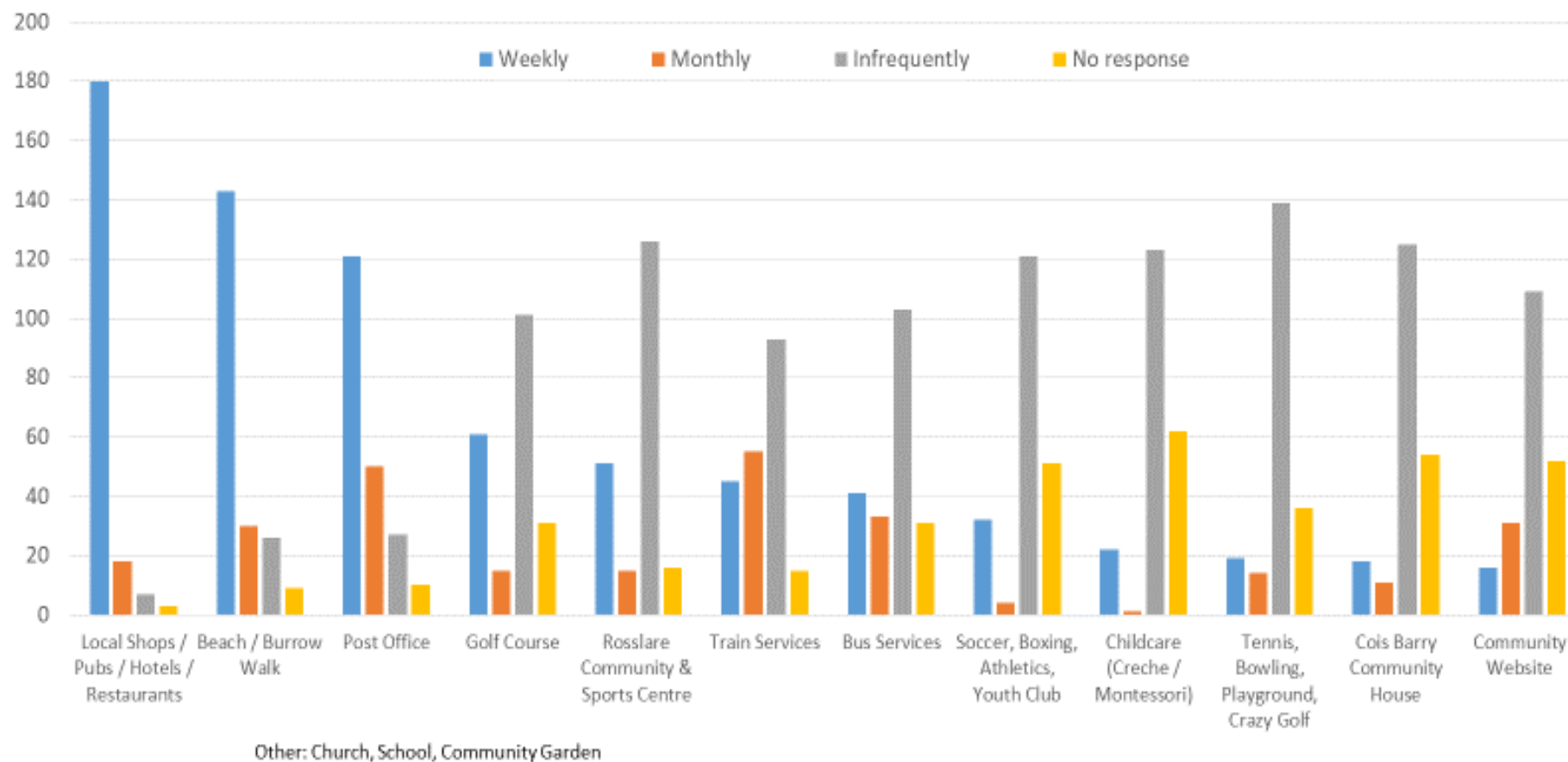


What people like most about Rosslare?



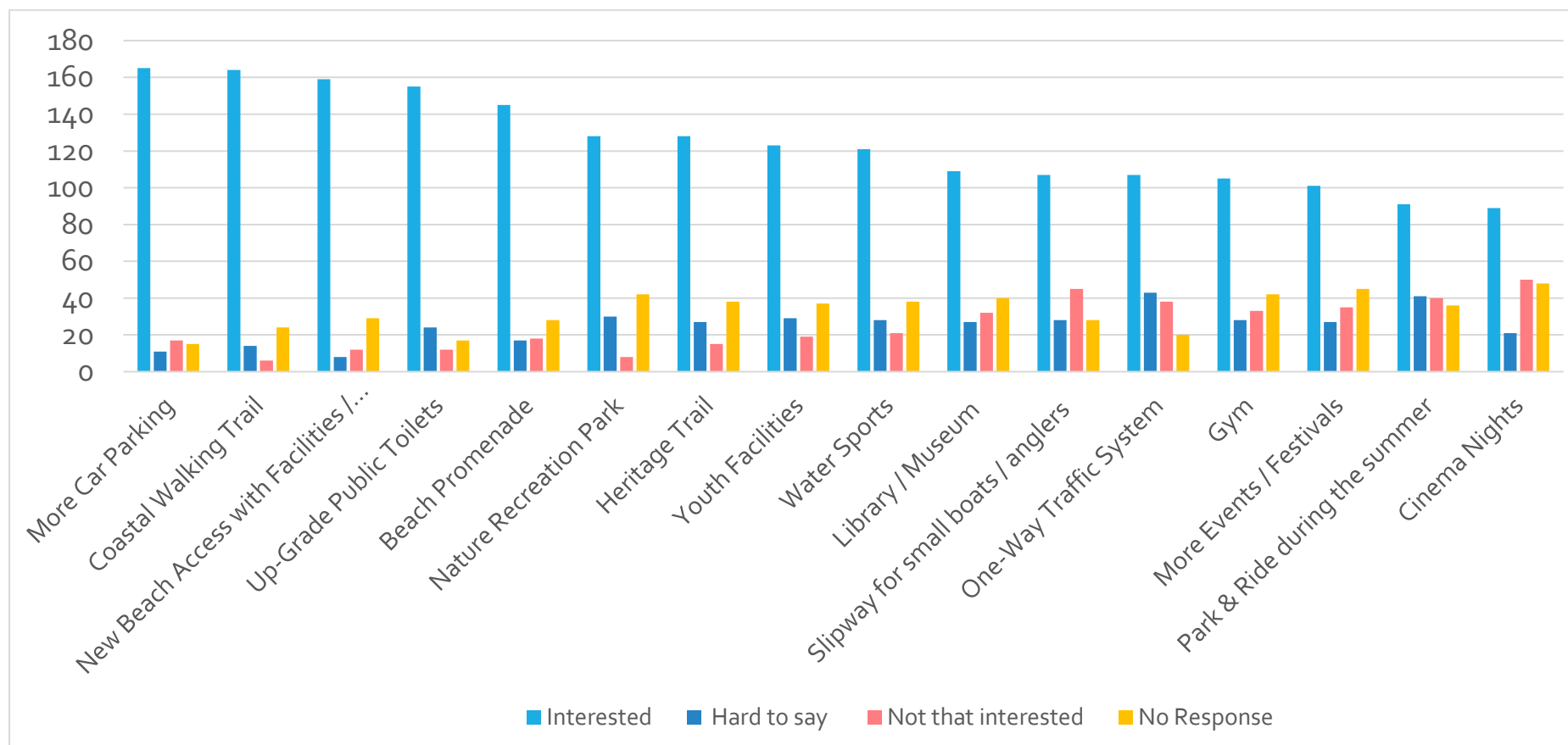
This graph illustrates that the beach, local shops, services and the strong community spirit is very much valued by households in Rosslare.

How often people use the following facilities?



This graph illustrates that the community utilise their local services very regularly with 87% of respondents stating that they use their local shops, pubs, hotels and restaurants on a weekly basis. 69% use the beach and burrow for walking / recreation and 58% use the post office weekly. The Golf Club, Community & Sports Complex and local transport services (train and bus) are also used frequently.

Attitudes towards the following initiatives?

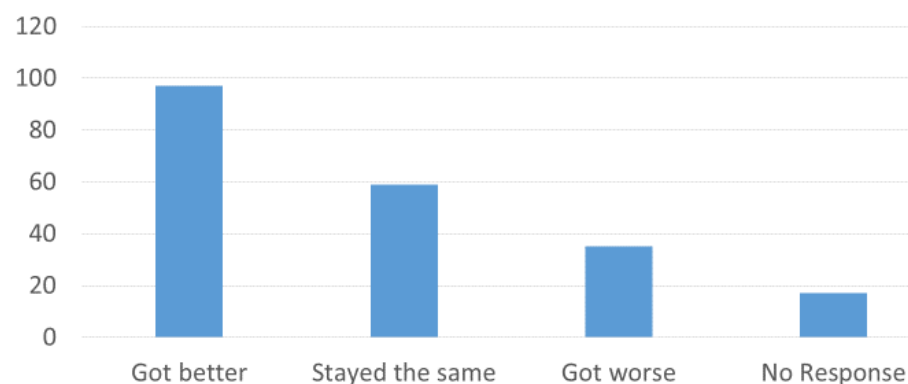


This graph illustrates people's response to a range of possible initiatives that could be developed in Rosslare. Basic public infrastructure is most popular such as more car parking; walking trails, increased beach access, up-graded toilets, and recreation facilities. This result links into the previous graph which illustrated that the vast majority of respondents utilise the shops, facilities and beach weekly and would therefore greatly benefit if they were further enhanced.

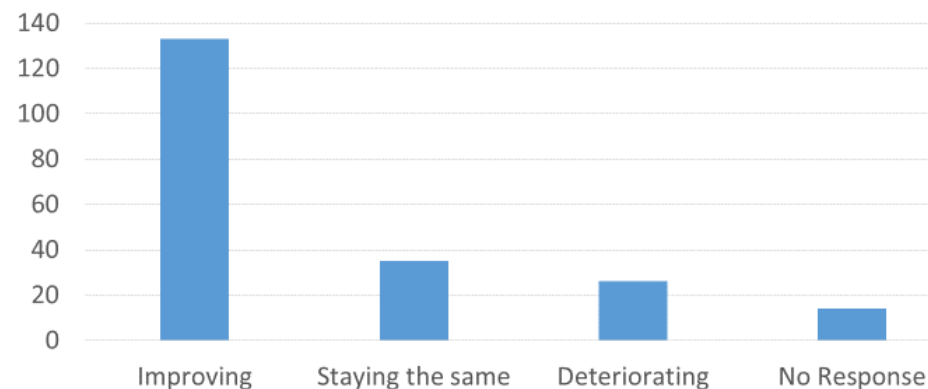
Two questions cast light on people's general sense of well-being and optimism. Respondents were asked to say whether they felt things had got better, got worse, or stayed the same since 2010. Looking ahead, they were asked to say whether they saw things improving, getting worse or staying the same.

