
County Roscommon Facilities Audit 2008 & Audit of Community Centres 2007 An Integrated Report

Arts Facilities
Community Facilities
Sports Facilities
Amenities & Recreational Facilities
Childcare Facilities

Compiled by North & South Roscommon Community Fora
in conjunction with Roscommon County Council.

April 2009

County Roscommon Facilities Audit 2008

Introduction

A. Context

A national audit of arts, community and sports facilities was undertaken by local authorities under the auspices of the County/City Development Boards during 2008 in order to establish the current level of provision of such facilities and to inform future investment decisions by the State. Guidance information, questionnaires and reporting templates were provided by central government to local authorities.

Following discussions between Community & Enterprise Section, Roscommon County Council and North and South Roscommon Community Forum further questions were added to the questionnaires provided for the arts, community and sports facilities audits.

Furthermore the scope of the audit was widened to include all childcare facilities and a range of public amenities and facilities such as parks, playgrounds, slipways, moorings and other shore-side facilities outside the ambit of the national audit. A key component of the audit involved plotting the GIS reference for each facility identified and the building of a photographic record for the arts, community and childcare facilities in the county.

The audit was conducted by North and South Roscommon Community Fora over an eight month period from June 2008 to January 2009.

B. Definitions Used in National Audit

Arts facilities were defined as *"any premises purpose built for, or adapted for, the use of the arts and which has been publicly funded"*

Community facilities were defined as

"any indoor building, or part thereof, which allows individuals to engage in active citizenship and where people gather to engage in voluntary activities of a civic or recreational nature with a view to creating a sense of community"

The range of community facilities recorded in the audit included parish halls, community rooms, community centres and youth centres and other buildings where people under 25 years gather for voluntary, civic or recreational activities.

The sports facilities audited included all sport and recreation facilities, both indoor and outdoor, irrespective of ownership and extent of public access, where activities took place which fell under the definition of sport adopted by the Council of Europe ie

"Sport means all forms of physical activity which, through casual or organised participation, aim at expressing or improving physical fitness and mental wellbeing, forming social relationships or obtaining results in competition at all levels"

C. Number of Facilities Recorded

The audit identified over 340 facilities throughout the county within the five main types of facilities investigated (Table A).

Table A: Typology & Number of Facilities Recorded in Co Roscommon Audit 2008	
Arts Facilities	4
Childcare Facilities	57
Community Facilities	87
Sports Facilities	112
Recreational & Amenity Facilities	82
Total Recorded	342

D. Presentation of Findings

The findings are presented in five sections as follows

Section 1

This contains the following:

- The data requested by central government in respect of the arts, community and sports facilities and these are summarised in tabular format.
- The findings derived from the supplementary questions added to the sports questionnaires
- The information gathered on childcare facilities and amenity and recreational facilities.

Section 2

This contains maps showing the locations of the facilities based on the GIS references recorded in the audit plotted over county maps showing principal towns and roads

Section 3

This contains an integrated report on Community Facilities which incorporates data derived from the 2008 audit into an earlier in-depth study carried out by the Community Fora in 2007 as part of its commitment made in 2001 – 2006 Strategic Plan of Roscommon County Development Board

E. Use of Audit Data by Roscommon County Council

The audit data has been used by the County Council in a number of pages on the “Map Zone” section of its website which enables users to query and access information from a geographic perspective, as well as providing access to a number of map related files that can be downloaded and used in other 3rd party applications such as Satellite Navigation systems and Google Earth; see <http://www.roscommoncoco.ie/services/maps/MapResources.html>

The community facilities geodata has been incorporated into the thematic interactive map of services on the Council’s website along with photographs of each facility taken at the time of GIS recording each location – see <http://www.roscommoncoco.ie/services/ServicesMap.html>

Sports, arts and community facility data is also available as downloadable Google Earth files at <http://www.roscommoncoco.ie/services/maps/GoogleEarthFiles.html>. When opened in Google Earth these files display the location of facilities within the County of Roscommon. Users can

interact with each location by clicking on the relevant icon to display further descriptive information gathered during the audit such as address, contact information, opening hours etc

The sports, arts and community GIS references have been included as a number of custom "Point of Interest" files that can be downloaded from the website and subsequently uploaded to users Garmin and Tom Tom satellite navigation devices – see

<http://www.roscommoncoco.ie/services/maps/SatNavFiles.html>

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Section 1 – Facilities Audit Data

- Arts Facilities
- Community Facilities
- Sports Facilities
- Amenity & Recreational Facilities
- Childcare Facilities

Co Roscommon: Arts Facilities 2008

Facility Name, Address & Website	GIS Reference		Contact	Telephone	Email	Artforms & Notes
	Eastings	Northing				
King House Interpretive Galleries & Museum Main Street Boyle www.kinghouse.ie	180268.58	302677.59	Neil Armstrong	071 966 3242	kinghouse@roscommoncoco.ie	Dance Heritage Music Visual Arts Also Library & Farmers Market
The Art Gallery Frenchpark	173342.25	291100.97	Arts Office Roscommon County Council	090 6637285	artsoffice@roscommoncoco.ie	Performing Arts Visual Arts
Roscommon Arts Centre Circular Road Roscommon Town www.roscommonartscentre.ie	187923.34	264595.26	Averyl Dooher	090 6625824	artscentre@roscommoncoco.ie	Cinema Comedy Dance Visual Arts, Literature Music Theatre
Castlecoote House Castlecoote www.castlecootehouse.com	180800.18	262974.97	Kevin Finnerty	090 6663794	info@castlecootehouse.com	Music Literature Also Accommodation

County Roscommon Community Facilities 2008

Facility Name	Address	GIS Reference Easting	GIS Reference Northing	Contact Person	Tel No	Email
Angling Visitor & Conference Centre	Suck Valley Development Coop Ltd, Angling Centre, Athleague,	182744.15	257773.86	John Kelly	090 6663602	info@suckvalley.com
Arigna Hall	Arigna Community Development Co, Arigna, Carrick on Shannon	192916.03	314073.03	Seamus Rynn	071 9646003	
Athleague Community Centre	Athleague	182984.97	257576.73	Edward McConn	090 6661003	
Aughrim/Kilmore Community Centre	Aughrim, Carrick on Shannon	198109.77	293912.96	Gerry Tiernan	071 9637962	akfas@eircom.net
Ballaghaderreen Social Enterprise Centre	Ballaghaderreen & District Development Ltd, The Shambles, Ballaghaderreen	161782.45	294934.06	Mary Devine O'Callaghan	094 98 60013	info@ballaghaderreen.com
Ballinagare Community Centre	Ballinagare Development Association, Ballinagare, Castlereau,	174757.12	287565.66	Bernard Morahan	094 9870388	bjmorahan@eircom.net
Ballinaheglish Community Centre	Ballinaheglish	179376.10	270912.12	Mary Concannon	090 6662281	
Ballinameen Community Centre	Ballinameen, Boyle	180022.81	294494.47	Mary Kerrane	094 9870276	
Ballintubber Community Centre & Handball Court	Ballintubber, Castlereau	172793.14	274531.22	Michael Holland	094 9655340	info@michaelholland.ie
Ballintubber Parish Hall	Ballintubber, Castlereau	172840.99	274528.40	Patsy McCaul	094 9655217	
Ballyfarnon Community Centre	Ballyfarnon Community Council, Ballyfarnon, Boyle	186720.47	313718.00	Mary Shivanan	071 9647024	mary.shivanan@hotmail.com

Facility Name	Address	GIS Reference Easting	GIS Reference Northing	Contact Person	Tel No	Email
Ballyforan Community Centre	Ballyforan Parish Council, Ballyforan	181948.16	246678.28	Fr. Francis Beirne	090 6623313	
Ballyleague Community Centre	Ballyleague	199686.78	269548.03	Tom Donlon	043 21535	
Boyle Community Centre	The Crescent, Boyle	180294.30	302338.79	Patrick Mc Dermott	071 9662264	
Callow Community Centre	Callow, Frenchpark	171832.63	294816.50	Margaret Neary	094 9870602	
Cam Community Centre	Cam, Brideswell, Athlone	193043.22	245033.09	John Curley	090 6488109	
Castlereia Youth Information Centre	Barrack St, Castlereia	168140.87	279740.07	Maura Cawley	094 9621136	yiccastlereia@eircom.net
Clann na Gael GAA Club	Johnstown, Drum, Athlone	198699.15	235424.78	Paul Bruce	086 8112043	brucep@iaws.ie
Clonown Community Centre	Clonown, Athlone	203984.37	235285.43	Michael Fallon	090 6437143	info@clonown.com
Clooneycolgan Hall	Lisaniuskea, Clooneycolgan, Donamon,	177499.47	267739.25	Fr Francis Glennon	090 6626275	
Cloonfad Community Centre	Cloonfad, Ballyhaunis	150352.58	270932.94	Brendan Cregg	094 9646259	
Cootehall Parish Hall	Cootehall, Boyle	189686.07	304282.62	Fr Brian Conlon	086 6048350	
Cortober Hall,	Cortober, Carrick on Shannon	193563.24	299052.37	Rev M Mulroney	071 9620415	

Facility Name	Address	GIS Reference Easting	GIS Reference Northing	Contact Person	Tel No	Email
Co Roscommon Disability Support Group	Derranne	189517.68	268042.62	Chris Hicky	090 6625852	rsgci@eircom.net
Creeve Community Centre	Creeve, Elphin	191813.23	288982.81	Paddy Farrell	071 9635275	
Croghan Community Centre	The Old Creamery, Croghan, Boyle Roscommon	185538.97	295845.28	Catherine Harte	071 9668005	
Crossna Community Centre	Cleen Hall, Knockvicar, Boyle	188063.05	306696.84	May Moran	071 9667171	
Cruachan Ai Heritage Centre	Tulsk	183328.81	281049.22	Lora O'Brien	071 9639268	cruachanai@gmail.com
Cuan Aire Resource Centre	St Patrick's Street, Castlereagh	167786.07	279552.87	Ann Hawikshaw	094 9620057	cuanaire@eircom.net
Cuisle Holiday Centre	Irish Wheel Chair Association	178983.73	264744.13	Fergus Moffit	090 6662277	cuisle@iwa.ie
Culleen Hall	Culleen, Knockcroghery	195073.75	256825.42	Marie Duffy	090 6661221	culleenhall@eircom.net
Curraghboy Community Centre	St Brigids Handball Complex, Curraghboy, Athlone	192675.00	248252.00	Seamus McHugh	090 6488285	
Drum Community Sports and Social Centre	Crannaghbeg, Drum, Athlone	200787.75	240095.57	Adrian McEvilly	090 6494425	info@drum.ie
Drumboylan Parish Centre	Drumboylan	193545.06	306598.28	Padraig Deane	086 8521800	
Drumboylan Resource Centre	St Patrick's Centre, Drumboylan	193636.20	306554.72	Padraig Deane	086 8521800	