The replies to both questions were overwhelmingly positive, as shown in the two charts below: the clear majority felt that things had got better and would continue to improve.

How has life in Rosslare changed since 2010?



What is your opinion on the future of this area for the next five years?

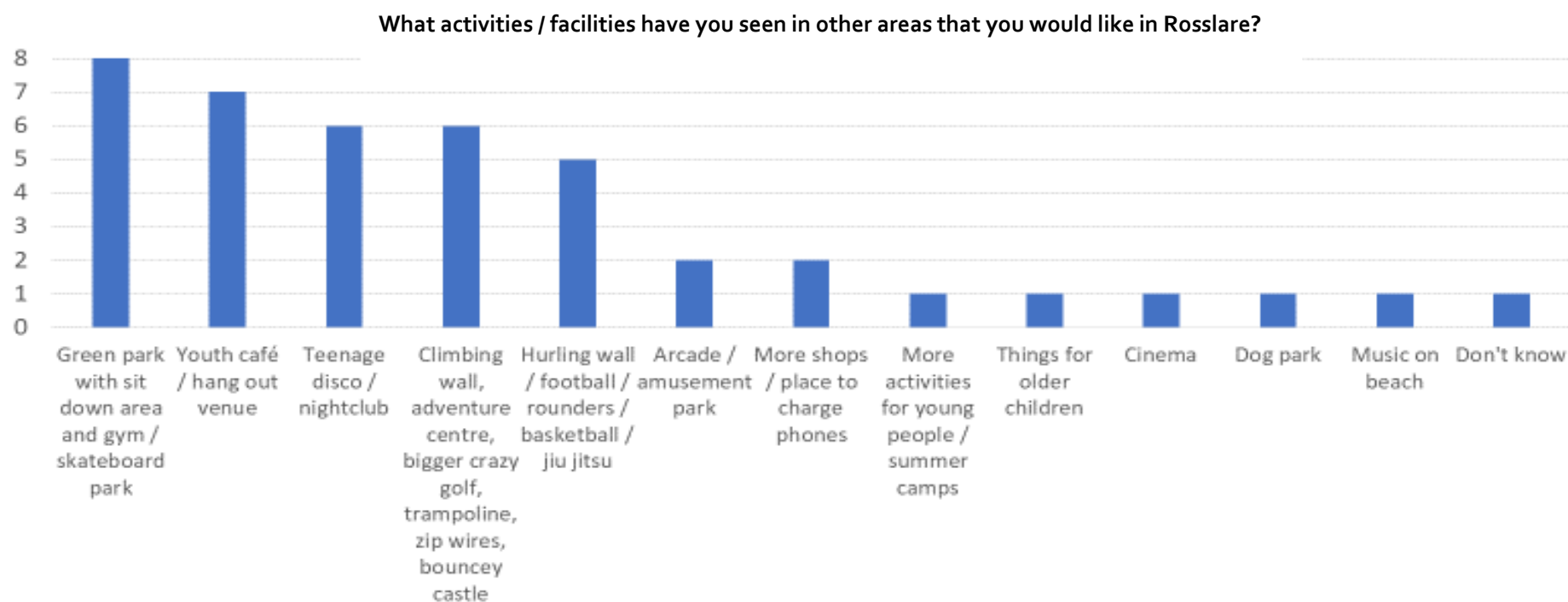


The level of detail that many householders included in the household survey illustrates the strong interest people have in the future development of Rosslare. This comprehensive feedback and the vast array of ideas that were given, will be invaluable to the RDA and RCDA and all relevant stakeholders when planning the way forward for this strategically important coastal resort in County Wexford.

5.3 Youth Survey

The idea of the Youth Survey was to attempt to capture the views of a sector of the community who do not usually engage in this type of consultation. Youth surveys were distributed via the household surveys and circulated through the youth club, national school and other youth organisations. A total of 55 surveys were returned and greatly assists in providing the views of young people between the ages of 12 and 18 which otherwise would be lacking. The gender breakdown was broadly 50:50 and the majority have lived in Rosslare all their life. The full analysis of these returns can be found in appendix 5 but some key points are summarised below.

Young people were asked what activities they have seen elsewhere that they would like in Rosslare. This includes a greater range of outdoor activities such as a park, gym and skateboard area; and adventure activities such as a climbing wall, zip wires, bigger crazy golf etc. There is also an interest in more places for young people to socialise such as a youth café and a teenage disco.



Young people were asked what three things they would do in Rosslare to make it better and the range of diverse ideas are summarised below.

First Choice

Clean beach (x3)	Cleaner
Fix the roads	Get rid of drugs
More dog bins	Better mental health facilities
Keeping fun stuff open during the winter for locals.	More housing ie more people so we get more items
youth facilities	More activities (x2)
Outdoor swimming pool	Water slides
Trampolines	Junior tidy towns
Hurling facilities	Open a new carpark to have enough parking for the community in the summer
More shops	Free tennis court/astro
Make Rosslare safer to cycle	Safer road for going on my bike
Improve the playground and crazy golf	Make the roads better at the borrow
Stop the teens littering	Cleaner
One way traffic in summer	Reduce litter
More for young people	Youth room
More social activities were you don't need talent	WRSPCA
More activities for teens and young adults	Playing outside more
Better broadband	Bigger boxing club
Cinemas	For my dad - get free beer on Friday's
Skate park	Less drugs
Chinese restaurant	Fix pot holes/roads
Bring back the watersports centre	Fix coastal erosion

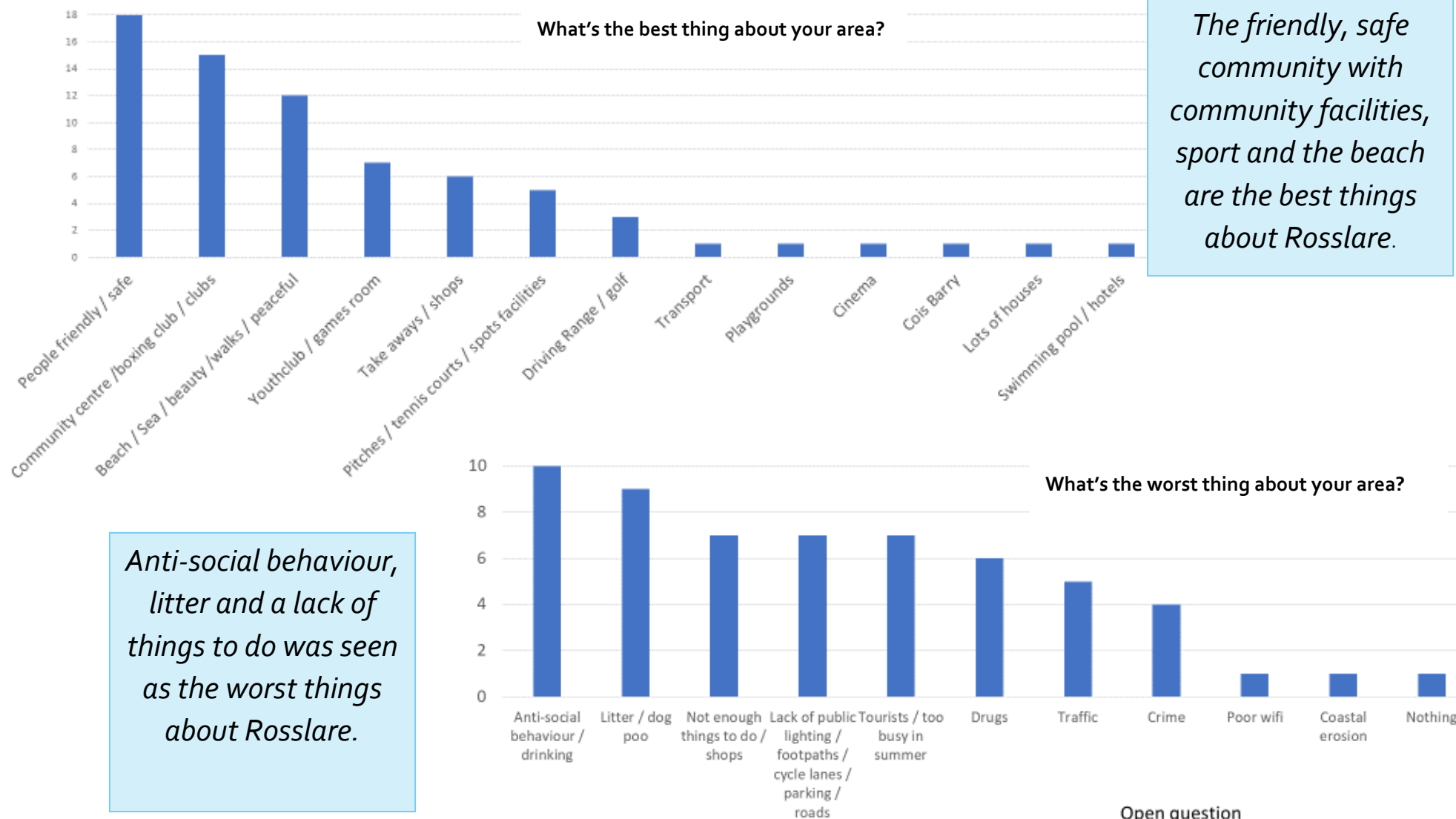
Second Choice

Better public transport	Traffic controlled (x2)
Improvement on the environment	Safer
more soccer camps	Youth gym
Closer shops	No bullying
Teenagers and youths to be listened to more	More sport
More visual looks	More youth stuff
late night chipper	Youth facilities
Open a place for teenagers to hang out at and have fun eg.ping pong	More youth facilities
No public drinking	No school
Park with benches to have a picnic in the middle of the village	More youth clubs
More footpaths	more activities
Wildlife reserves	Amusements
Have a really nice safe place for teens to socialise	A pedestrain crossing
Library	More opportunities for young people
Bike racks around the village (x2)	More youth facilities at the top end of the village
Charging point	Teen café
More parking spaces	More organised fun days
A safe place to hang out in bad weather	Music groups for teenagers

Third Choice

Tackle litter problem	Less drugs (x2)
Clean dog poo	More to do in evening, disco
Dog park	Sunloungers and umbrellas on beach
Water activities	More activities
More camps	More shops (x2)
Chinese	Clothes shop (x2)
Put more bike places around Rosslare eg.at the community centre for locking up your bike.	Make it safer (x2)
Improve the park by the surf shop	More bins
Be able to go into the astro turf pitches for free	Teen jacuzzi and sauna
Youth club (under 6s)	Don't litter
Better cycling facilities for children	Cleaner beach
More evening entertainment	Less drugs/violence
Bike racks around the village	More bins along roads

The majority of young people stated that they have good friends in Rosslare and feel part of their community which is very encouraging. They were asked what's best and worst about their area and these results are illustrated below.