Facility Name	Address	GIS Reference Easting	GIS Reference Northing	Contact Person	Tel No	Email
D'Umbrella Youth Café	Main Street, Elphin	187208.81	288471.90	Gail Murray	086 8532915	gail@ridc.ie
Dun Maeve Centre	Strokestown	192568.06	280854.50	Eileen Campbell	071 96 33626	
Dysart Community Centre	Dysart, Ballinasloe	185697.52	245894.24	George Coyle	090 9642995	
Elphin Community & Sports Centre	Elphin	187437.69	288317.43	Det Reynolds	071 9635418	
Fairymount Community Centre	Fairymount, Castlereagh	168396.98	287543.22	Eamon Quinn	094 9880186	
Family Institute	Ballaghadereen	162070.86	294954.34	Ethna O'Grady	094 9861000	
Family Life Centre	Military Road, Boyle	180362.53	302723.23	Deborah Rodden	071 9662954	info@familycentre.ie
Frenchpark Parish Hall	Frenchpark	173371.01	291153.46	Eddie McDonnell	094 9870555	
Gortaganny Resource Centre	Gortaganny, Castlereagh	155566.82	284439.63	Seamus Cawley	094 9649854	
Granolan Community Centre	Granolan, Ballinlough	155325.40	274113.50	Gerry Coffey	094 9640237	
Hyde Centre	Athlone Road, Roscommon Town	188096.70	264043.87	Paul Hoare	086 2986765	pauliehoare@yahoo.ie
Kilbride Community Centre	Kilbride Community Centre Co Ltd, Kilbride, Four Mile House	186449.65	272639.31	Fr Raymond Browne	090 6629518	

Facility Name	Address	GIS Reference Easting	GIS Reference Northing	Contact Person	Tel No	Email
Kilbride Community House	Cuan Mhuire, Kilbride	186365.00	272680.00	Bernie Kearney	090 6629949	
Kilbride Parish Room	Kilbride, Four Mile House	186441.77	272556.40	Fr Raymond Browne	090 6629518	
Kilmurray Hall	Kilmurray, Lisalway, Castlereagh	176401.45	279888.50	Martin Connolly	094 9651160	
Kilteevan Community Centre	Kilteevan, Co Roscommon	192435.07	265114.44	Fiona Coen	090 6638300	
Kiltoom Hall	Barrymore, Kiltoom, Athlone	199531.75	246024.61	Thomas Harney	090 4492051	
Knockcroghery Community Centre	Knockcroghery	193813.44	258339.88	Patsy McSharry	090 6661009	
Lisacul Community Centre	Lisacul, Castlereagh	158769.94	289318.64	Patricia Madden	094 9862565	
Lisnamult Community Centre	Lisnamult, Roscommon Town	186708.98	263513.06	Anthony Doolin	090 6627738	
Loughglynn Community Centre	Loughglynn	163370.32	285912.37	Rosaleen Flanagan	094 9620016	rosaleen.flanagan@mailn.hse.ie
Macra Hall	Tulsk	183810.30	280813.88	Fr Austin McKeon	071 9639005	
Melting Pot	Roscommon Retail Therapy Ltd, Stonecourt, Roscommon Town	187413.74	264723.22	Adrian Brend	090 6634399	retail.therapy@hotmail.com
Michael Glavey's GAA & Community Centre	Ballinlough, Castlereagh	158270.11	278282.93	Valerie Murray	094 9630780	murrayval@hotmail.com

Facility Name	Address	GIS Reference Easting	GIS Reference Northing	Contact Person	Tel No	Email
Monksland Community Centre	Monksland Community Ltd, Monksland, Athlone	201249.61	241471.58	James Kilmartin	085 1196701	
Moore Hall	Ballydangan, Ballinasloe	193766.01	232223.22	Pat Feehily	086 2501475	morecc@eircom.net
Neighbourhood Youth Project	St Joseph's Resource Centre, Abbeytown, Boyle	180759.75	302777.44	Siobhan Duane	071 9664801	siobhan.duane@foroige.ie
Neighbourhood Youth Project	Main Street, Castlereagh	167837.62	279833.21	Maree Dillon	094 9622952	mareedillon@foroige.ie
North West Community Development Project	Ballaghaderreen	161834.84	294903.06	Patricia Madden	094 9862565	nwrosccdp@eircom.net
O'Rourke Centre,	The Demesne, Castlereagh	167839.96	280165.12	Martin Perial	087 2425110	rosclare@eircom.net
Phoenix Youth Centre	Co Roscommon Youth Service, Cathedral St, Ballaghaderreen	161932.08	294970.12	Dessie Keegan	094 9861505	yicballagh2@eircom.net
Roosky Community Centre	Rooskey	204942.73	287006.47	Anna Egan	086 3596630	
Roscommon Education and Development Centre	Lisnamult, Roscommon Town	186950.10	263656.46	Bernie Downes	090 6630320	BernieDownes@eircom.net
Roscommon Lions Club Youth Centre	Circular Road, Roscommon Town	187468.38	264210.12	Paul Beisty	087 1223787	
Roscommon Traveller Development Group,	Unit 1, St Albans Place, Roscommon Town	187525.27	264642.28	Martin Mongan	090 6628699	mmongan1@eircom.net
Roscommon Womens' Community Development Project	The Old Mill, Castlereagh	167352.78	280108.82	Nora Fahy	094 9621690	info@rwn.ie

Facility Name	Address	GIS Reference Easting	GIS Reference Northing	Contact Person	Tel No	Email
Roscommon Youth Information Centre	Co Roscommon Youth Service, 19 Abbey Street, Roscommon Town	187228.20	264241.92	Sinead Fallon	090 6625395	roscommonyic@eircom.net
Royal Oak Parish Hall	Circular Road, Ballaghaderreen	161803.71	294573.71	Fr Vincent Sherlock	094 9860011	cathedral@achonrydiocese.org
South Roscommon Community Forum	Abbeytown, Roscommon Town	187097.05	263920.72	Eilish Feely	087 2940544	eilish.feeley@hse.ie
St John's Community Centre	Lecarrow	196567.09	254923.26	Kevin Coyle	090 6661183	
St Kieran's Community Centre	Castlecoote	180522.59	262128.04	Very Rev John Leogue	090 6663338	
St Michaels GAA & Community Centre	Cootehall, Boyle	188751.14	304871.94	Jim Donnellan	071 9664983	stmichaels@gaaroscommon.ie
St Ronan's Hall, Keadue	Keadue	191092.75	311316.78	Pauric Noone	071 9647204	
Strokestown Church Hall	Church Grounds, Strokestown	193194.67	280953.07	Richard Brady	086 8771009	
Strokestown Community Centre	Strokestown	192769.65	280866.72	Trudy Murray	087 7540200	trudymur@gmail.com
Taughmaconnell Community Centre	Dundonnell, Taughmaconnell, Ballinasloe	189375.14	238883.22	Rosemary Phelan	090 9683861	
The Hub	Church Street, Strokestown	193094.09	280821.25	Ann O'Connor	071 9633883	strokestownyic@eircom.net
Tibohine Community Centre	Tibohine, Castlerea	167113.42	292843.59	Adrian Beirne	087 2570497	

Facility Name	Address	GIS Reference Easting	GIS Reference Northing	Contact Person	Tel No	Email
Tisara Community Centre	Tisara, Four Roads	185378.47	251700.67	Fr Francis Beirne	090 6623313	
Vita House Family Centre	Abbey St, Roscommon Town	187230.19	264285.73	Mary Lee	090 6625898	vitalhouse@eircom.net
Youth Reach Ballaghadereen	Convent Road, Ballaghadereen	161621.43	294734.85	John Moore	094 9860087	ballayc@eircom.net
Youth Reach Roscommon	Racecourse Road, Roscommon Town,	186232.18	265755.59	Cormac Hanlon	090 6630497	rosyouthreach@gmail.com

Co Roscommon: Sports Facilities 2008 *(Commercial Facilities Shown in Italics)*

Facility Name, Address & Website	GIS Reference		Contact	Telephone	Email	National Governing Body	Opening Hours
	Eastings	Northing					
GAA Clubs & Grounds							
Athleague GAA Pitch Kepak Road, Athleague,	182269.00	258229.00	Robert McConn	086 8277466	athleague@gaaroscommon.ie	GAA	As needed
Ballagherreen GAA Knockanaconny, Ballagherreen www.ballagherreenengaa.com	160878.98	294541.16	Christy McCann	086 0506930	info@ballagherreenengaa.com	GAA	As needed
St Attracta's GAA Club Ballinameen	180252.00	295429.00	Pat Carty	086 8041036	pat.carty@abbott.com	GAA	8am-9pm Mon-Sat
Boyle GAA Club Abbeytown, Boyle	180607.47	302808.08	Mary Smith	086 8211684	boyle@gaaroscommon.ie	GAA	
Clan na Gael Johnstown, Cornafulla, Athlone	198683.79	235368.76	Paul Bruce	086 8112043	brucep@iaws.ie	GAA	7pm-10pm Mon-Sat
Eire Og GAA Club James Timothy Memorial Park, Loughglynn	162067.13	288799.50	Sharon Behan Woods	087 9551030	eireog@gaaroscommon.ie	GAA	
Elphin GAA Club Orchard Park, Elphin	187442.89	288805.23	Noel Collins	086 1984252	abbeycarton.ias@eircom.net	GAA	
Fuerty GAA Club Mulhern Park, Aghahgower, Castlecoote www.fuerty.roscommon.gaa.ie	179525.09	260049.41	Thomas Farrell	087 9970065	fuerty@gaaroscommon.ie	GAA	
Four Roads GAA Club Community Park, Tisara	185328.96	251265.88	Padraic Mannion	087 2498787	fourroads@gaaroscommon.ie	GAA	

Facility Name, Address & Website	GIS Reference		Contact	Telephone	Email	National Governing Body	Opening Hours
	Easting	Northing					
GAA Clubs & Grounds							
Kilbride GAA Club Kilbride, Four Mile House	186288.00	272272.00	Padraic Shanagher	086 8852850	kilbride@gaaroscommon.ie	GAA	
Kilglass Gaels Knockhall, Kilglass, Strokestown	201938.22	286287.14	Aidan Tully	086 8149510	nualadiff@hotmail.com	GAA	As needed
Kilmore GAA Club Kilmore, Carrick on Shannon	196535.00	291732.00	Frank Dennehy	086 1750394	elphincreaditunion@eircom.net	GAA	
Michael Glavey's GAA Club Ballinlough	158301.00	278270.00	Valerie Murray	086 8369122	murrayval@hotmail.com	GAA	
Oran GAA Club Oran	181745.87	267852.48	Brian Early	086 8559595	earlybrian@eircom.net	GAA	As needed
Padraig Pearses GAA Club Woodmount, Ballinasloe,	189767.11	231854.30	Bernie Murray	087 2378649	berniemurray29@yahoo.co.uk	GAA	
Roscommon Gaels GAA Club Dr Hyde Centre, Roscommon Town www.gaels,roscommon.gaa.ie	188074.63	264020.01	Jimmy Hoare	086 2986765	gaels@gaaroscommon.ie	GAA	Daily Times vary
Shannon Gaels GAA Club Croghan, Boyle	185774.26	295868.36	Padraig Glancy	086 6058405	svcarrickonshannon@eircom.net	GAA	
St Aidans GAA Club Ballyforan, Ballinasloe www.st-aidansgaa.com	181913.80	246680.37	David Thompson	086 8546100	staidans@gaaroscommon.ie	GAA	All day 7 days
St Barry's GAA Club Tarmonbarry	204943.42	277019.00	Tommy Hoare	087 6205325	tommyhoare@vodafone.ie	GAA	