In summary, most young people value the strong community spirit and friendly people of Rosslare. They have lots of ideas about how life in the village could be improved and they would greatly value additional facilities and more recreation areas so that there are greater opportunities to socialise with their friends.

5.4 Beach Survey

J. Chatterton and Associates were commissioned by RPS to study the benefits associated with coastal protection works and associated beach nourishment at Rosslare between the 31st July and 8th August 2019. Their key findings are illustrated below.



5.5 Stakeholder Site Visit

WCC is a major stakeholder in Rosslare due to its coastal location and its strategic economic importance within the county. In addition, other agencies have a key role in this village's development and these include the OPW and BIM. It is recommended that dialogue is maintained with all of these agencies to ensure that the initiatives highlighted in this report can be effectively delivered. The diagram below summarises the key points that were identified during the site visit with WCC Officials in July 2019.



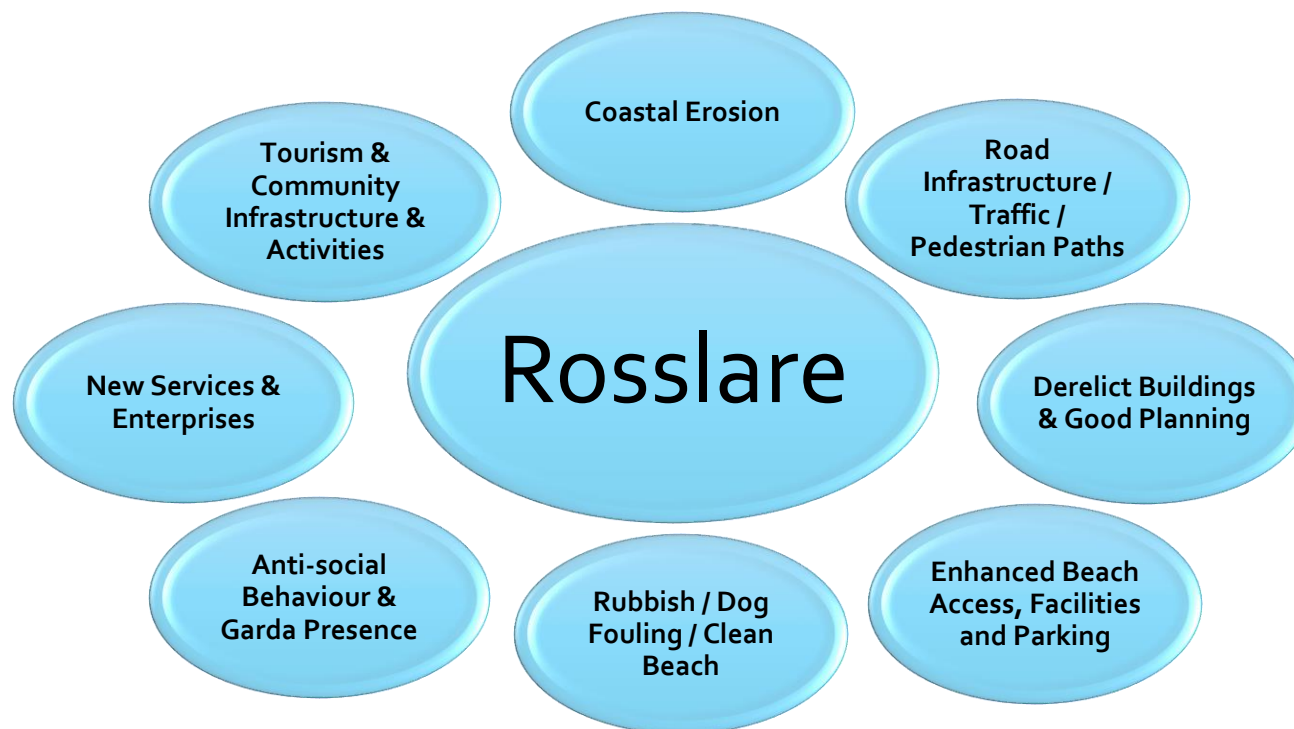
Site Visit Summary: July 2019

- Coastal Erosion & Proposed Protection Works
- Enhanced Beach Access & Additional Parking (Burrow and other Sites)
- Traffic Congestion / Possible One-Way System to Create Pedestrian Paths & Cycleways
- Pedestrian Safety and Enhanced Access over the Railway Bridges
- Potential for an Environment & Recreation Park
- Promote and Protect the Biodiversity of the Sand Dune Systems
- Greenway Development
- Protection & Promotion of Rosslare's Heritage & Create a Heritage Walking Trail
- Marine / Tourism Infrastructure e.g. Slipway, Campervan Park, All Weather Tourism Facilities
- Connectivity to Rosslare Harbour & Collaborative Marketing
- Enhanced Infrastructure (Bus Shelters, Public Toilets, Improved Road Surfaces, Parking)
- Derelict Properties & Appropriate Planning
- Anti-Social Behaviour Issues

5.6 Summary

The consultation process has crystallised the views on how to develop Rosslare over the next five years. It has revealed an overwhelmingly positive attitude towards living in this community and illustrated the high value people place on this area's stunning beach, its premier tourism facilities and its rich marine heritage. The consultation process also demonstrated the widespread support for the work of voluntary organisations in the village. There is a shared sense that more needs to be done for young people in the area, but one of the very positive messages is the extent to which these young people share that sense of pride-of-place and want to stay and live here.

However, people have strong concerns about coastal erosion, inadequate public infrastructure, traffic management, pedestrian safety, inappropriate development, dereliction and anti-social behaviour. Young people share these concerns and would very much value more facilities and recreation areas so that they can socialise together. These are just some of the headline messages to emerge. The results as a whole will play a very important role in informing the proposed strategy for this area.



Section 6

SWOT Analysis



Section 6 SWOT Analysis

6.1 SWOT Analysis

The SWOT analysis details the main strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the area from a community, tourism and economic perspective. The strengths and opportunities far outweigh the weaknesses and threats. The timing of this study is particularly pertinent as Rosslare is experiencing threats from coastal erosion and rising sea levels which is forcing Government Departments to make decisions on the level of investment in coastal defence works in Rosslare. Other factors which are likely to have a significant bearing on this coastal resort include:

- Construction of 2 long-distance Greenways (Rosslare Harbour to Waterford and Rosslare to Wexford Town)
- Further housing developments and the likely increased pressure on existing public infrastructure

It is crucially important that any new developments in this area enhance the socio-economic well-being of this community and do not negatively impact on this attractive, seaside village. Rosslare is a premier coastal tourism resort in the south east and with careful planning and collaboration it can continue to enhance its wide range of beautiful assets for the benefit of all.



Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Blue Flag Beach	Traffic Congestion in summer	Greenway Developments	Coastal Erosion & Rising Sea Levels
High Quality Hotels	Inadequate Beach Access & Parking	Recreation Wildlife Park	Storm Damage
Championship Golf Links	Vacant Holiday Homes	Local Cycle Routes	Brexit
Proximity to Rosslare Harbour and Wexford Town	Derelict Properties	One-Way System thereby creating Safer Pedestrian / Cycle Routes	Delay in Construction of Coastal Protection Works
Train Line & Bus Services	Anti-Social Behaviour	Marine Heritage Centre	Need to retain the area's Rural Charm
Shops, Cafes & Restaurants	Dangerous for Pedestrians & Cyclists	Increased Visitor Numbers	Decline in Visitor Numbers
Range of Community Facilities	Under-Utilised Assets	New Youth Activities / Clubs	Inability to Raise Matching Funds for Grants
Well- Known Tourism Destination	Lack of Marine Infrastructure	Expanded Role for Community & Sports Centre	Closure of Local Shops and Businesses
Sunny South-East - Climate	Litter and Dog Fouling	Festivals & Events	Lack of Funding & Investment
Spectacular Scenery	Safety at Railway Bridges	Enhanced Broadband Connectivity	Drug Abuse
Friendly Community	Lack of Affordable Housing for Young People	Marketing Campaign in Collaboration with Ferries	Increase in Vacant and Derelict Properties
Extensive Range of Tourism Accommodation	Poor Condition - Roads / Footpaths	Increased Public Transport Services	Community Cohesion
Modern National School	Seasonal Tourism Industry	New Enterprise Developments	Inability to develop appropriate Infrastructure to meet Demand
Large Number of Active Voluntary Groups	Lack of Services such as a Camping and Touring Camper Van Site	Additional Accommodation Providers such as Camp Site & Camper Vans	Lack of Affordable Housing for Local People
Well- Equipped Sports Facilities	Poor Condition of Groynes and Retreating Sand Dunes	Implementation of Pilot Waste Management Initiative	Inappropriate Developments
Un-spoilt Coastal Village	Limited Broadband Service	Heritage Walking Trail	Lack of Local Employment
Community Leadership Skills	Limited Capacity in Sewerage System	Increased Beach Access Points	Loss of Railway Service

6.2 Summary

The SWOT highlights the enviable list of assets that are found in Rosslare and the challenge is to ensure that these are continuously developed to their full potential. The key challenges that were identified during this research, focus predominately on coastal erosion, limited public infrastructure that struggles to adequately cope during the summer when there are large visitor numbers, anti-social behaviour and development issues around large numbers of holiday homes and derelict properties. The summary conclusions are as follows:

- Rosslare is renowned as a high quality tourism destination with top-class attractions such as Kelly's Hotel and the Rosslare Links Golf Club.
- There are a wide range of successful accommodation providers in Rosslare including hotels, self-catering apartments and guest houses.
- Rosslare has a strong community spirit with excellent leadership skills which gives them the capability to lead on the delivery of this five-year plan in collaboration with WCC and other agencies.
- The Blue Flag beach is very extensive and there is huge scope to increase its accessibility at other points along the Strand and possibly seek a separate Blue Flag beach designation for the north beach.
- There are a wide range of under-utilised assets that merit enhancement and further development. This will benefit both the community and visitors as it will extend the range of facilities and amenities that are available in this locality.
- There is a clear consensus on the need to develop more youth facilities in this area and young people have clearly identified the types of initiatives they would like to develop.
- There is real potential to grow the visitor numbers in Rosslare all year round if the necessary investment in public infrastructure is completed. The development of Greenways to Rosslare Harbour, Wexford Town and Waterford will represent a major game-changer for this locality, once completed.
- The major threat to this area is coastal erosion and one-off extreme weather events which could be very damaging to this low-lying coastal tourism resort.
- There is an opportunity to investigate the potential for developing Rosslare as a flagship village for cycling / pedestrian facilities through installing a one way system.
- The friendly atmosphere in this coastal community is highly valued, although concerns were raised by young people and adults, regarding crime and anti-social behaviour.
- There was huge praise for the work of Tidy Towns and all volunteers who work tirelessly to improve the facilities and visual appearance of Rosslare for the benefit of all. This research identified new opportunities to further enhance public realm works to increase its attractiveness and to foster a stronger link with its marine heritage.

Section 7

Vision &

Recommendations



7. Vision & Recommendations

7.1 Vision

This section draws together the various strands of research and analysis discussed to date. This section will outline a series of recommendations for developing Rosslare as a sustainable rural community with a wide range of facilities and services for all age groups with a strong tourism economy.

Vision

- TO PROTECT THE PREMIER TOURISM RESORT OF ROSSLARE FROM COASTAL EROSION AND POTENTIAL STORM / FLOOD DAMAGE.
- TO ACTIVELY NURTURE THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF ROSSLARE FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL WHO RESIDE IN THE AREA.
- TO MOBILISE ALL OF THE COMMUNITY'S ASSETS TO ENSURE THIS COASTAL RESORT REACHES ITS FULL POTENTIAL AS A THRIVING DESTINATION WHICH SUPPORTS A DIVERSE RANGE OF BUSINESSES AND A STRONG TOURISM ECONOMY.
- TO SAFEGUARD AND PROMOTE THIS AREA'S RICH NATURAL, CULTURAL AND BUILT HERITAGE.

7.2 Research Parameters

At the outset of this research, six pillars were identified for consideration as illustrated in the diagram below.



It is recommended that Working Groups are established, or existing groups are nominated, to manage the range of initiatives identified under each pillar. The table below illustrates the recommendations which link to each of the Working Groups / Existing Groups and these are detailed further overleaf.

Pillar No.	Nominated Group	Pillar	Recommendation
1	To be agreed by RDA / RCDA	Coastal Protection & Public Infrastructure	Recommendation 1, 2, 3, 4
2	To be agreed by RDA / RCDA	Community	Recommendation 5, 6, 7, 8
3	To be agreed by RDA / RCDA	Tourism	Recommendation 9, 10, 11
4	To be agreed by RDA / RCDA	Economic	Recommendation 12, 13
5	To be agreed by RDA / RCDA	Environment	Recommendation 14, 15, 16
6	To be agreed by RDA / RCDA	Heritage & Culture	Recommendation 17
		Collaboration	Recommendation 18

7.3 Recommendations

Based on the consultation process, 18 strategic recommendations have been identified. These are listed below and will be considered in more detail individually.

Pillar No.	Recommendation No.	Project Theme
Pillar 1 Coastal Protection & Public Infrastructure	Recommendation 1	Advance vital plans to extend coastal protection and beach enrichment works in Rosslare
	Recommendation 2	Road / footpath improvements, investigate one-way system, railway bridges, bus shelters
	Recommendation 3	Develop new access points to the beach with infrastructure such as parking
	Recommendation 4	Enhanced development of Rosslare village
Pillar 2 Community	Recommendation 5	New community services, classes, events and training
	Recommendation 6	Investigate new modular affordable housing initiative for young families
	Recommendation 7	Extend and up-grade facilities including dressing rooms, gym and Men's Shed
	Recommendation 8	Enhance youth facilities and activities
Pillar 3 Tourism	Recommendation 9	Invest in new tourism infrastructure, facilities and tourism businesses
	Recommendation 10	Investigate the viability of a beach promenade, slipway and marine infrastructure
	Recommendation 11	Advance Greenway developments to Waterford / Rosslare Harbour and Wexford Town
Pillar 4 Economic	Recommendation 12	Prepare an enterprise plan to attract innovative businesses Design and deliver training courses
	Recommendation 13	Improve broadband connectivity
Pillar 5 Environment	Recommendation 14	Public realm works, public toilets, clean-up patrol and pilot waste management project
	Recommendation 15	Actively embrace green technologies and biodiversity in all future developments
	Recommendation 16	Create a wildlife recreation sanctuary and protect the sand dune systems
Pillar 6 Heritage & Culture	Recommendation 17	Explore the viability of developing a historical museum and visitor centre Create a heritage walking trail and celebrate the Marconi legacy
Collaboration	Recommendation 18	Maintain dialogue with key stakeholders, tourism operators, businesses, community groups and the public

Pillar 1 (Coastal Protection & Public Infrastructure) includes recommendations 1-4 which fall largely under the remit of WCC. However, collaboration between WCC and stakeholders in Rosslare would ensure the optimum implementation of these initiatives.

Recommendation 1 – Coast and Beach Protection Works

Goal

Advance vital plans to extend coastal protection and beach enrichment works in Rosslare and address flooding issues at the Rosslare Spit



The majority of households in Rosslare felt that coastal erosion was a major issue that needs to be addressed. It was also recognised that this stunning, sandy beach is a major asset of this coastal resort, which needs to be safeguarded.

Coastal Erosion

- Liaise with WCC to explore engineering solutions to minimise the impact of coastal erosion on this premier tourism resort.

Storm Protection Works

- Seek technical expertise on required actions to minimise the impact of potential storms on the natural and built environment. Explore options to introduce a storm warning initiative for potentially effected businesses and home owners.

Beach Enrichment

- Explore opportunities with WCC to implement coastal works that will support and safe guard the sandy beach at Rosslare and protect its Blue Flag status.

Rosslare Spit Flooding

- Implement flood protection measures such as hard defences along the Rosslare Spit.

Lobby

- Lobby national government to fund proposed Rosslare Coastal Protection / Beach works.

The detailed actions for this recommendation are outlined in the Rosslare Coastal Flood and Erosion Risk Management Plan

Recommendation 2 – Road, Cycling & Pedestrian Infrastructure

Goal

To improve road, public transport, cycling and pedestrian infrastructure in Rosslare



The public infrastructure in Rosslare appears to be inadequate at busy holiday periods. There were also serious concerns regarding pedestrian and cycling safety, traffic congestion and limited public transport facilities.

Pedestrian Safety

- Evaluate pedestrian / cyclist safety over the Railway bridges and implement measures to safeguard walkers and cyclists.
- Enhanced pedestrian footpaths and better maintenance of vegetation to prevent the narrowing of footpaths.
- Install traffic calming measures to reduce speeding.
- Pedestrian crossings and public lighting where appropriate.

Traffic Congestion

- Explore the viability of a permanent or seasonal one-way traffic system in Rosslare and then provide enhanced pedestrian footpaths and cycle lanes.
- Better enforcement of illegal parking.

Road Repairs

- Audit the road surfaces around Rosslare and undertake repairs, based on available budgets.

Cycling

- Designated cycle routes and bike racks. Where possible cycle routes should not be on the road, if avoidable.
- Plan for cycle corridors from housing estates to the village centre and National School when new developments are being planned.

Public Transport

- Erect bus shelters in Rosslare.
- Consult with public transport providers to explore the opportunity to operate more frequent shuttle bus / train services between Rosslare Harbour and Wexford Town.
- Explore opportunities for weekly / monthly public transport tickets to encourage increased usage.

Recommendation 3 – Beach Access & Infrastructure

Goal

To increase the access and supporting infrastructure to Rosslare beach



Rosslare has good parking facilities at the main beach access point opposite the Centra Supermarket but the research revealed that during the summer months this is very congested. There is a need to enhance and develop other access points along Rosslare so that new entrances are opened up, thereby reducing over-crowding and promoting access to other attractive parts of Rosslare Strand.

Beach Access

- Liaise with WCC and landowners to agree locations for enhanced and new beach access points.
- Secure funding and develop additional beach entrances with parking facilities and public realm features.
- Explore the opportunity for Rosslare north beach to become a second designated Blue Flag beach.

Beach Infrastructure

- Provide new public toilets.
- Provide dog waste facilities at each access point and provide education on this issue.
- Install bike racks and seating where appropriate.
- Install electric charging points at the beach car parks where appropriate.
- Erect supporting infrastructure such as public toilets, cold shower facilities and litter bins as appropriate.
- Erect signage to inform the public of all beach access points in Rosslare.

Sand Dunes

- Protect the sand dune system and its ecology.

Recommendation 4 – Enhanced Development of Rosslare

Goal

To activate Rosslare as an attractive tourism resort which promotes sustainability



The village of Rosslare has expanded significantly over the last 20 years and this has resulted in a large increase in new housing developments which has put pressure on public infrastructure, particularly in the summer months, as many of the new developments are holiday homes. In tandem with these new housing developments, some properties have become vacant and could be a public safety hazard and detract from the appearance of this tourism resort.

Derelict Properties

- Survey the village to identify derelict properties.
- Explore best practice in other locations to identify possible solutions to address dereliction.
- Contact landowners of derelict properties and explore innovative opportunities to resolve this issue.
- Pursue WCC to use the options open to it to address dereliction issues.

Future Development of Rosslare

- Ensure there is on-going dialogue with WCC regarding the further development of Rosslare to ensure that new developments have good connectivity to community facilities and the village centre.
Develop Rosslare in a way that respects its existing character while at the same time strengthening its role as a local service and employment centre.
- Ensure the design of future residential, commercial and community developments are in keeping with the area.
- Explore opportunities to create cycle / pedestrian corridors from the outskirts of Rosslare to the village centre / beach.
- Ensure there is balanced housing developments in Rosslare.
- Investigate schemes that support the provision of affordable housing for local families.
- Actively support the appropriate, further development of Rosslare.
- Liaise with relevant agencies to ensure the sewerage capacity of Rosslare is improved.

Pillar 2 (Community) includes recommendations 5-8 which fall largely under the remit of community organisations in Rosslare. However, collaboration with WCC and other stakeholders in Rosslare would ensure the effective execution of these initiatives.

Recommendation 5 – Community Activities / Services / Training

Goal

To expand the range of community services and events for people living in Rosslare



The friendly community, large volunteering ethos and the natural beauty of this area is highly valued by many people who completed the household and youth survey. The research revealed the huge interest in expanding the range of activities which are available to people living in Rosslare, with a particular focus on the elderly, many who live on their own and young people.