Facility Name, Address & Website	GIS Reference		Contact	Telephone	Email	National Governing Body	Opening Hours
	Easting	Northing					
GAA Clubs & Grounds							
St Brigids GAA & Social Centre Kiltoom	198198.09	248367.25	Diane Dennehy	087 9160217		GAA	
St Croan's GAA Club Ballintubber	174781.83	274740.74	Majella Smyth	086 8271896	majellasmith@eircom.net	GAA	
St Dominics GAA Club Naomh Dominic, Knockcroghery	195023.04	257958.01			stdominicks@gaaroscommon.ie	GAA	
St Faithleachs GAA Club Ballyleague, Lanesboro www.stfaithleachs.roscommon.gaa.ie	199398.00	269599.00	Michael Cleary	087 2238293	stbrigids@gaaroscommon.ie	GAA	6pm-9pm Daily
St Josephs GAA Club Kilteevan	191802.96	265035.83	Anthony McCormack	086 8242514	atmccormack@eircom.net	GAA	As needed
St Kevin's GAA O'Rourke Centre, The Demesne, Castlerea	167880.41	280129.12	Martin Perrill	087 2425110	rosclare@eircom.net	GAA	As needed
St Ronan's GAA Club Ballyfarmon, Boyle	186836.00	313683.00	Damian Killoran	086 2666837	stronans@gaaroscommon.ie	GAA	As needed
St Michael's GAA Club Cootehall, Boyle	188752.71	304892.66	Jim Donnellan	086 2031270	stmichaels@gaaroscommon.ie	GAA	As needed
Strokestown GAA Club Strokestown	193263.52	279805.03	Joanne McGinley	086 3698003	strokestown@gaaroscommon.ie	GAA	As needed
Tremane GAA Pitch Knockadangan	186419.00	258765.00	Darren Daly	087 9744745	tiernanpeter@eircom.net	GAA	As needed

Facility Name, Address & Website	GIS Reference		Contact	Telephone	Email	National Governing Body	Opening Hours
	Eastings	Northing					
GAA Clubs & Grounds							
Lord Edwards GAA Club Tulsk	184252.23	280569.31	Margaret Murray	086 1702026	margaret_01@eircom.net	GAA	As needed
Western Gaels Frenchpark	173262.16	291246.44	Dermott Murray	087 8127491	westerngaels@gaaroscommon.ie	GAA	As needed
Football Clubs							
Ballaghadereen FC Ballaghadereen Community Park	161228.44	294427.93	Jo Connolly	086 0884645	pjconnolly@imagine.ie	Football Association of Ireland	Daily
Ballinagare FC Ballinagare,	174934.35	287961.61	Terry Ryan	086 0707495	terryryan@online.ie	Football Association of Ireland	As needed
Boyle Celtic FC Boyle www.boyleceltic.com	180518.81	303491.19	Richard Kennedy	086 8323322	info@boyleceltic.com		As needed
Cam Celtic Cam, Curraghboy, Athlone	193056.00	245023.00	Keith McLoughlin	087 9502290	keithmcl@yahoo.com	Football Association of Ireland	As needed
Castleria Celtic The Demesne, Castleria	168236.01	279985.08	Keith McLoughlin	086 0593646	geraldinem.kennedy@hse.ie	Football Association of Ireland	As needed
CP Ajax Tarmon, Castleria	171538.00	280259.00	Jason Reilly	086 6609247		Football Association of Ireland	As needed
Dysart FC Dysart, Ballinasloe	185685.00	245875.00	Vicki Willet	087 9216801	vickiwill@hotmail.com	Football Association of Ireland	As needed
Hudson Bay Celtic FC Canon Greene Park, Kiltoom	199472.91	246101.85	Susan Carty		cartycrew@hotmail.com		As needed

Facility Name, Address & Website	GIS Reference		Contact	Telephone	Email	National Governing Body	Opening Hours
	Eastings	Northing					
Football Clubs							
Lisnamult Celtic Lisnamult, Roscommon Town	186682.61	263548.76	Josephine Croghan	087 2808232	jcroghan@eircom.net		Any time
Lough Harps FC Ballinlough	157851.03	277054.57	Kieran Connolly	085 7816599	famconnolly@eircom.net	Football Association of Ireland	As needed
Moore United FC Moore, Ballydangan, Ballinasloe	195078.94	229734.50	Ivan Colleran	087 8192743	ivan.colleran@wolseley.com	Football Association of Ireland	All day
Rahara Rovers Clover Park, Rahara, Athleague	190962.51	252330.52	Luke Donnelly	086 8947358	luke_donnelly@education.gov.ie		10am-9pm
<i>Roscommon District League</i> Gailey Beg, Lecarrow	195974.88	255640.91	John Sherlock	087 7530377		Football Association of Ireland	As needed
Roscommon Town FC Convent of Mercy Sports Grounds, Roscommon Town	186982.31	264243.62	Dervilla Hoare	087 9052753	dervilla.hoare@gmail.com	Football Association of Ireland	As needed
Skyvalley Rovers Onagh Park, Taughmacannell, Ballinasloe	190085.27	239809.05	Karl Moore	087 6154810	karlmoore@gmail.com	Football Association of Ireland	All day
St John's Athletic Killoe, Lecarrow	196597.29	255438.41	Sean Morris	087 4157807	seam.morris@coviden.com	Football Association of Ireland	All day
Strokestown United Lisroyne, Strokestown	193269.26	279806.95	Anthony Flaherty	086 1079240	anthony fla@hotmail.com	Football Association of Ireland	As needed
Bealnamulla Girls & St Joseph's Boys Soccer Club One Direct Park, Bealnamulla, Athlone	198219.49	241911.84	Denise McNamara	090 6492455	stjosephsfc@eircom.net		As needed

Facility Name, Address & Website	GIS Reference		Contact	Telephone	Email	National Governing Body	Opening Hours
	Easting	Northing					
Combined Sports & Community Facilities							
Angling Visitor & Conference Centre Suck Valley Development Coop Athleague	182738.79	257771.60	John Kelly	090 6663602	info@suckvalley.com	No	All day
Ballinagare Community Centre Ballinagare Development Assoc Ballinagare, Castlereagh	174754.32	287573.63	Bernard Morahan	094 9870388	bjmorahan@eircom.net		All day
Ballintubber Community Centre & Handball Court Ballintubber, Castlereagh	172799.03	274532.26	Michael Holland	086 2549815	info@michaelholland.ie	No	As needed
Clan na Gael Johnstown, Cornafulla, Athlone	198683.77	235392.57	Paul Bruce	086 8112043	brucep@iaws.ie	GAA	7pm-10pm Mon-Fri
Curraghboy Community Centre St Brigids Handball Complex, Curraghboy, Athlone	192670.63	248254.03	Seamus McHugh	090 6488285		GAA	As needed
Drum Community Sports and Social Centre Crannaghbeg, Drum, Athlone	200782.32	240100.27	Adrian McEvilly	090 6494425	info@drum.ie	No	All day
Kilbride Community Centre Kilbride, Four Mile House	186448.46	272644.59	Bernie Kearney	086 6000755		No	All day
Kilglass Gaels Knockhall, Kilglass, Strokestown	201939.95	286315.69	Aidan Tully	086 8149510	nualadiff@hotmail.com	GAA	As needed
Lisnamult Community Centre Lisnamult, Roscommon Town	186703.21	263518.41	Anthony Doolin	090 6627738		No	Daily Times vary
Michael Glavey's GAA Club Ballinlough,	158275.41	278282.64	Valerie Murray	086 8369122	murrayval@hotmail.com	GAA	Daily Times vary

Facility Name, Address & Website	GIS Reference		Contact	Telephone	Email	National Governing Body	Opening Hours
	Eastings	Northing					
Combined Sports & Community Facilities							
Roscommon Gaels GAA Club Dr Hyde Centre, Roscommon Town www.gaels.roscommon.gaa.ie	188096.70	264043.87		086 2986765	gaels@gaaroscommon.ie	GAA	Daily Times vary
St Brigids GAA & Social Centre Kiltoom,	198216.86	248391.34	Diane Dennehy	087 9160217	stbrigids@gaaroscommon.ie	GAA	Evenings & as needed
St Faithleachs GAA Club Ballyleague, Lanesboro www.stfaithleachs.roscommon.gaa.ie	199418.29	269578.86	Michael Cleary	087 2238293		GAA	6pm-9pm Daily
St John's Community Centre Lecarrow	196563.82	254928.64	Kevin Coyle	090 6661183			As needed
St Kevin's GAA O'Rourke Centre, Castlerea	167864.12	280169.01	Martin Perrill	087 2425110	rosclare@eircom.net	GAA	As needed
St Michael's GAA Club Cootehall, Boyle,	188751.14	304871.94	Jim Donnellan	086 2031270	stmichaels@gaaroscommon.ie	GAA	As needed
Strokestown GAA Club Strokestown	193264.16	279819.05	Joanne McGinley	086 3698003	strokestown@gaaroscommon.ie	GAA	As needed
Golf Clubs & Ranges							
Athlone Golf Club Hodson Bay, Athlone www.athlonegolfclub.ie	200567.59	246240.20	P J Naughton	090 6492073	athlonegolf@eircom.net	Golf Union of Ireland	7 days
<i>Athlone Golf Range</i> Newpark, Kiltoom	198872.87	248442.97	Gary Evans	090 6489004		Golf Union of Ireland	10am - 10pm Daily

Facility Name, Address & Website	GIS Reference		Contact	Telephone	Email	National Governing Body	Opening Hours
	Eastings	Northing					
Golf Clubs & Ranges							
Ballaghaderreen Golf Club Augaulista, Ballaghaderreen www.ballaghaderreen.com/golf.html	1623334.59	291914.10	Pat Coen	094 9860295	ballaghaderreen@golfnet.ie	Golf Union of Ireland	Apr-Oct 7 days Nov - Feb weekends
<i>Boyle Golf Club</i> Knockadoorbrusna, Boyle,	180693.41	300286.83	Michael Gilmartin	071 9662594	mnmg@eircom.net	Golf Union of Ireland	daily
Carrick on Shannon Golf Club Woodbrook, Carrick on Shannon www.carrickgolfclub.ie	188569.32	301121.75	Chris Lowe	071 9667015	ckgc3@eircom.net	Golf Union of Ireland	7 days
Castlereagh Golf Club Clonalis, Castlereagh	166999.94	280322.29	Willie Gannon,	094 9620068		Golf Union of Ireland	Apr-Oct 7 days
Roscommon Golf Club Mote Park, Roscommon	188062.86	263205.17	Marina Dolan	090 6626382	rosgolffclub@eircom.net	Golf Union of Ireland	Daylight Hours
<i>Strokestown Golf Club</i> Bumlin, Strokestown www.strokestowngolfclub.com	195085.21	279987.39	Martin Crinigan	087 9125996	strokestowngolfclub@gmail.com	Golf Union of Ireland	Apr-Oct 7 days Nov – Feb weekends
Tennis Courts							
Ballaghaderreen Tennis Club Courts Convent Road, Ballaghaderreen	161482.00	294749.00	Maureen Kane	086 2344413		No	As needed
Boyle Community Tennis Association Military Road, Boyle	180360.65	302786.29	Noreen Hawkins	071 9662996		No	As needed
Cavetown Tennis Club Croghan, Boyle	184051.63	297820.68	Laura Egan	087 8051007		No	As needed

Facility Name, Address & Website	GIS Reference		Contact	Telephone	Email	National Governing Body	Opening Hours
	Eastings	Northing					
Handball Courts & Alleys							
Ballintubber Handball Alley & Community Centre Ballintubber	172795.28	274535.69	Paddy McDermott				Not in use
Ballincurry Handball Alley & Leisure Centre, Ballincurry, Glinsk	173246.36	266524.83	Michael Hurley	090 6621153		Handball Council	Daily 5-10pm Weekends 12am - 10pm
Castleree Court O'Rourke Centre, Castleree	167865.35	280187.71	Martin Perril	087 2425110	rosclare@eircom.net	Handball Council	As needed
St Brigid's Alley Curraghboy	192678.12	248249.35	Seamus McHugh	090 6488285		Handball Council	As needed
St Coman's Handball Club Roscommon Town www.bebo.com/stcomanshandballclub	187102.01	264515.49	Oisinn Naughton	087 7759975	oisinn@gmail.com	GAA	Daily As needed
Fairymount Alley Fairymount, Castleree	168400.22	287550.27	Michael Daire	086 6082791		Handball Council	As needed
Tisara Community Sports Park Four Roads	185321.29	251274.50	Fr Francis Beirne	090 6623313		No	All day
Cloonfad Court Ballyhaunis	150186.52	271079.07	Tom Burke	094 9646019			As needed
Clooncan Court Ballinlough	156262.25	281956.53	Michael Nolan	094 9640107		Handball Council	As needed
Brackloon Court Ballyhaunis	152906.47	282425.41	Frank Daly	094 9649246			As needed