Evening Activities / Training Courses

- Deliver a wider range of community activities and training courses based on feedback from the household survey.

Community Safety

- Establish a Community Alert Scheme.
- Explore opportunities to increase the Garda presence in the village.
- Investigate best practice in reducing anti-social behaviour.
- Consider implementing a Resilience project with rescue and emergency plans to address extreme weather events in collaboration with WCC.

IT Courses / SMART Village

- Explore the introduction of new innovative technologies to deliver additional services in Rosslare such as 3D printing, Smart White Boards, on-line learning courses, Solid Works and computer programme coding courses.
- Organise a wider range of IT training courses both at Cois Barry Community House and the Rosslare Community and Sports Centre.
- Explore the opportunity to deliver creative environmental awareness programmes.

Recommendation 5 – Community Activities / Services / Training: Continued.....

Goal

To expand the range of community services and events for people living in Rosslare

Events and Concerts

- Organise a programme of music concerts and events, particularly over the winter months, to address social isolation issues.
- Explore the opportunity to host a music, comedy and theatre festival in a venue like the Spiegeltent in Rosslare. Investigate the potential to host a FLEA CEOIL.

Drug Awareness Programme

- Drug support programmes are currently being delivery by Cois Barry Community House in collaboration with FDYS and the An Garda Síochána. These initiatives will be continued over the next five years.

Community Music Programme

- Continue to expand the music training programme at Cois Barry which is specifically targeted at young people.

Education / Training / Grinds Programme

- Continue to expand the educational supports for young people through offering grinds, supervised study and courses in academic curriculum based subjects and new technological innovations.

Recommendation 6 – Housing for Young Families

Goal

Investigate new modular affordable housing initiative for young families



The CSO data revealed that 54% of houses were classified as unoccupied holiday homes on the census night of 2016. In addition, Rosslare has a much higher proportion of people aged 65+ at 22% compared to the average in County Wexford of 15% and the State average of 13%. In order to ensure that there is balanced development in Rosslare there is a need to actively encourage people aged 24-64 to live in the village. Ensuring there is access to a supply of housing at an affordable price is key to this objective.

Housing for Young Families

- Explore affordable housing initiatives around Ireland and identify appropriate schemes that could be replicated in Rosslare.
- Initiate discussions with WCC, regarding the viability of implementing a scheme that supports the delivery of housing at an affordable price, to families from the locality.
- Identify available land in Rosslare for this initiative.

Recommendation 7 – Community Facilities

Goal

Extend and up-grade facilities at the Rosslare Community and Sports Centre, the Cois Barry Community House and within the village



Rosslare is well-served by a number of community facilities including the Community and Sports Centre; Cois Barry Community House; and the St. Brigid's Parish Centre. These modern facilities are available to the community and visitors to this locality. However, the research revealed the opportunity to extend and up-grade these further to provide a greater range of services.

Sports Facilities

- Install new dressing rooms at the Rosslare Community and Sports Centre.
- Re-build the crazy golf to make it more fun and challenging.
- Enhancement of the Bowling Green.
- Identify a site, design and secure funding for a skate board park for young people.
- Explore the viability of developing adventure activities based on feedback from the youth survey.
- Develop a wider range of sporting facilities including a hurling wall, sports pitch, basketball court etc.

Fully Equipped Gym

- Explore the viability and conduct a cost benefit analysis for installing a fully equipped gym in Rosslare.
- Prepare a business plan for the operating of the gym.
- Secure funding for the establishment of the gym.
- Develop a membership and training model.
- Recruit sport professionals / personal trainers to deliver classes in the gym.

Enhancement to the Men's Shed Facility

- Up-grade the building and facilities at the Men's Shed.

Recommendation 7 – Community Facilities: Continued.....

Goal

Extend and up-grade facilities at the Rosslare Community and Sports Centre, the Cois Barry Community House and within the village

Nursing Home

- Explore the viability of establishing a nursing home in Rosslare.

Citizens Advice Centre

- Explore the viability of operating a Citizen's Advice Centre in the Rosslare Community and Sports Centre.
- Organise a series of public lectures with guest speakers on topics of interest.

Playground at the Cois Mara Estate, Rosslare

- Explore the viability of developing a new playground in the Cois Mara estate that will cater for all age groups and abilities.

Extension to the Cois Barry Community House

- Investigate the viability of physically extending the Cois Barry Community House so that it can deliver a greater range of community facilities and activities.

New Indoor Recreation Facilities at the Cois Mara Estate

- Secure a long term lease agreement with WCC and explore the viability of designing and constructing a multi-purpose indoor facility to provide training / fun activities and a community café.

Recommendation 8 – Youth Facilities

Goal

To develop a range of new facilities and activities for young people living in the area



There was overwhelming consensus on the need to create more activities, recreation areas and clubs for young people in Rosslare. Some suggestions are identified below and this report recommends on-going consultation with young people to ascertain their priorities. It is also recommended that young people are involved in the design and implementation of these projects so that they acquire a sense of ownership and pride in these initiatives.

Skateboard Park

- Explore the viability of designing and constructing a skate park in Rosslare as outlined in recommendation 7.

Sporting Facilities

- Develop a range of new sporting facilities in Rosslare as outlined in recommendation 7.
- Establish new sports clubs for young people based on identified need.

Youth Activities

- Investigate the viability of establishing a youth café in Rosslare.
- Explore the opportunity to host teenage discos, music concerts and cinema nights.
- Assess the level of interest in innovative new technologies such as drones, CoderDojo, 3D printing, film making, photography etc.
- Explore the level of interest in establishing a dance, music and performing arts group in the village.

Wildlife Recreation Park

- Identify a site for a wildlife park in Rosslare and prepare landscape drawings.
- Liaise with landowners to discuss potential development options / lease agreements.
- Engage with relevant stakeholders to secure planning, funding and on-going maintenance arrangements.
- Actively involve young people in the design and implementation phases of the wildlife park.

Pillar 3 (Tourism) includes recommendations 9-11 which fall under the remit of business operators, Wexford County Council, RDA, Wexford Local Development, BIM, CIE and other relevant stakeholders.

Recommendation 9 – Tourism Infrastructure

Goal

Invest in new tourism infrastructure, facilities and tourism businesses



Rosslare is the premier tourism resort in the south east and this research identified a wide range of other initiatives that could be developed to further support the tourism industry in this locality.

Country Market

- Explore the viability of establishing a country market and examine best practice in managing them and their regulatory requirements.
- Identify a suitable location and set up a management committee to establish and operate the market.

Potential New Festivals / Events / Tours

- Food Festival, Angling Festival, Music Festival, Sport Events, Guided Tours and Marine Adventure Festival.

Irish Entertainment

- Explore the viability of organising weekly performances focusing on traditional Irish music, dance and marine heritage.

Language Schools

- Investigate the feasibility of establishing a Gaeltacht Summer School or an English Language School for Foreign Students.

Camper Van Facilities

- Investigate the feasibility and demand for establishing a camper van facility at Rosslare.

Public Transport Connectivity

- Explore the viability of regular train services from Rosslare Harbour to Wexford Town.

Recommendation 10 – Marine Infrastructure

Goal

Investigate the viability of developing the marine infrastructure in Rosslare



Rosslare has a Blue Flag beach with all of the supporting infrastructure such as a carpark, public toilets, cold shower, shops, restaurants and a wide choice of accommodation providers. It is therefore perfectly placed to offer a wide range of marine activities targeted both at the community and visitors in Rosslare.

Potential Marine Infrastructure

- Liaise with existing marine adventure operators, WCC and BIM to identify the potential for marine tourism in Rosslare.
- Possible infrastructure that could be considered include: slipway, pontoon, diving board, additional visitor mooring buoys for small boats, marine storage facilities, water inflatables, shore fishing etc.

Beach Promenade

- Explore with WCC and all other stakeholders the viability of erecting a beach promenade in Rosslare, whilst being cognisant of coastal erosion issues in this locality. This could be developed in conjunction with additional beach access points outlined below.

Enhanced Beach Access

- Develop additional beach access points along Rosslare Strand with supporting infrastructure such as parking, bike racks, cold shower facilities as outlined in recommendation 3.

Potential Water Sport Clubs

- Explore the viability of establishing water sport clubs such as shore angling, sea swimming, kayaking, dinghy sailing, rowing, sea scouts and other water sports. However, the economic viability of these businesses needs careful assessment prior to commencement.

Marine Heritage Walking Trail

- Develop the marine heritage walking trail if funding is secured.

Recommendation 11 – Greenway Developments

Goal

Advance Greenway developments to Waterford / Rosslare Harbour and Wexford Town



Wexford County Council has identified the development of Greenways in County Wexford as a strategic objective in their Tourism Work Programme 2017-2022. The development of these Greenways has the potential to significantly increase visitors to Rosslare all year round and this research revealed the community's huge interest in this initiative.

Greenway Developments

- Greenway on old railway line from Rosslare Harbour (through Rosslare village) to Waterford which would link with the Greenway initiative currently being developed from New Ross to Waterford: Projected Year – 2022.
- Wexford to Rosslare Greenway: Greenway from Wexford Town to Rosslare Strand via South Sloblands: Projected Year – 2022.

Cycle Hire and Repair Businesses

- Once cycling infrastructure is developed explore the viability of developing complementary businesses such as cycle hire, bike repairs, cycle collection services and organised cycle tours.

Cycle Loops in the Locality / Designated Cycle Lanes

- Investigate the possibility of developing local cycle corridors in Rosslare and its hinterland as outlined in recommendation 2.
- Invest in cycling infrastructure to create safe cycling routes with the required infrastructure such as bicycle racks etc.

Pillar 4 (Economic) includes recommendations 12-13 which fall under the remit of the RDA, RCDA, Wexford County Council, Wexford Local Development, BIM and other relevant stakeholders.

Recommendation 12 – Strategic Economic Development

Goal

Prepare an enterprise plan to attract new businesses and deliver training courses to facilitate their development



The research identified the need to create new employment opportunities in Rosslare as it is very reliant on the tourism industry which is highly seasonal.

Enterprise Plan for Rosslare

Commission an Enterprise Plan for Rosslare to support a strategic development of this locality. This could incorporate the following sectors:

- Tourism businesses – as outlined in the recommendations 9- 11 (marine, accommodation, greenway, language schools, hospitality training etc.)
- Health care services such as physiotherapy, chiropody, day care services, chiropractor etc.
- Community services such as dance, drama, IT training, distance learning courses and music.
- Enterprise and Innovation including: Enterprise Hub to support remote working and new innovations; Promotion of local businesses to improve the local economy; New arts / crafts shops; and opportunities for off-season businesses etc.

Enterprise Training Courses

- Deliver a wider range of training courses based on feedback from the household survey.
- Explore the viability of designing and delivering bespoke training courses to support the establishment of new initiatives such as country markets, food events, Irish dance & music entertainment, enterprise hot desks etc.

Promoting Rosslare as a Retirement Village

Promote Rosslare as an area welcoming retirement / down-scaling which could be a huge market offering.

Recommendation 13 – Broadband Connectivity

Goal

Improve broadband connectivity



The research highlighted the variability in broadband connectivity in Rosslare with some negative feedback on the quality of the broadband service.

Broadband Connectivity

- Provide wifi connectivity at the Community & Sports Centre and consider providing phone charging points.
- Research and map the quality of the broadband connection in Rosslare to identify blackspots.
- Liaise with relevant stakeholders to identify potential solutions to this issue.

Internet Hub

- Explore the opportunity to establish an internet café targeted at the community and their needs.

Pillar 5 (Environment) includes recommendations 14-16 which fall under the remit of the RDA, RCDA, Tidy Towns and other relevant stakeholders.

Recommendation 14 – Public Realm

Goal

Enhance public realm works, public toilets, recreation areas and pilot waste management project



There was huge support for the work of Tidy Towns and all volunteers in Rosslare that so actively work to ensure it is well-maintained. However, there was considerable concern around the level of anti-social behaviour that negatively impacts on people's enjoyment of public areas and this was identified by both adults and young people.

Derelict / Vacant Properties

- Identify and address the issue of derelict properties as outlined in recommendation 4 and consider creating a village square.
- Identify areas of unkept land and engage in discussions with landowners.

Pets

- Install more dog waste containers in Rosslare.
- Hold public awareness campaigns to promote responsible dog ownership.

Maintenance of public areas (beach, footpaths, green areas, public toilets)

- Organise more regular litter picks.
- Engage with local businesses to identify solutions regarding rubbish being dropped on the streets and for sale signs left on poles.
- Organise tree / flower planting events to enhance Rosslare's green spaces and erect more picnic facilities.
- Explore viability of installing CCTV to reduce anti-social behavior on green areas.
- Build new public toilet facilities and extend to additional areas in conjunction with new beach access points.

Pilot Waste Management Initiative

- Collaborate with WCC on the implementation of a pilot waste management and awareness project.

Over-grown vegetation

- Organise a regular service to cut back vegetation that grows across footpaths.

Recommendation 15 – Green Technologies & Biodiversity

Goal

Actively embrace green technologies and biodiversity in all future developments



The community of Rosslare are very aware of climate change and the potential impact of global warming and rising sea levels. There is a great opportunity for this coastal village to actively embrace new environmental technologies to reduce their carbon footprint and promote sustainable development.

Renewable Energy Technologies

- Promote renewable energy technologies for home owners, businesses, community buildings and tourism operators.

Green Transport Initiatives

- Explore the viability of Rosslare village becoming a flagship destination for green transport facilities.
- Liaise with public transport providers regarding the provision of weekly and monthly discounted tickets to encourage usage.
- Promote sustainable transport options such as cycling, walking and public transport.
- Actively support the development of the Greenways to Rosslare Harbour, Wexford Town and Waterford as outlined in recommendation 11.
- Develop a network of cycle lanes around Rosslare and its environs.
- Install electric charging points at car parks in the village.

Biodiversity

- Promote and encourage biodiversity and native planting in public areas including the re-establishment of marram grass.
- Apiary project – facilitate the breeding and cultivation of the bee population under the work and guidance of local expertise.

Recommendation 16 – Recreation

Goal

Create a wildlife recreation sanctuary and enhanced access across the sand dunes



The public consultation process identified the need to create more recreation areas in Rosslare. The site visits explored this issue and identified the potential for developing a wildlife park on the outskirts of Rosslare on privately owned land. In addition, the research also revealed the extent of the sand dune systems in Rosslare that could be further enhanced.

Wildlife Recreation Park

- Explore the opportunity to develop a wildlife recreation park in collaboration with young people as outlined in recommendation 8. (Funding application successful to prepare preliminary landscape plans for this site). Scope to include a dog park area to be considered.

Sand Dune System

- Conduct further site surveys of the sand dune systems in Rosslare.
- Engage in discussions with relevant stakeholders regarding the possibility of developing paths and enhancing the biodiversity on the sand dunes.
- Conduct ecological surveys.
- Prepare landscape designs and undertake minimal infrastructural works as required.

Pillar 6 (Heritage) includes recommendation 17 which fall under the remit of the Historical Society, RDA, RCDA and other relevant stakeholders.

Recommendation 17 – Heritage & Culture

Goal

Preserve, energise and promote the heritage and rich marine culture of Rosslare



The natural, maritime and built heritage of Rosslare is highly valued by the community. This research revealed that people want to see these assets safe-guarded for future generations and developed further so that they reach their full potential.

Historical Museum and Visitor Centre

- Explore the viability of developing a marine heritage museum in collaboration with the Historical Society that celebrates the Marconi connection.
- Actively explore opportunities for the Nun's House which has recently undergone parochial redevelopment.

Marine Heritage Trail

- Create a heritage walking trail within Rosslare which is accredited by Sport Ireland and is registered with the Wexford Walking Trail network – funding application pending.
- Clean off and preserve heritage sites such as the cannons.
- Promote all heritage sites in the village by erecting signage / history plate.

Heritage / Cultural Events & Festivals

- Organise a programme of festivals and events to promote the marine heritage of Rosslare.
- Explore the viability of developing an ambitious programme of Irish music, dance and story-telling as outlined in recommendation 9.

Recommendation 18 – Collaboration

Goal

Ensure there is effective collaboration between voluntary groups, government organisations, relevant stakeholders and the wider community to support the implementation of this ambitious five year plan.



This research created considerable public debate about the future development of Rosslare and it is important that everyone is kept informed and are given the opportunity to get involved in the implementation of this plan.

Public Meetings

- Annual public meetings to inform the community and relevant stakeholders of developments identified in this plan.

Information on Social Media / Websites

- Social media is highly effective at keeping everyone well-informed of new developments as they emerge.

Newsletters

- Regular newsletters can provide updates on project developments.

Fundraising

- There is a myriad of organisations in Rosslare and it is important that fundraising and applying for grants are well-co-ordinated so that there is no duplication.

Working Groups

- Establish working groups to drive and promote the initiatives identified for development in this five-year plan.

Section 8

Action Plan



8. Action Plan

8.1 Overview

The previous section details the 18 recommendations that emerged from this research. Many of these measures will require significant capital investment due to the nature of the coastal environment and scale of works required. However, there are also many initiatives that can be driven by the local community and implemented on a relatively small budget. On a very positive note, the community, local businesses and tourism operators have been very successful at establishing and operating first class facilities and services in Rosslare over many decades.

The Action Plan detailed overleaf outlines the actions which have been prioritised for development in the short term (2020-2022). However, this could vary depending on the specification of works required, the level of volunteer input and the availability of capital investment / grants and local fundraising.

Discussions with relevant stakeholders took place during the consultation phase associated with the completion of this 5 Year Plan and their feedback was incorporated into this Action Plan. A summary of the feedback received during the public consultation process is included in appendix 7.

It is also recognised that elements of this report might change due to new opportunities becoming available or further feedback from the local community and relevant agencies. However, it is hoped that this plan will serve as a blueprint for development over the next five years that everyone can work collectively together to achieve.



Short Term
Priorities:
Years:
2020-2022

Collaboration
&
Partnership



Pillar 1: Coastal Protection & Public Infrastructure

- Lobby national government and secure funding for **Rosslare coastal / flood protection works and beach enrichment**.
- Liaise with WCC and landowners to agree locations for enhanced and **new beach access** with supporting facilities.
- Explore the viability of a **one-way traffic system to create pedestrian / cycling routes**.
- Explore opportunities to create **cycle / pedestrian corridors** from the outskirts of Rosslare to the village centre / beach.
- Urgent **road improvement works** / safety at railway bridges.
- Strict **parking regulations**.
- Erect **bus shelters**.
- Liaise with **public transport** providers to explore opportunity of weekly / monthly tickets.
- Survey the village and pursue WCC to use the options open to it to address **dereliction issues**.
- Ensure there is **balanced housing developments** in Rosslare.
- Liaise with relevant agencies to ensure the **sewerage capacity** of Rosslare is improved.

Pillar 2: Community

- Introduce new **innovative technologies** to deliver additional services in Rosslare such as 3D printing, Smart White Boards, on-line learning courses, Solid Works and computer coding courses.
- Organise a programme of **music concerts and events**.
- Explore the opportunity to host a music, comedy and theatre **festival** in a venue like the Spiegeltent in Rosslare.
- Continue to expand the **music training programme** at **Cois Barry** which is specifically targeted at young people.
- Expand the **educational supports** for young people through grinds, supervised study and new technological innovations.
- Implement a **Resilience project** with rescue and emergency plans to address extreme weather events in collaboration with WCC.

Pillar 2: Community Continued.....

- Extend the **Cois Barry Community House** to deliver a greater range of community facilities and activities.
- Install **new dressing rooms** at the **Rosslare Community and Sports Centre**.
- Re-build the **crazy golf** to make it more challenging.
- Up-grade the facilities at the **Men's Shed**.
- Explore the development of a wider range of **sporting facilities** including a hurling wall, sports pitch, basketball court etc.
- Investigate the viability of developing **youth facilities** including youth café, cinema nights etc.
- Develop a **playground in the Cois Mara estate** that will cater for all age groups and abilities.

Pillar 3: Tourism

- Support the proposed development of the **Greenway**.
- Investigate the feasibility and demand for a **camper-van facility**.
- Assess if **Irish entertainment** can be developed.
- Liaise with Irish Rail regarding the viability of regular **train services** from Rosslare Harbour to Wexford.
- Explore the potential for **language schools**.
- Consider the development of **marine infrastructure / marine tourism activities and clubs**.

Pillar 4: Economic

- **Consult with the business community** to assess their needs and identify opportunities for development.
- **Review broadband and enterprise infrastructure** facilities and their potential for enhancement.
- Deliver a range of **training courses** to up-skills and support the establishment of new enterprises.
- Explore the viability of developing a greater range of services for **older people**.

Pillar 5: Environment

- Design and develop a **wildlife sanctuary** and promote biodiversity in the village.
- Organise regular **beach clean ups**.
- Support the work of the **Tidy Towns** and their village enhancement projects.
- Explore the viability of developing Rosslare as a **flagship destination for green transport** facilities.
- Build **new public toilets**.
- Collaborate with WCC on the implementation of a **pilot waste management and awareness** project.