Facility Name, Address & Website	GIS Reference		Contact	Telephone	Email	National Governing Body	Opening Hours
	Eastings	Northing					
Handball Courts & Alleys							
Abbey Community College Abbeystown, Boyle	180370.81	302281.97	Pat Clarke, Carrick Road, Boyle				As needed
Knockcroghery Alley St Dominics, Knockcroghery	193753.16	258334.19	Willie Mugan	090 6661263			As needed
Granlahan Alley Granlahan	155993.44	273892.22	Gerry Coffey	094 9640237			As needed
Mount Talbot Open Court Mount Talbot	181230.61	253134.74	No contact identified				As needed
Brideswell Open Alley Brideswell, Athlone	194133.98	244817.94	John Curley	090 6488109			As needed
Lisacul Court Ballaghaderreen,	158762.20	289315.83	Noel Rafferty	087 2612354		Handball Council	As needed
Taughmaconnell Alley Ballinasloe	191527.32	239522.97	Rosemary Phelan	090 9683861			As needed
Tulsk Court Lord Edwards GAA Club, Tulsk	184273.83	280564.06	Margaret Murray	086 1702026	margaret_01@eircom.net	Handball Council	As needed
Athletics	Eastings	Northing					
Roscommon Athletics Club Convent of Mercy Gym, Roscommon Town	186970.00	264252.00	Mary Burgoyne	086 3560560		Athletics Ireland	Tues 6pm-9pm
North Roscommon Athletic Club Sports Complex, Boyle	180368.35	302289.33	Majella Dodd	086 0681035	doddmajella@gmail.com	Athletics Ireland	

Facility Name, Address & Website	Grid Reference		Contact	Telephone	Email	National Governing Body	Opening Hours
	Eastings	Northing					
Outdoor Water Sports							
Hodson Bay Watersports Centre Hodson Bay, Athlone,	200882.94	246567.34	Stuart McNamara or Jude Kilmartin	1890 70 40 90	courses@powerboat.org	Irish Sailing Association	All Year 40 hrs week
Swimming Pools & Wellness/Health Centres							
<i>Abbey Health & Fitness</i> Abbey Hotel, Roscommon Town www.abbeyhotel.ie	187237.96	263929.93	Ann Marie Fitzgerald	090 6626482	leisure@abbeyhotel.ie	ILAM	Weekdays 7am-10pm Weekends 9am-9pm
<i>Body Elite</i> Racecourse Road, Roscommon Town	186577.15	265540.40	Catherine Durr	090 6630613			Weekdays 9am-9pm Sat 10am-2pm
Castlereagh Open Air Swimming Pool The Demesne, Castlerea	168405.11	279774.87	Ann Harkin	090 6632500			Summer Season 11am - 8.30pm
Coral Leisure Centre Ard Na Nagh, Roscommon Town,	187113.77	264554.22	Cahill Dempsey	090 6628219	roscommonleisurecentre@eircom .net	ILAM & Irish Water Safety	M,W,F 7am- 7pm Tues & Thurs 10am -9pm Weekends 10am-4.45pm
<i>Gaea Spa</i> Abbeyfield Hotel, Sligo Road, Baillighadereen www.abbeyfieldhotel.ie	162533.14	295191.67	Catherine Durkan	094 9862736	leisure@abbeyfieldhotel.ie		Weekdays 7am-10pm Weekends 8am-8pm
<i>Hodson Bay Leisure Centre</i> Hodson Bay Hotel, Hodson Bay, Athlone www.hodsonbayhotel.com	200841.70	246492.73	Jeremy Cullen	090 6442010	info@hodsonbayhotel.com	ILAM	Weekdays 7am-10pm Weekends 8am-9pm

Facility Name, Address & Website	Grid Reference		Contact	Telephone	Email	National Governing Body	Opening Hours
	Easting	Northing					
Swimming Pools & Wellness/Health Centres							
<i>Leisure Centre</i> Kilronan Castle, Ballyfarmon, Boyle www.kilronanncastle.ie	188193.52	312678.49	Michelle Coghlan	071 9618000	enquiries@kilronanncastle.ie	No	Weekdays 7am-10pm Weekends 9am -9pm
<i>Results</i> Carrick Road, Boyle	180679.32	302655.99	The Manager	071 9663432			Weekdays 8.30am-9pm Sat 10am-2pm
Zen Centre Ahtlone Springs Hotel, Monksland, Athlone www.athlonespringshotel.com	200219.41	241231.76	Barry Gaffney	090 6444444	info@athlonespringshotel.com		Weekdays 7am-10pm Weekends 8am-9pm
Sports Parks							
Ballaghaderreen Community Park Convent Road, Ballaghaderreen www.ballaghaderreen.com	161237.37	294413.59	Mary Devine O'Callaghan	094 9860765	info@ballaghaderreen.com	No	Daily 9am - 5/6pm
Tisara Community Sports Park Tisara, Four Roads	185333.56	251279.31	Fr Francis Beirne	090 6623313		No	All day Daily
Walking							
<i>Kiltybranks Walking Centre</i> Kiltybranks, Ballaghaderreen www.willowbrookfarm.com	160394.00	290945.00	David Whitfield	094 9861307	info@willowbrookfarm.com	No	Daily
Mote Park Roscommon Town www.colte.ie	188033.10	263097.92		01 2011111	info@colte.ie	No	Daily
Also refer to walking trails in Amenities & Recreational listings							

Facility Name, Address & Website	Grid Reference		Contact	Telephone	Email	National Governing Body	Opening Hours
	Eastings	Northing					
Equestrian							
<i>Eisemere Equestrian Centre</i> Ardcarne, Boyle	187171.47	302490.06	Michael Keane	071 9633777		No	Evenings & weekends
<i>Munsboro Equestrian Centre</i> Munsboro, Sligo Road, Roscommon Town	187093.27	267790.18	Padraig Dolan	090 6626449			Daily
<i>Mount Cashel Stables</i> Kilrooskey, Lanesborough www.mountcashelstables.com	196188.99	269025.12	Jenny or Mark	086 3270984	info@mountcashelstables.com	No	Daily
<i>Roscommon Race Course</i> Racecourse Road, Roscommon Town	185302.45	266315.78	Michael Finneran	087 2203288	roscommonracecourse@eircom.net	Association of Irish Racecourses	Mid May to early Oct
Boxing							
Frenchpark Boxing Club Community Centre, Frenchpark	173370.58	291149.81	Eddie McDonnell	094 9870555		No	As needed
Snooker / Billiards							
Castlereagh Snooker Club Castlereagh FC (Upstairs) Castlereagh	168216.78	279989.33	Luke Flanagan	086 3685680		No	Evenings & weekends
<i>The Emporium</i> Lunnys Garage (Upstairs), Cortober, Carrick on Shannon	193445.37	299085.83	Tom Whelan	071 9671380		No	1pm to late Daily
Motor Sports							
<i>Ros Karting</i> Beechwood, Kiltreevan	193181.00	266426.00	James Garvey	087 2609664		Irish Karting Association	2-8pm Daily

County Roscommon: Amenities & Recreational Facilities 2008			
Amenity/Facility	Location/Comment	GIS Reference	
Playgrounds		Eastings	Northing
Ballaghaderreen	Part of Community Park	161182.65	294579.06
Castlereau	Next to Swimming Pool	168456.07	279764.26
Lough Key Forest Park, Boyle	West of Visitor Centre	184683.84	303921.46
Lough Meelagh Amenity, Keadue	100M East of Kilronan Castle Hotel entrance	189156.88	312438.02
Monksland	Adjacent to Monksland Community Centre	201249.61	241471.58
Pleasure Grounds Park, Boyle		180400.91	302570.20
Portrunny Playground		196125.67	260022.81
Public Parks / Amenity Areas			
Ballyleague Amenity & Bathing Pool		200483.20	269363.10
Boyle Lawn		180083.00	302505.00
Cortober, Carrick on Shannon		193644.94	299213.57
Demesne, Castlereau		168301.34	279850.34
Lisnamult, Roscommon		186685.47	263551.62
Lough Key Forest Park	Main Entrance	183913.52	302318.71
Lough Meelagh, Keadue	Picnic Area & Moorings	189156.88	312438.02
Lough Meelagh , Keadue	Knockranny Amenity	190152.80	311701.24

Amenity/Facility	Location/Comment	GIS Reference	
Public Parks/Amenity Areas			
Loughneane Park, Roscommon Town	Entrance next to Castle	187295.30	264952.55
Community Parks & Sports Parks			
Ballaghderreen Community Park		161153.24	294561.34
Ballyfarnon, Boyle		186551.23	313804.63
O'Carolan Park, Keadue		190981.16	311333.22
Cavetown Lake, Croghan, Boyle		184014.97	297845.63
Cushla, Monksland, Sports Pitches		201635.70	241560.36
Tisara Sports Park, Four Roads		185322.52	251290.23
Roadside Amenity Areas			
N4 Gaelic Chieftan, Curlews, Boyle		181139.53	307156.48
Walking Trails			
Arigna Miners Way and Historical Trail	Start at Mining Experience Site	192167.56	314268.25
Cloonfad Scenic Walks	Starting point at Resource Centre	154109.27	269650.90
The Golden Mile, Athlone	Starting point opposite MGWR Station	203558.08	241865.64
Kiltybranks Looped Walking Trail	Start at sign on North side of R325	161193.00	289928.00
Knockvcar Bog Walk	Start at entrance to Organic Garden	186866.05	305444.23
Mote Park	Start at entrance off Golf Links Road	188033.10	263097.92

Amenity/Facility	Location/Comment	GIS Reference	
		Easting	Northing
Walking Trails			
Suck Valley Way	Start at Athleague Visitor Centre	182738.70	257778.69
Síí na Sláinte Cloonfad	Start at Cloonfad Church	150396.78	270917.51
Síí na Sláinte Lough Key	Main Entrance	183912.20	302330.40
Síí na Sláinte Knockvickar Towpath	Start at East side of Knockvickar Bridge	187321.00	305574.00
Síí na Sláinte Strokestown	Start at Library	193235.00	280824.00
Síí na Sláinte Roscommon Town	Roscommon	187426.81	264621.86
Public Slipways			
Athlone		203642.00	241775.00
Ballyforan		181689.00	246346.00
Gailey Bay		195704.11	258631.30
Hodson Bay	At Hodson Bay Harbour	200873.31	246360.99
Portrunny Harbour		195996.51	260134.10
Coreenford	Between Ballinasloe & Shannon Bridge	190108.00	225722.00
Lanesborough		200575.00	269553.00
Kilglass	East side of Kilglass Lake	198003.00	284185.00

Amenity/Facility	Location/Comment	GIS Reference	
Public Slipways			
		Easting	Northing
Grange Lake, Roosky		195524.00	286008.00
Roosky Village	East side of Bridge	205351.00	286963.00
Cortober, Carrick on Shannon		193654.19	299217.58
Keadue	Lough Meelagh Amenity Area	189100.89	312406.31
Keadue	Knockranny Amenity Area	190171.00	311717.00
Cootehall	South of Bridge	189498.75	303576.24
Knockvicar	North of bridge	187264.00	305526.00
Rockingham	At Rockingham Harbour	184705.03	304044.05
Lanesborough		200575.00	269553.00
Tamonbarry	North of Bridge	205424.00	276912.00
Public Moorings & Piers			
Boyle Harbour	25 spaces	180914.58	303691.51
Lough Key	25 spaces	184738.52	304027.59
Cootehall	5 spaces	189484.09	303556.73
Carnadoe	5 spaces	200289.27	290237.96
Knockvicar Bridge	5 spaces	187264.00	305526.00
Roosky	32 Spaces	205359.01	286973.24