Pillar 6: Heritage & Culture

- Develop a marine **heritage walking trail**.
- Explore the viability of developing a **marine heritage museum** in collaboration with the Historical Society.
- Organise a programme of **festivals** and events to promote the Irish maritime culture of this coastal holiday resort.

8.2 Funding Opportunities

To implement the initiatives in this plan funding will need to be secured from a number of sources. It is also recommended that several community representatives are nominated to monitor notices for grant programmes as they are regularly advertised in the local newspapers or through the Public Participation Network (PPN-WCC). Ensuring that Rosslare accesses as many of these opportunities as possible will be vitally important for the implementation of this plan. These grant programmes also often require matching funds from the community themselves so ensuring that local funds are raised is imperative.

Local fund-raising

Community Lotto / Regular Direct Debits / Community Draw: These are all examples of on-going fundraising mechanisms that community groups frequently use to finance on-going initiatives.

Events: These could be held on an on-going basis to raise funds for this plan. Successful examples around the county include: 'Strictly Come Dancing'; 'Cookery Bake Off's'; 'Walking Events'; 'Sporting Events'; 'Garden Party'; and 'Music Nights'.

Loans

Clann Credo Loans: This is a social investment fund which aims to support people in the building up of stronger communities. Examples of the type of projects that they invest in include community businesses, social enterprises, and supporting the delivery of community services and amenities.

Community Finance Ireland: Community Finance Ireland offers loans to community organisations and they are a registered charity.

Volunteering

The community spirit was widely recognised in the consultation process. The support and time that so many people freely donate to this area is tremendous and Rosslare is very fortunate to have so many people who have such a sense of local pride in their locality. The challenge is to broaden this further so that the implementation of this plan does not rest on a limited number of individuals. It is also vitally important to co-ordinate the work of all voluntary groups so that mutual synergies can be identified. The RDA welcome all volunteers to assist in the implementation of this plan. Through working together all these ideas and more are possible.

Grants

LEADER: Over the last twenty-five years this European programme has been accessed by communities, individuals and small businesses to assist in the development of a wide range of new services and facilities in villages and towns across County Wexford. The LEADER programme is administered by Wexford Local Development and this could be sought to develop some of the initiatives identified in this plan.

FLAG: This European programme supports the diversification of coastal areas and it is very suitable for some of the initiatives in this plan.

Rural Regeneration & Development Fund: This is a relatively new grant programme (minimum €500,000 grant) that can be driven by public agencies which could support major capital investment works like up-grades to the marine infrastructure identified in this report.

Town & Village Renewal Fund: This is an annual grant programme administered through the Local Authority that is ideally suited to support some of the proposals identified in this report.

Outdoor Infrastructure Recreation Grant (ORIS): This is an annual grant that this administered through the Local Authority that is ideally suited to support some of the recreation proposals identified in this report.

There are also a range of other grants including sport; youth; environmental and others that are regularly advertised and should ideally be applied for where relevant. The PPN regularly advertises all grants that are available and this should be regularly reviewed.

Agency Supports

Accessing in-kind supports from Government Agencies is also very important. In some instances, funding might not be readily available but the provision of technical expertise and other supports can sometimes be provided instead. Examples of agencies that can offer their support include: WCC; BIM; Waterford Wexford Education Training Board, Third Level Institutes, NPWS; Fáilte Ireland; and OPW.

8.3 Working Groups

It is recommended that a series of Working Groups are established to oversee the implementation of this plan and this is to be agreed by the RDA and the RCDA.

8.4 Summary

This section of the report details a very ambitious programme of works for Rosslare. Its implementation will require close collaboration between WCC, other government agencies, private businesses and the community.



Section 9

Conclusions



9. Conclusions

There are 18 recommendations identified in this plan and this has been split across six pillars as listed below. It is foreseen that elements of this plan could be considered and potentially incorporated into WCC's - County Development Plan to ensure that a strategic framework is given to these proposals.

Pillar 1:	Coastal Protection & Public Infrastructure	Pillar 2:	Community
Pillar 3:	Tourism	Pillar 4:	Economic
Pillar 5:	Environment	Pillar 6:	Heritage & Culture

The commissioning of this strategic plan is very timely as there are discussions taking place, regarding major investment in **coastal protection works** in Rosslare. The threat of climate change and damage to the village of Rosslare was recognised by many respondents and it was identified as the biggest issue facing Rosslare.

The village has also undergone a period of rapid expansion over the last 20 years, with 44% of all properties been constructed since 2001, which has significant implications for service provision. In addition, a large number of these properties are vacant because in 2016, only 40% of all properties were occupied (745 homes) on the census night. 54% (1,010 homes) were classified as unoccupied holiday homes. Encouragingly, only 4% of properties were identified as vacant although the recent site visit identified several substantial derelict properties along Rosslare's main street. This swift development of this coastal tourism resort, in conjunction with the large number of day trippers that visit Rosslare in the summer months has put significant **pressure on its road and public infrastructure** which needs urgent consideration.

The research findings have also revealed elements of need, particularly within certain cohorts of the community. The CSO data showed that 29% of single people live in homes in Rosslare and there is a higher than average youth and old age dependency rate in Rosslare. This illustrates the need to actively deliver more **services and facilities for both the young and the old**. Young people expressed the desire to have a

recreation area with facilities such as a skateboard park, adventure activities, youth café, and more sports clubs. Adults identified their interest in training, community events, festivals and a country market.

Concerns were expressed in both the youth and household survey on **anti-social behaviour** which ranges from litter and dog fouling; speeding and illegal parking; to crime and drugs. This deserves attention as it is negatively impacting on people's well-being and it is recommended that further discussions should be undertaken on each issue to identify how best to reduce or eliminate the problem.

The Blue Flag beach is widely acknowledged as a major asset in Rosslare however there is great potential to further develop the **marine infrastructure** in this area to support a much wider range of tourism activities.

The research identified the great interest in the proposed **Greenway developments** in Rosslare and there was also a wider interest in improving the safety of pedestrians and cyclists. This requires significant investment and ambitious planning around the road, cycleway and footpath network in Rosslare and its hinterland but it could reap significant benefits for the community and visitors to this locality. There was also a wide number of suggestions around public transport and potential opportunities for more frequent shuttle services to Rosslare Harbour and Wexford Town that hold merit and are worthy of exploring further.

The seasonality of the tourism industry and the large fluctuation in people living in Rosslare was very apparent in this research. This demonstrates the need to develop **new enterprises** in this locality that can provide employment all year round. The opportunity to develop health care services such as physiotherapy, chiropody and other health related businesses was deemed very appropriate for the demographics of Rosslare. In addition, new enterprises were identified as having potential, particularly, with regard to the proximity of Rosslare Europort and some examples included language schools and enterprise hubs.

The community of Rosslare are acutely aware of their unique **natural environment** and the need to protect same. This received great prominence during this research and some recommendations included the opportunity to promote public transport / cycling; renewable energy technologies such as electric charging points; and potential to create a wildlife recreation park which promotes biodiversity.

In addition, Rosslare has a **rich marine heritage** which could be further developed and promoted through initiatives such as a Marine Heritage Walking Trail; Heritage Maritime Museum; and enhancement and increased access across the sand dune systems; festivals and entertainment.



Summary

This plan identifies a very ambitious series of recommendations and it is hoped that stakeholders, local businesses and the community will use this report as a means of directing actions for the benefit of all who live in this area over the next five years.

It is recommended that the implementation of this strategy is phased over the short, medium and long term so that it is achievable from a financing and voluntary effort perspective. The on-going raising of local funds; accessing grants and seeking agency supports for the implementation of this plan needs to be considered by a wide range of stakeholders to ensure this study is implemented over the next five years. It is recommended that a series of working groups are established to oversee the implementation of some of these recommendations.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Consultation Schedule

A series of meetings were held during the preparation of this plan and the details are listed below:

Date	Task	Organisation
January 2019	Preliminary Meeting	WCC & RDA / RCDA
February 2019	Research Scoping Meeting	RDA / RCDA
April 2019	Survey Design	RDA / RCDA
May 2019	Survey Procedure: Household & Youth Survey	RDA / RCDA
May 2019	Public Consultation – Proposed Greenway	WCC
June 2019	Review of Research Findings	RDA / RCDA
June 2019	Consultation with WCC	WCC
July 2019	Rosslare: Site Visit	WCC & RDA / RCDA
November 2019	Review of Draft 5 Year Plan	WCC
November 2019	Review of Draft 5 Year Plan	RDA / RCDA
December 2019	Review and input into Report Recommendations	Cois Barry Community House
December 2019	Presentation to the Rosslare District Committee	RDA / RCDA
January 2020	Public Information Event	Public Event

Appendix 2: References

CEDRA (2013) Energising Ireland's Rural Economy

CSO (2011 & 2016) Small Area Maps

Department of Children and Youth Affairs (2014) Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures - The National Policy Framework for Children & Young People

Fáilte Ireland (2019) Tourism Facts 2018 Preliminary

Fáilte Ireland (2018) 2017 Topline Tourism Performance by Region

Fáilte Ireland (2018) Domestic Holiday Monitor 2017

Fáilte Ireland (2018) Tourism Barometer

ITIC - Irish Tourism Industry (2018) Confederation bulletin based on Fáilte Ireland data

Malachy Walsh and Partners, (2015) Feasibility Study in Relation to a Proposed Coastal Path in Wexford, Kilkenny and Waterford.

National Parks and Wildlife Service (2011) Wexford Harbour and Sloba Special Protection Area (Site Code 4076) & The Raven Special Protection Area (Site Code 4019)

National Parks and Wildlife Service (2012) Conservation Objectives Series - Wexford Harbour and Sloba SPA 004076

Pobal (2017) HP Deprivation Index: Electoral District - Rosslare

Retail Consultation Forum (2017) Framework for Town Centre Renewal

Rosslare Community Development Association (2019) Environmental & Heritage Information

Rosslare Development Association (2019) Future of Rosslare

RPS Group Plc (2019) Rosslare Coastal Flood and Erosion Risk Management Plan

Wexford County Council (2013) Wexford County Development Plan

Wexford County Council (2016) Wexford Local Economic and Community Plan

Wexford County Council (2017) Wexford Age Friendly Strategy - 2017-2021

Wexford County Council (2019) Wexford Economic & Community Monitor: Spatial Insight Solutions

Appendix 3: Household & Youth Survey

HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

Survey Number

ROSSLARE AND ITS ENVIRONS **5 YEAR PLAN**

May 2019

Dear Community Member,

Your views are VERY IMPORTANT to the future development of Rosslare. The purpose of this survey is to get your vision for the future of the village and surrounding areas.