Amenity/Facility	Location/Comment	GIS Reference	
		Easting	Northing
Public Moorings & Piers			
Kilglass	10 spaces	198003.00	284185.00
Portrunny Harbour	12 spaces	196006.00	260155.00
Lecarrow Harbour	13 spaces	196617.15	255113.44
Hodson Bay	30 spaces	200876.80	246328.67
Lanesborough	6 spaces	200556.00	269474.00
Ballyleague	3 spaces	200477.00	269360.00
Tarmonbarry (South of Bridge)	10 spaces	205402.00	276767.00
Tarmonbarry (North of Bridge)	3 spaces	205466.00	277029.00
Tarmonbarry (at lock))	6 spaces	205376.00	276494.00
Waterways Service Blocks			
Boyle Harbour		180946.00	303699.00
Ballyleague		200470.29	269358.38
Portrunny		195967.96	260176.93
Angling Stands			
Cavetown Lake, Boyle	One wheelchair friendly stand	184019.00	297839.00
Castlecoote	Beside Castlecoote Stores	180812.00	262631.00
Stonams Lake	Castlecoote	179257.13	263813.07

Amenity/Facility	Location/Comment	GIS Reference	
		Easting	Northing
Angling Stands			
Cloonahoe Lake, Strokestown	3 custom wheelchair friendly stands	193422.32	289435.12
Lough na Blaithe, Strokestown (Grange Lake)	Four wheelchair friendly stands	195540.22	286015.35
River Lung, Aughalustia Bridge	One wheelchair friendly stand	165199.64	292928.20
River Suck Valley, Donamon	30 custom built stands	179837.86	264928.98
Lake O'Flynn, Ballinlough	Fishing pier	158539.42	278602.93
Big Meadow, Athlone	3 custom wheelchair friendly stands	203878.98	240191.84
Golden Mile, Athlone	3 custom wheelchair friendly stands to be constructed 2009	203520.34	241934.18
Barrymore		201855.24	245377.37

County Roscommon Childcare Facilities 2008

Name of Facility	Address	GIS Reference		Contact	Phone
		Eastings	Northing		
Community Sector Sessional Service					
Ardcarne Community Playschool	Cootehall NS, Cootehall, Boyle	189241.16	304509.88	Mary Kearns	071 9667140
Arigna Community Playschool	The Portacabin, Arigna	192898.17	314059.44	Sally Earley	086 8616286
Ballaghaderreen Childcare Centre	Convent Road, Ballaghaderreen	161624.86	294714.5	Mary Towey	094 9877982
Boyle Social Services Pre-School	The Crescent, Boyle	180259.05	302459.41	Margaret Curley	071 9662717
Bright Sparks Community Playgroup	Lisacul Community Centre, Lisacul, Castlereagh	158769.94	289318.64	Tara McGreal	087 7425952
Buttercups Community Playgroup	Tarmonbarry Lock, Tarmonbarry	205365.86	276544.51	Veronica Gorman	043 59767
Cam Community Pre-School	Cam, Brideswell, Athlone	193043.22	245033.09	Aidan Curley	090 6488388
Castlereagh Community Playschool	St Patricks Street, Castlereagh	167793.97	279486.49	Rachel Connolly	094 9620317
Elphin Community Playschool	New Line Rd, Elphin	187437.69	288317.43	Mary Rattigan	086 2567650
Hopes & Dreams Community Playschool	Ballyforan,	181948.16	246678.28	Anne Marie Hynes	090 6622914
Jack & Jill Community Playgroup	Ballinlough	158379.02	277102.28	Ruth Sullivan	086 3721446
Kilronan Community Playschool	Ballyfarnan, Boyle	187011.16	313202.09	Grainne Wallace	071 9647910
Mantua Community Playschool	c/o Mantua NS, Ballinagare, Castlereagh	179003.78	287799.13	Therese Rogers	071 9635598

Name of Facility	Address	GIS Reference		Contact	Phone
		Eastings	Northing		
Community Sector Sessional Service					
Monksland Afterschool Club	Monksland Community Centre, Monksland	201249.61	241471.58	Lorraine Gilligan	086 8442689
Nursery Thymes Community Pre-School	Cloonfad, Ballyhaunis	150352.58	270932.94	Karen Ronan	086 8432862
Roscommon Community Playgroup	Henry Street, Roscommon	187309.21	264115.24	Jackie Hickey	090 6627208
Slatta Community Playgroup	Slatta, Kilglass	201378.86	282974.69	Deirdre Duffy	071 9638818
Sliabh Ban Community Playgroup	Clooncagh, Strokestown	193197.74	274025.34	Leonie Gibbons	086 1926947
St Johns Community Pre-School	Lecarrow, Knockcroghery	197316.41	254710.13	Breda Keenan	087 2654651
Strokestown Community Playschool	Community Centre, Strokestown	192769.65	280866.72	Patricia Duignan	071 9634785
The Fairy Bush Community Pre-school	Croghan, Boyle	185676.86	295392.51	Katrina Gately	071 9668400
Toddle In Community Childcare Centre	Loughglynn, Castlerea	163370.32	285912.37	Mairead Woods	087 6389809
Tulsk Community Childcare	St Fildema's, Corbally, Tulsk	184137.24	280455.66	Darena Hanly	086 3415662
Community Sector Full Day Care Service					
All Stars Creche	READ Centre, Lisnamult, Roscommon	186950.1	263656.46	Tom Costello	090 6626151
Four Mile House Community Playschool	Four Mile House	186408.22	272667.68	Karen Feerick	090 6629844

Name of Facility	Address	GIS Reference		Contact	Phone
Community Sector Sessional & Full Day Care Service					
Absolute Beginners	Frenchpark Childcare Care, Frenchpark	173087.85	290871.71	Breda Joyce	094 9870111
Greenfields Childcare & Montessori	Lisnamult Community Centre, Lisnamult, Roscommon	186708.98	263513.06	Anthony Doolin	090 6626152
Other Sectors Sessional Service					
ABC Pre-School	Antogher Road, Roscommon	187497.55	263439.19	Joan Moran	090 6626889
Ballagh Montessori Pre-School	Culleen Hall, Knockcroghery	195073.75	256825.42	Ellen Kenny	090 6488416
Christina Frayne	Roskey	204870.86	286933.51	Christina Frayne	071 9638072
Derrane Playschool	Derrane	189925.97	267903.25	Elaine Garvey	087 2790034
Eileen's Pre-School Playgroup	Falty, Oldtown, Athlone	195133.7	229299.91	Eileen Murray	090 9673488
Geraldine's Pre-School	Cooley, Fuerty, Castlecoote	181202.11	262829.46	Geraldine Mullen	090 6637946
Happylands Playschool	21 Millcross Road, Bealnamulla, Athlone	199406.97	241998.41	Mary Lee	090 6444708
Kiltoom Playgroup	Carrowloughan, Kiltoom, Athlone	196248.69	247194.98	Blaithin Kenny	090 6489263
Lean ar Aghaidh	Bros of Charity, Roxboro, Roscommon	189579.04	266304.72	Gabrielle Barrett	090 6625826
Linda Madden Pre-School	12 Antogher Road, Roscommon	187383.47	263508.45	Linda Madden	090 6625618
Little Peoples Place	Clonark, Cornafulla, Athlone	198343.00	235531.77	Helen Glynn	090 6437914

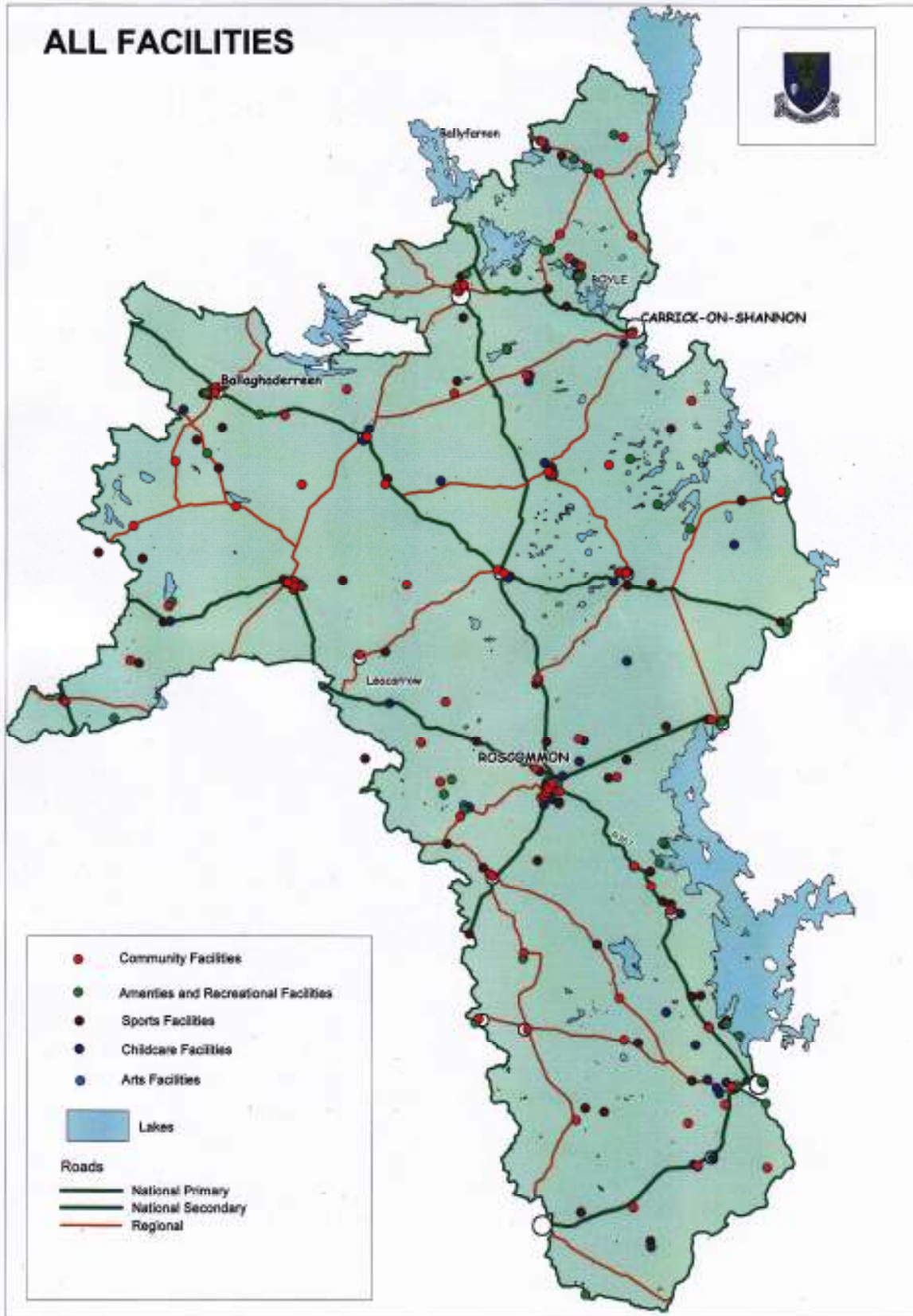
Name of Facility	Address	GIS Reference		Contact	Phone
		Easting	Northing		
Other Sectors Sessional Service					
Little Rascals Playschool	Galway Road, Roscommon	186878.43	262997.75	Catherine Mullaney	090 6626762
Naionra Realta Geala	Community Centre, Drum, Athlone	200787.75	240095.57	Catherine Seery	086 0641910
O'Reilly Pre-School	Monksland, Athlone	201560.98	241347.57	Patricia O'Reilly	090 6494858
Right Start Montessori	Curraghmore, Kiltoom, Athlone	198477.52	244666.95	Marian Colgan	090 6446028
Rinn Dun Montessori School	St Johns Community. Centre, Lecarrow	196567.09	254923.26	Mary McCormack	090 6661715
Siamsa Resource Centre	Bros of Charity, The Demesne, Frenchpark	173520.45	291787.57	Gabrielle Barrett	094 9870203
Tir na nOg Pre-School	Islawn, Ballaghadereen	159392.03	293318.16	Eileen O'Grady Jordan	094 9861387
Other Sectors Full Day Care Service					
Chatterland Creche	Palace Walk, Elphin	186915.47	289151.66	Aine Hanly Wynne	071 9630923
Country Kids Creche	Ballycahir, Ballintubber, Castlerea	175095.22	270800.06	Mary J Cuddy	086 2028771
Cuddles & Care	Cloonfad, Ballyhaunis	150203.85	271104.51	Joelyn Keane	094 9646246
Grovelands Childcare	Corran Riada, Monksland, Athlone	200114.12	241367.58	Regina Bushell	090 6496177
Hollyhocks Creche	Cloonslanor, Strokestown	192183.55	280104.78	Helen Cosgrove	087 6995548
Kids Klub	Monksland Village, Athlone	200327.89	240948.56	Karen Derwin	090 6493027

Name of Facility	Address	GIS Reference	Contact	Phone
Other Sectors Full Day Care Service				
Millmount Childcare	Sli an Coiste, Old Tuam Rd, Athlone, Co Ros	200857.44	Deborah Downes	090 6496429
Nurtures Best	Tarmonbarry	205320.34	Carolin Callery	043 59818
Tangier Tots	Tangier House, Boyle	180290.28	Michelle McGrath	071 9664563
The Playhouse	7 The Wells, Cortober, Carrick on Shannon	192927.70	Breda Durr	071 9621962
Tir na nOg Creche	Cluain Fraoigh, Lanesboro Rd, Roscommon	188299.39	Mairead Ryan	090 6634950
Wonderyears Creche	Cornafulla, Athlone	199805.11	Margaret Crehan	090 6437267

Section 2 – Facilities Maps

All Facilities
Arts Facilities
Community Facilities
Sports Facilities
Amenity & Recreational Facilities
Childcare Facilities

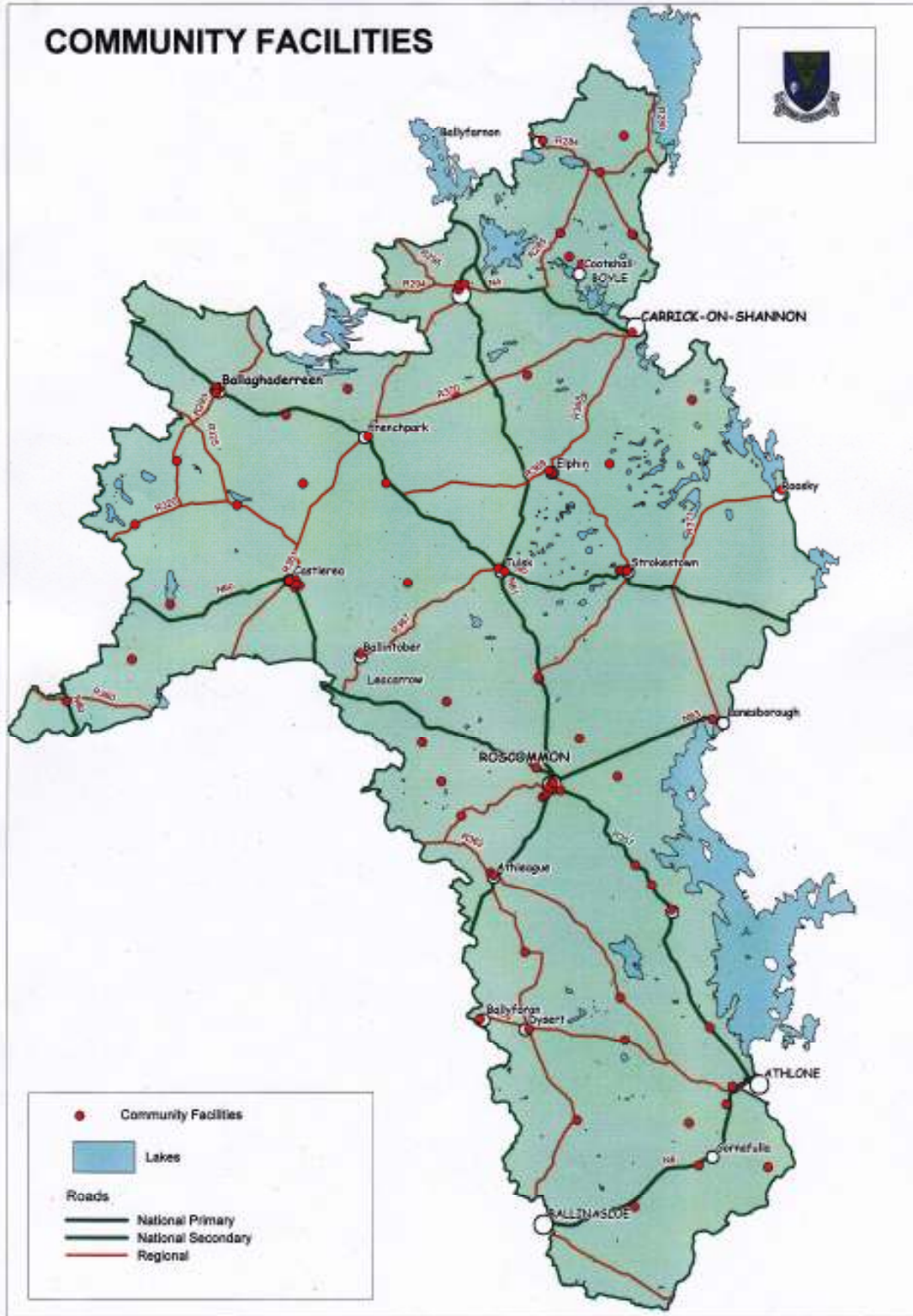
ALL FACILITIES



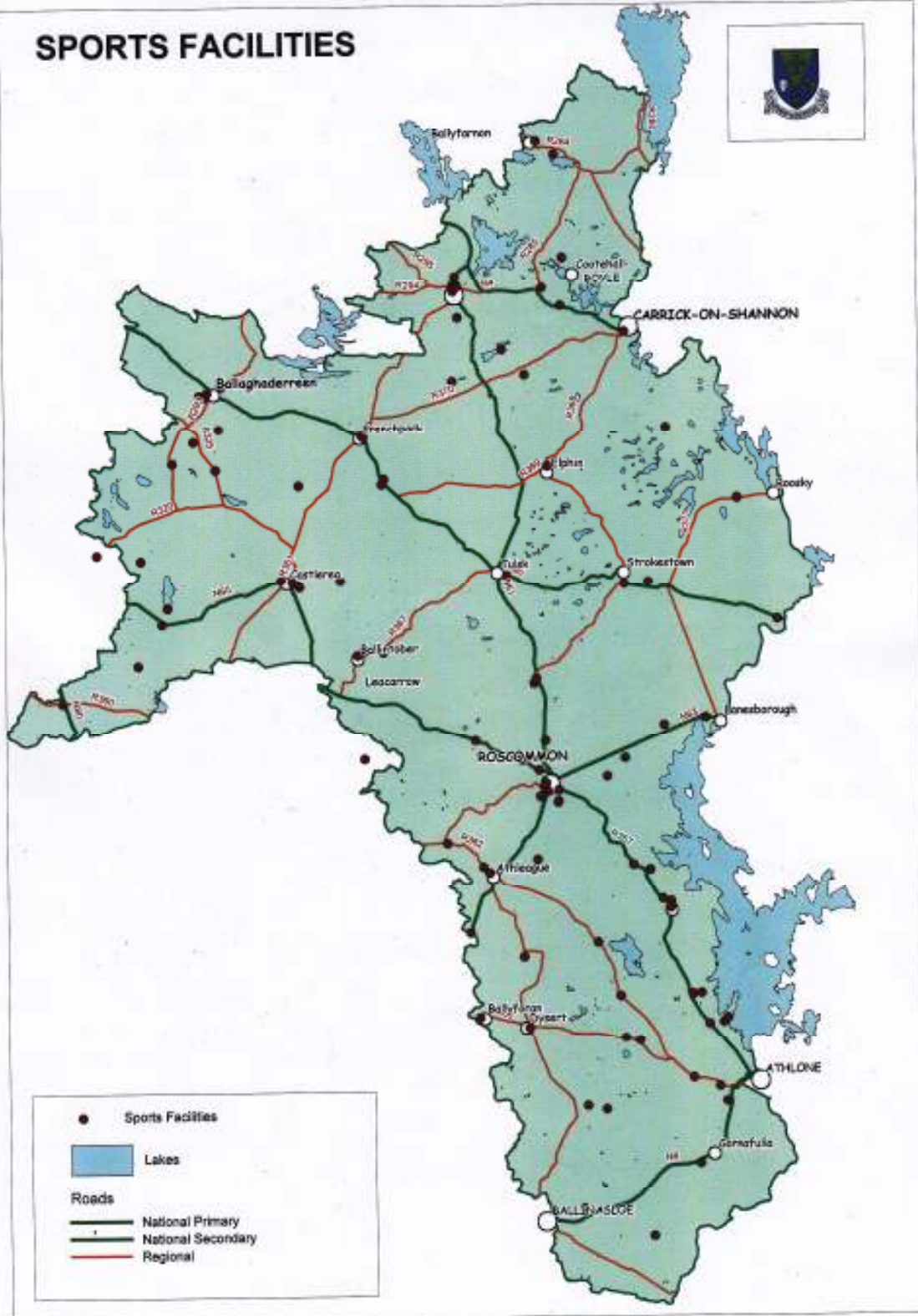
ARTS FACILITIES



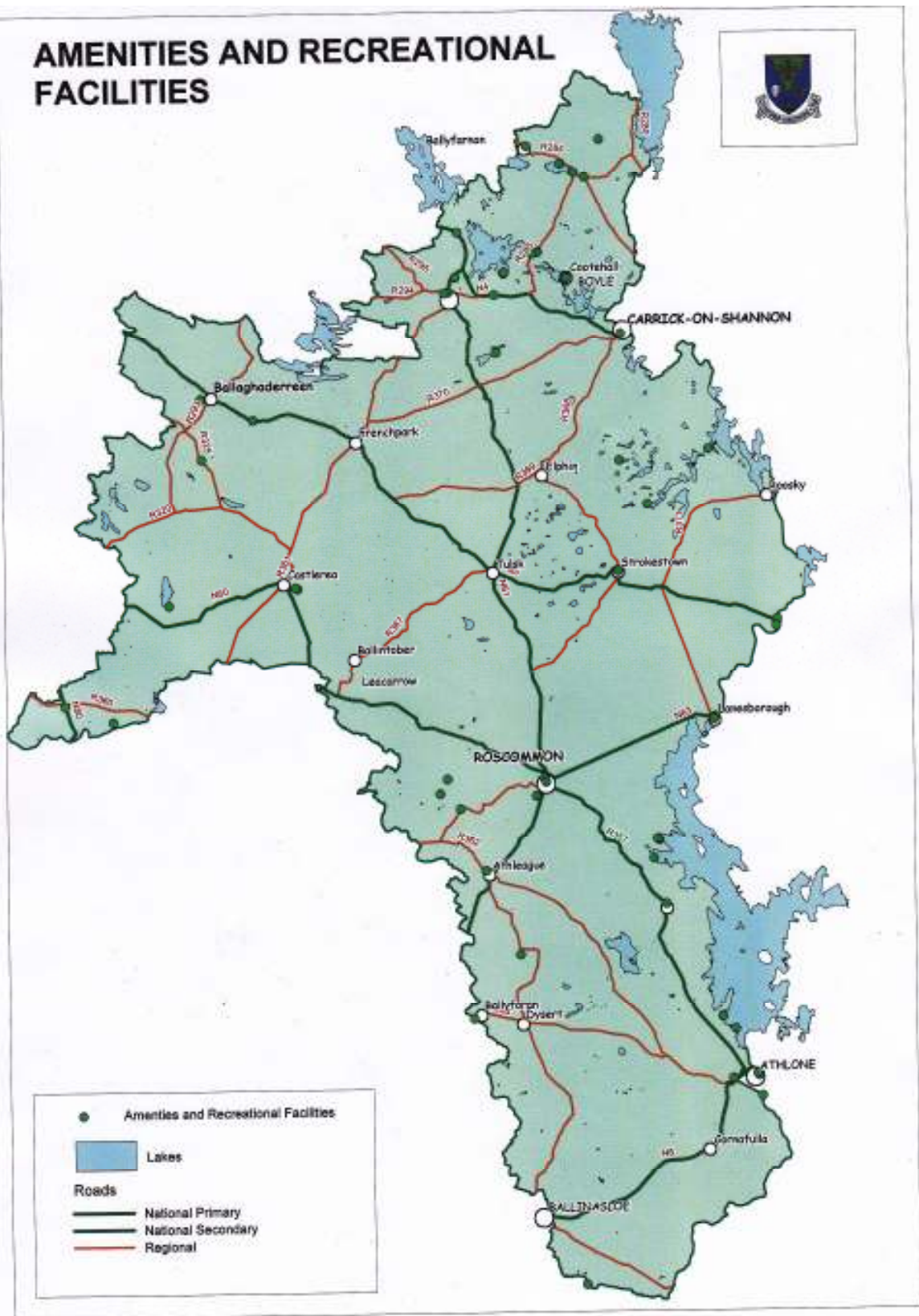
COMMUNITY FACILITIES



SPORTS FACILITIES



AMENITIES AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES



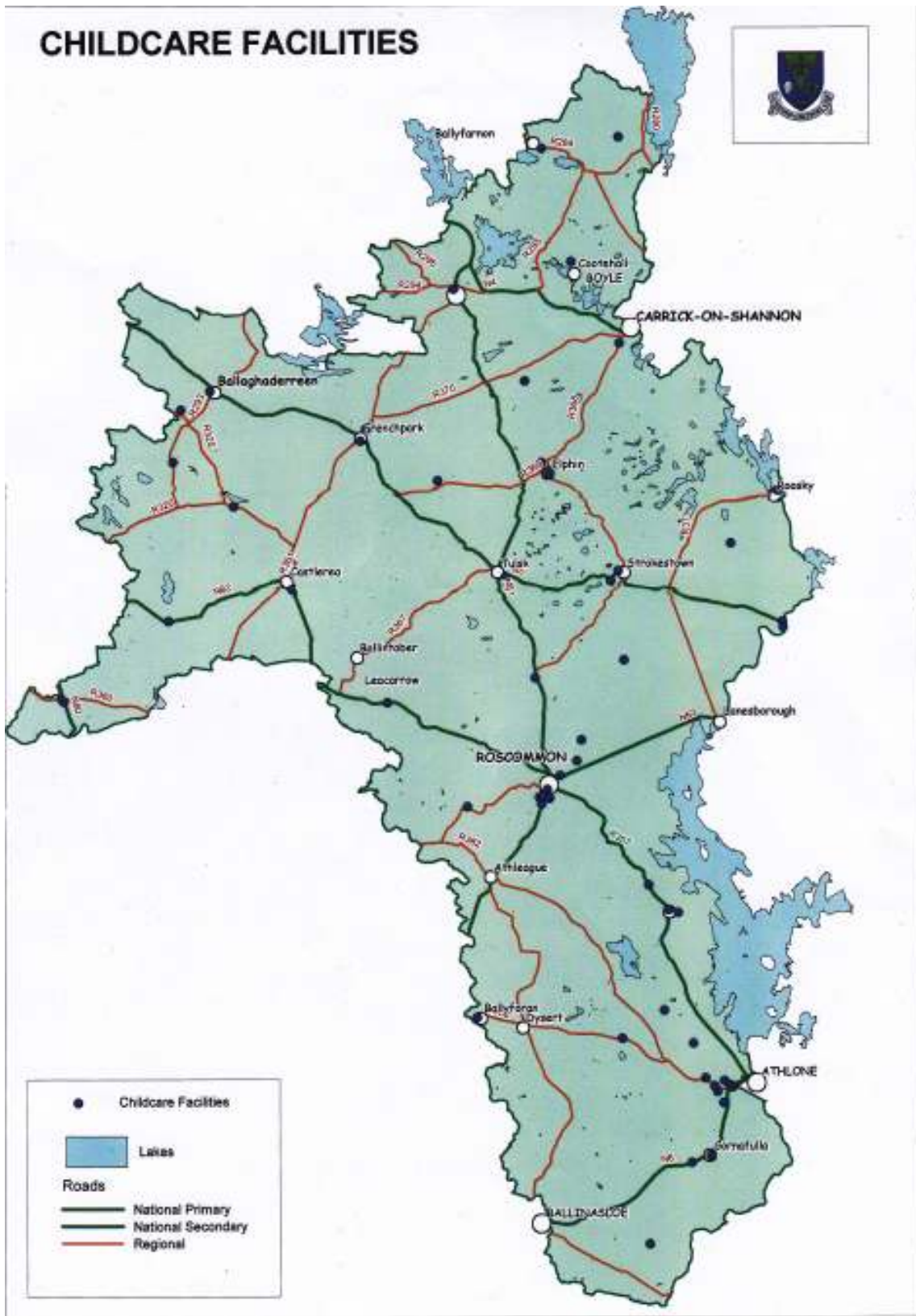
● Amenities and Recreational Facilities

■ Lakes

Roads

- National Primary
- National Secondary
- Regional

CHILDCARE FACILITIES



Section 3 – Community Facilities Surveys 2007 & 2008

Community Facilities in County Roscommon Report of Audit Findings 2007 & 2008

Howard Preston MSc
February 2009

North & South Roscommon Community Fora

1.0 Context

This report incorporates the combined results of two audits of community facilities conducted by North & South Roscommon Community Fora (RCF).

The first audit took place during late 2006 to mid 2007 and was a commitment made by RCF under Roscommon County Development Board's Strategic Plan 2001 – 2006. The purpose of the audit was to provide information to help the Fora build a clearer picture of the current range of buildings and facilities available to communities and to identify any related issues which the Fora might be able to assist in addressing.

The second audit of community facilities was carried out during the latter half of 2008 and formed part of the initiative by Government to audit arts, community and sports facilities nationally. Much of the data obtained in the 2008 audit was new and served to complement that obtained in the first study.

2.0 Methodology

2.1 2006 - 2007 Audit

2.1.1 Sampling

It was planned initially to survey all community owned and/or operated buildings in the county which provided facilities, and possibly services, to individuals, community and local interest groups & organisations for any purpose whatsoever.

In order to identify buildings and their operators a sampling frame was constructed using the following sources of information:

- Member databases of the North Roscommon Community Forum (NRCF) and South Roscommon Community Forum (SRCF)
- Members of the executive of both Fora
- Area representatives of South Roscommon Community Forum
- Database of the Roscommon Partnership Company
- Parish priests and presbytery staff
- Golden Pages listings

During the compilation of the sampling frame it was apparent that the initial terms of reference would result in an audit involving a large number of structures and would be beyond the resources available to the Community Fora, and a narrower definition of the buildings to be surveyed was required.

It was decided to restrict the audit to those halls & centres which were used by their support communities for a mix of social, recreational and/or sports purposes. This definition included those centres which involved an element of service delivery for users which extended beyond merely providing space, such as care for older people, childcare, fitness club etc. As a consequence the following types of community owned and/or operated buildings and facilities were not included in the survey:

- Buildings and facilities used exclusively for sports activities by sports clubs such as GAA, soccer, golf, tennis clubs. Such buildings are the subject of research by county Sports Partnerships
- Buildings with broad public access but primarily accommodating office and other facilities related to a specific type of service delivery such as Citizen Information Centres, MABS, counselling services etc
- Dedicated childcare centres