Rosslare Community Development Association received support from Wexford County Council to conduct a survey of the village residents. It is being circulated to all households in the area and these results will inform our Action Plan to shape Rosslare over the next five years.

Please place your survey in the envelope enclosed which will be collected by a member of the Committee over the next week. All responses will be treated in strict confidence and a consultant has been contracted to prepare a plan. If you have any questions or would like to get more involved, please contact a Committee member or email rcda@outlook.ie. The outcome of the survey will be published in due course on the Community Centre website and on the Centre's noticeboard. Please also find enclosed a youth survey for 12 to 19 year olds.

Q1 How often do you use the following facilities and services? (please tick relevant boxes)

	Weekly	Monthly	Infrequently
Rosslare Community & Sports Centre			
Tennis, Bowling, Playground, Crazy Golf			
Member of soccer, boxing, athletics, youth club			
Cois Barry Community House			
Local Shops / Pubs / Hotels / Restaurants			
Post Office			
Beach / Burrow Walk			
Golf Course			
Train Services			
Bus Services			
Childcare (Creche / Montessori)			
Community website: www.rosslareholidayresort.ie			
Other:			

Q2 What opportunities for employment could be developed in this area? (please tick relevant boxes)

Chiropractic		Enterprise Hub	
Physiotherapy		Language School	
Beauty Saloon		Group Grinds	
Childcare		Irish Dancing / Music Entertainment	
Health Care		Training courses – please detail	
Light Engineering		Technology Companies	
Other			

HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

Q3 What community facilities / services do you feel you need? (please tick relevant boxes)

Youth Games / Activities		Traditional Irish Nights	
Youth Cafe		More Clubs & Social Events	
More Childcare Provision		Community Alert	
Training and Seminars		Music Concerts	
Bus Shelters		Affordable Housing	

Q4 What additional tourism facilities should be developed?

(Please rank from 1 to 10 with 10 being the most important)

Festivals		Marine Adventure Activities	
Sports Camps		Country Markets	
Shore Angling		Guided Tours	
Food Events		Irish Dancing / Music Concerts	
Gaeltacht Summer Courses		Walking / Cycling - Greenway	

Q5 Which groups require more supports in your community? (please tick relevant boxes)

Target Group	Yes	No	Not Sure
Small business owners			
Tourism operators			
Unemployed			
Youth (13-19 years)			
Children (12 and under)			
Adults			
Retired Adults			
Elderly living alone			
People with disabilities			
Families			
Other (please detail)			

Q6 What do you like most about Rosslare and its environs?

Q7 What are the biggest issues facing Rosslare and its environs at the moment?

Q8 How has life in Rosslare changed since 2010? (please circle)

Got Better Stayed the Same Got Worse

Q9 What is your opinion on the future of this area for the next five years? (please circle)

Improving Staying the Same Deteriorating

HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

Q10 What three things would you do in Rosslare to make it better?

1. 1

Q11 Do you have concerns about the following issues? (please tick relevant boxes)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Not Sure	Agree	Strongly Agree
Littering is a problem in Rosslare?					
Anti-social behaviour is a problem in Rosslare?					
Crime is a problem in Rosslare?					
Drug abuse is a problem in Rosslare?					
Traffic congestion is a problem in Rosslare?					
Coastal erosion is a problem in Rosslare?					
Road conditions are a problem in Rosslare?					
Public transport is a problem in Rosslare?					

Q12 Please indicate your opinion on the following possible initiatives? (please tick relevant boxes)

Q12 - Please indicate your opinion on the following possible initiatives for (please tick relevant boxes)	Interested	Hard to say	Not that interested
Library / Museum			
Heritage Trail			
More Events / Festivals			
Cinema Nights			
Coastal Walking Trail			
Beach Promenade			
New Beach Access Points with Facilities / Disabled Access			
Nature Recreation Park			
One-way Traffic System			
Park & Ride during the summer			
More Car Parking			
Youth Facilities			
Water Sports			
Slipway for small boats / anglers			
Gym			
Up-Grade Public Toilets			

Q13 Do you reside full-time in the area? Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, how many months do you spend in the village?

Q14 Age Profile of Respondent: (please circle)

Under 25	25-44	45-64	65+
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HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

Q15	Number of children under 12 in your household:	
	Number of children between 12 and 18 in your household:	

Q16 Are you: Working ☐ Not Working ☐ Retired ☐

Q17 Any other comments? (Please write below)

[illegible]

Thank You

ROSSLARE YOUTH SURVEY 5 YEAR PLAN

May 2019

Dear Student,

Your views are VERY IMPORTANT to us. What would you like for your community over the next five years? What is your vision for the village and the surrounding areas? We look forward to hearing your views and the outcome of the survey will be published on the Community Centre website and on the Centre's noticeboard.

Q1 How important are the following to you?

	Very important	Important	Not important at all
The way the village 'looks'			
Going to the beach/sea swimming			
Music			
Hanging out with my friends			
The community & sports centre			
Soccer, Boxing, Athletics, Youth Club, Drama			
The chance of working locally			
Environment / Nature			

Q2 What is your opinion on the following statements?

	Agree a lot	Agree a little	Don't agree
Rosslare is a special place to live			
There's lots to do here in Rosslare			
I wish there were more clubs/activities for young people			
I feel proud to be from Rosslare			
I feel safe here			
I have good friends here			
I feel part of a community here			
Young people are listened to here			
I would like to get more involved in helping out in the village			
I would like to live here when I get older			
I would like to live here when I get older but I don't think I will be able to			
There is a need for more mental health facilities			

YOUTH SURVEY (To be completed by 12 - 19 year olds)

Q3 What activities / facilities have you seen in other areas that you would like here?

Q4 What's the best thing about your community?

Q5 What's the worst thing about your area?

Q6 If there were three things you could do to make Rosslare better, what would they be?

1.

2.

3.

Q7 Please indicate your opinion on the following possible initiatives? (please tick relevant boxes)

	Interested	Hard to say	Not that interested
Youth Café / Games Room			
Gym			
Employment Opportunities			
Study Hub / Grinds			
Cinema Nights			

Q8 How long are you living here? (please circle)

All my life A few years Just moved in

Q9 I like Rosslare best? (please circle)

During the summer During the festivals When all the tourists go home

Q10 Which of these describes you best right now? (please circle)

I am positive about the future I am worried about the future I don't really think about the future

Q11 Gender:

Q12 What is your favourite method of communication?

Any other Ideas?

Thank You

Appendix 4 Household Survey Results

Attached as a separate pdf.

Appendix 5 Youth Survey Results

Attached as a separate pdf.

Appendix 6 Action Plan Tool Kit

Recommendation No.	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Recommendation 1 Coastal Erosion Storm Protection Beach Enrichment Rosslare Spit Flooding Lobby	Liaise with WCC and national government regarding the funding and implementation of these works				
Recommendation 2 Pedestrian Safety Traffic Congestion Road Repairs Cycling Public Transport					
Recommendation 3 Develop new access to Beach Erect Infrastructure e.g. parking Sand Dunes					
Recommendation 4 Derelict Sites Enhanced Development Improved Sewerage Capacity					
Recommendation 5 Evening Activities / Training Community Safety SMART Village Events / Concerts Drug Awareness					
Recommendation 6 Housing for Young Families					

Recommendation No.	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Recommendation 7 Sports Facilities Full-Equipped Gym Men's Shed Citizens Information Centre Playground in Cois Mara Estate Extension of the Cois Barry Centre New in-door recreation facility					
Recommendation 8 Skateboard Park Sporting Facilities Youth Activities					
Recommendation 9 Country Markets Festivals / Events Irish Entertainment Language Schools Campervan Facility Public Transport Connectivity					
Recommendation 10 Marine Infrastructure Beach Promenade Beach Access Water Sports Clubs Heritage Walking Trail					
Recommendation 11 Greenway Developments Greenway Businesses Cycle Routes in Rosslare					

Recommendation No.	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Recommendation 12 Enterprise Plan Enterprise Training Courses					
Recommendation 13 Broadband Connectivity Internet Hub					
Recommendation 14 Derelict Sites Pets Maintenance of Public Areas Pilot Waste Management Scheme Vegetation on Footpaths					
Recommendation 15 Renewable Energy Technologies Green Transport Biodiversity					
Recommendation 16 Wildlife Recreation Sanctuary Sand Dune Enhancement					
Recommendation 17 Maritime Heritage Museum Heritage Walking Trail					
Recommendation 18 Public Meetings Newsletters Social Media Fundraising					

Appendix 7 Feedback from the Consultation Process - Rosslare Public Information Event

No.	Summary of comments received during the Consultation Process
1	Develop a tourist Motorhome / Camper Park in Rosslare which would be an asset and add to the winter spend in the village.
2	Enthusiast about young people's café.
3	Best of luck with it all.
4	Wants to be kept informed.
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congratulations on the making of the plan – comprehensive and very little objection. • Would like a full network of properly designed pedestrian and cycle routes and where possible cycle routes should not be on the road if avoidable. Separate walkers and cyclists on greenways. • Investigate the possibility of providing night-time public transport between Rosslare and Wexford for duration of Opera Festival and during the summer. • Create a village square in the village centre through acquisition of derelict buildings and sites. • Consider holding music events as part of the Wexford Opera Fringe Festival. Consider holding one or two summer festivals in Rosslare. • Regular driverless / or one-man operated light rail on existing tracks. • Keep the rail line between Rosslare Harbour and Waterford and examine if both a rail line and separate greenway could be accommodated. Encourage relevant bodies (WCC, Wexford Chamber, South-East Regional Authority) to make a submission to retain the train line. • Free broadband within the village area to all - not just an internet café. • Ensure the design of future residential, commercial and community developments are in keeping with the area. • Provide more Waste Bring Centres. • Thank you for producing an excellent report and for the opportunity to make a submission.
6	Playground should be free in winter for the people in the area. In the summer only a small charge so people not turned away.
7	Concerned about planting of invasive sea buckthorn which is choking native marram grass and makes pedestrian access to the beach dangerous with its thorns. Introduce a native marram grass planting scheme and eradicate the sea buckthorn.
8	Upgrade the surf centre to include public toilets. Remove existing public toilets so public car park can be increased in size.
9	Encourage and promote Rosslare as an area welcoming retirement / down scaling which could be a huge market offering all year round occupation.
10	Dog Park – a secure area where dogs can run free and socialise.