- Enterprise centres dedicated solely to the provision of space only for rent
- Horticultural enterprises

2.1.2 Data Collection

A self-administered questionnaire was designed to collect the data and a final version was approved for use by the Fora management team following a number of revisions.

The bulk of the questionnaires were mailed out along with a covering letter and a stamped addressed envelope in which to return completed questionnaires and a smaller number (ca 15%) of questionnaires were distributed and collected by hand by a number of the SRCF area representatives.

The questionnaire contained seventeen questions designed to record information on a range of indicators which were grouped into four sections as follows:

Section 1 - Structures

- Age, size and condition of the building/s
- Facilities available – internal and outdoors
- Access and provision for people with physical or sensory impairment

Section 2 – Activities & Services for Young People

- Services and activities available for young children, teens and adults
- Frequency of service provision
- Number of service users
- Usage by people from socially excluded groups

Section 3 – Activities & Services for Adults

- Services and activities available for adults
- Frequency of service provision
- Number of service users
- Usage by people from socially excluded groups¹

Section 4 – Operations

- Ownership of the building

¹ Social Exclusion is defined as the 'cumulative marginalisation from production (unemployment), from consumption (poverty), from social networks (community, family and neighbours), from decision making and from an adequate quality of life'. NDP 2000 - 2006

- Legal form of organisation operating the building/s
- Numbers of paid staff and volunteers involved in operating facilities and services
- Approximate annual operating cost
- Sources of income to cover operating costs
- Issues and challenges facing the respondent organisation over the next decade in continuing to operate facilities & services

The majority of the questionnaire comprised multiple choice tick box style questions with only two questions which were completely open ended.

The initial return rate of completed questionnaires was poor (33%) which necessitated a series of follow up phone calls, and about half of those contacted needed a second questionnaire posted to them. Ultimately 10% of groups and organisations failed to return questionnaires despite a number of calls made to the members of the management committees concerned.

2.1.3 Data Analysis & Presentation

The survey data were entered onto MS Excel spreadsheets with one line for each respondent and a one column for each response according to the coding scheme used in the questionnaire. Responses to open ended questions were categorised, assigned codes and entered on to a spreadsheet. Data were analysed using univariate methods and involved the use of frequency tables, histograms and pie charts to represent the distribution of variables.

2.2 2006 - 2007 Audit

2.2.1 Sampling

The terms of reference for the national audit of community facilities specified that all community owned and/or operated facilities within County Roscommon should be included in the sample which met the following definition:

"any indoor building, or part thereof, which allows individuals to engage in active citizenship and where people gather to engage in voluntary activities of a civic or recreational nature with a view to creating a sense of community"

Facilities were identified using the following sources of information:

- Those identified in the first audit undertaken in 2006 – 2007
- Member databases of the North and South Roscommon Community Fora
- Members of the executive of both North and South Roscommon Community Fora
- Members of community & voluntary groups affiliated to the two Roscommon Fora
- Parish priests and presbytery staff

2.2.2 Data Collection

The audit involved the use of a self-administered questionnaire and a site visit to each facility to photograph it and map its GIS location. The questionnaire used was derived from a template provided by Government with a number of extra questions added following discussion with staff from Community and Enterprise section of Roscommon County Council.

The final version of the questionnaire contained twenty one questions grouped into four sections to as follows:

Section 1 – Contact Information

Section 2 – Ownership and Management

- Ownership of the facilities
- Opening hours
- Supervision procedures
- Cleaning and maintenance arrangements
- Types of insurance covers

Section 3 – Description of Facilities

- Availability of AV & ICT equipment
- Seating capacity of meeting rooms
- Parking facilities available
- Access to public or rural transport services

Section 4 – Users of Facilities

- Availability of discounts for users on low incomes
- Whether diversity of users was monitored
- The nature of policies and procedures in place
- Accessibility for people with disabilities

Questionnaires were mailed out along with a covering letter (Appendix 4) and a stamped addressed envelope for the return of completed questionnaires. A series of follow up phone calls were made to those organisations who failed to return completed questionnaires by the date advised in the covering letter.

Each site was visited and photographed and its location mapped using GPS technology and used to derive eight digit Easting and Northing Ordnance Survey references in respect of each facility.

2.2.3 Data Analysis & Presentation

The survey data were entered onto MS Excel spreadsheets with one line for each respondent and a one column for each response according to the coding scheme used in the questionnaire.

Data were analysed using univariate methods and involved the use of frequency tables, histograms and pie charts to represent the distribution of variables.

Photographs were edited and sized to accommodate eight prints per A4 sheet and titled.

3.0 Buildings Surveyed

A total of sixty two community facilities were identified during the first audit in 2006 - 2007 and completed questionnaires were returned in respect of forty eight (76%) of these facilities.

A total of eighty six facilities were identified during the 2008 audit and sixty completed questionnaires were received, representing a rate of return of 70%. The additional twenty four facilities identified in the second audit were the result of a combination of the inclusion of facilities missed in the first audit, establishment of new facilities subsequent to the conclusion of the first study and definitional differences between the two studies.

The eighty six community facilities identified as a result of both audits are listed in Table 3.1. The table also records the Forum area in which each facility is located, whether a completed questionnaire was received in respect of each of the two audits as well as the GIS references for each facility. Those not identified or surveyed in the 2006/7 audit are marked as "not incl".

Table 3.1 Community Facilities: 2006-2007 and 2008 Audits

Name of Facility	06/07 Data Returned	08 Data Returned	North Forum Area	South Forum Area	GIS Reference Easting	GIS Reference Northing
Angling Visitor & Conference Centre, Athleague	✓	✓		●	182744.15	257773.86
Arigna Community Centre	x	x	●		192916.03	314073.03
Athleague Community Centre	✓	✓		●	182984.97	257576.73
Aughrim/Kilmore Community Centre	✓	✓	●		198109.77	293912.96
Ballinameen Community Centre	✓	x	●		180022.81	294494.47
Ballinagare Community Centre	x	✓	●		174757.12	287565.66
Ballinaheglish Community Centre	✓	✓		●	179376.10	270912.12
Ballintubber Community Centre	not incl	x	●		172793.14	274531.22
Ballintubber Parish Hall	not incl	x	●		172840.99	274528.40
Ballyfarnon Community Centre	✓	✓	●		186720.47	313718
Ballyforan Community Centre	✓	✓		●	181948.16	246678.28
Ballyleague Community Centre	✓	✓	●		199686.78	269548.03
Boyle Community Centre	✓	✓	●		180294.30	302338.79
Callow Community Centre, Frenchpark	✓	x	●		171832.63	294816.5
Castlerea Youth Information Centre	x	x	●		168140.87	279740.07

Table 3.1 Community Facilities: 2006-2007 and 2008 Audits continued

Name of Facility	06/07 Data Returned	08 Data Returned	North Forum Area	South Forum Area	GIS Reference Easting	GIS Reference Northing
Cam Community Centre	x	✓		●	193043.22	245033.09
Clann na Gael GAA Club, Drum	✓	✓		●	198699.15	235424.78
Clonown Community Centre	x	✓		●	203984.37	235285.43
Cloonfad Community Centre	x	x	●		150352.58	270932.94
Clooneycolgan Community Centre, Donamon	✓	✓		●	177499.47	267739.25
Co Roscommon Disability Support Group, Derrane	not incl	✓		●	189517.68	268042.62
Cootehall Parish Hall	✓	x	●		189686.07	304282.62
Creeve Community Centre, Elphin	✓	✓	●		191813.23	288982.81
Croghan Community Centre	✓	✓	●		185538.97	295845.28
Crossna Community Centre, Knockvicar	✓	✓	●		188063.05	306696.84
Cruachain Ai Centre, Tulsk	not incl	✓	●		183328.81	281049.22
Cuan Aire Resource Centre, Castlerea	not incl	✓	●		167786.07	279552.87
Cuisle Centre, Donamon	not incl	✓		●	178983.73	264744.13
Culleen Hall, Knockcroghery	✓	✓		●	195073.75	256825.42
Curraghboy Community Centre	✓	✓		●	192675.00	248252.00
Drum Community Sports & Social Centre	✓	✓		●	200787.75	240095.57
Drumboylan Resource Centre	✓	✓	●		193545.06	306598.28
Drumboylan Parish Centre	not incl	✓	●		193636.20	306554.72
D'Umbrella Youth Café, Elphin	not incl	✓	●		187208.81	288471.90
Dun Maeve Centre, Strokestown	✓	✓	●		192568.06	280854.50
Dysart Community Centre	✓	✓		●	185697.52	245894.24
Elphin Sports & Social Centre	✓	✓	●		187437.69	288317.43

Table 3.1 Community Facilities: 2006-2007 and 2008 Audits continued

Name of Facility	06/07 Data Returned	08 Data Returned	North Forum Area	South Forum Area	GIS Reference Easting	GIS Reference Northing
Fairymount Community Centre	✓	x	●		168396.98	287543.22
Family Institute, Ballaghderreen	✓	x	●		162070.86	294954.34
Family Life Centre, Boyle	✓	✓	●		180362.53	302723.23
Frenchpark Parish Hall	x	x	●		173371.01	291153.46
Gortaganny Resource Centre	✓	x	●		155566.82	284439.63
Granlahan Community Centre	✓	x	●		155325.40	274113.50
Hyde Centre, Roscommon Town	x	x		●	188096.70	264043.87
Kilbride Community Centre	✓	✓	●		186449.65	272639.31
Kilbride Community House	not incl	✓	●		186365.00	272680.00
Kilbride Parish Room	not incl	✓	●		186441.77	272556.40
Kilmurray Hall, Castleplunkett	✓	✓	●		176401.45	279888.50
Kilteevan Community Centre	x	✓		●	192435.07	265114.44
Kiltoom Hall	✓	✓		●	199531.75	246024.61
Knockcroghery Community Centre	x	✓		●	193813.44	258339.88
Lisacul Community Centre	✓	x	●		158769.94	289318.64
Lisnamult Community Centre	✓	✓		●	186708.98	263513.06
Loughglynn Community Centre	✓	x	●		163370.32	285912.37
Macra Hall, Tulsk	✓	✓	●		183810.30	280813.88
Melting Pot, Roscommon Town	not incl	x		●	187413.74	264723.22
Michael Glavey's Community Centre, Ballinlough	✓	✓	●		158270.11	278282.93
Monksland Community Centre	x	✓		●	201249.61	241471.58
Moore Hall, Ballydangan	✓	✓		●	193766.01	232223.22

Table 3.1 Community Facilities: 2006-2007 and 2008 Audits continued

Name of Facility	06/07 Data Returned	08 Data Returned	North Forum Area	South Forum Area	GIS Reference Easting	GIS Reference Northing
Neighbourhood Youth Project, Boyle	not incl	✓	●		180759.75	302777.44
Neighbourhood Youth Project, Castlerea	✓	✓	●		167837.62	279833.21
NW Community Development Project, Ballaghaderreen	not incl	✓	●		161834.84	294903.06
O'Rourke Centre, Castlerea	x	x	●		167839.96	280165.12
Patrician Hall, Carrick on Shannon	x	✓	●		193563.24	299052.37
Phoenix Youth Centre, Ballaghderreen	not incl	✓	●		161932.08	294970.12
Roosky Community Centre	x	x	●		204942.73	287006.47
Roscommon Education & Development Centre, Roscommon	x	x		●	186950.10	263656.46
Roscommon Lions Club Youth Project, Roscommon	x	x		●	187468.38	264210.12
Roscommon Traveller Development Group, Roscommon	✓	✓		●	187525.27	264642.28
Roscommon Women's Network, Castlerea	not incl	✓	●		167352.78	280108.82
Roscommon Youth Information Centre, Roscommon	not incl	x		●	187228.20	264241.92
Royal Oak Parish Hall, Ballaghderreen	✓	✓	●		161803.71	294573.71
St John's Community Centre, Lecarrow	✓	✓		●	196567.09	254923.26
St Kieran's Community Centre, Castlecoote	✓	✓		●	180522.59	262128.04
St Michaels Community Centre, Cootehall	✓	✓	●		188751.14	304871.94
St Ronan's Hall, Keadue	x	✓	●		191092.75	311316.78
Social Enterprise Centre, Ballaghderreen	✓	x	●		161782.45	294934.06
South Roscommon Community Forum, Roscommon Town	not incl	✓		●	187097.05	263920.72
Strokestown Community Centre	✓	x	●		193194.67	280953.07
Strokestown Church Hall	not incl	✓	●		192769.65	280866.72
Taughmaconnell Community Centre	x	✓		●	189375.14	238883.22

Table 3.1 Community Facilities: 2006-2007 and 2008 Audits continued

Name of Facility	06/07 Data Returned	08 Data Returned	North Forum Area	South Forum Area	GIS Reference Easting	GIS Reference Northing
The Hub, Strokestown	not incl	x	●		193094.09	280821.25
Tibohine Community Centre	✓	✓	●		167113.42	292843.59
Tisara Community Centre	✓	✓		●	185378.47	251700.67
Vita House, Roscommon Town	not incl	✓		●	187230.19	264285.73
Youth Reach Ballaghadereen	not incl	x	●		161621.43	294734.85
Youth Reach Roscommon	not incl	x		●	186232.18	265755.59
Totals			54	33		

4.0 Survey Findings

4.1 Spatial Distribution

Mapping the locations of individual facilities revealed a fairly even pattern of distribution across the county, with clusters (three or more buildings) in the towns of Ballaghderreen and Roscommon (Map 1).

Of the 87 buildings identified countywide, 54 (62%) were located within the North Roscommon Community Forum (NRCF) area and 33 (38%) buildings were located in the South Roscommon Community Forum (SRCF) area. At Electoral Division level, buildings were located 32 of the 74 EDs (43%) making up the NRCF whilst 21 of the 38 EDs (55%) in the SRCF area had one or more buildings located within their boundary.

Electoral Division	Number of Buildings
028 Ballyfarnan	1
031 Boyle Urban	3
033 Cloonteen	1
035 Croghan	1
037 Danesfort	1
039 Keadew	1
041 Kilcolagh	1
047 Lough Allen	1
049 Oakport	2
053 Tumna North	2
054 Tumna South	1
055 Artagh North	1
056 Artagh South	1
057 Ballaghaderreen	5
058 Ballinlough	1
059 Ballintober	2
061 Bellanagare	1
062 Buckill	1
064 Castleplunket	1
065 Castlereaugh	4
070 Fairymount	1

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

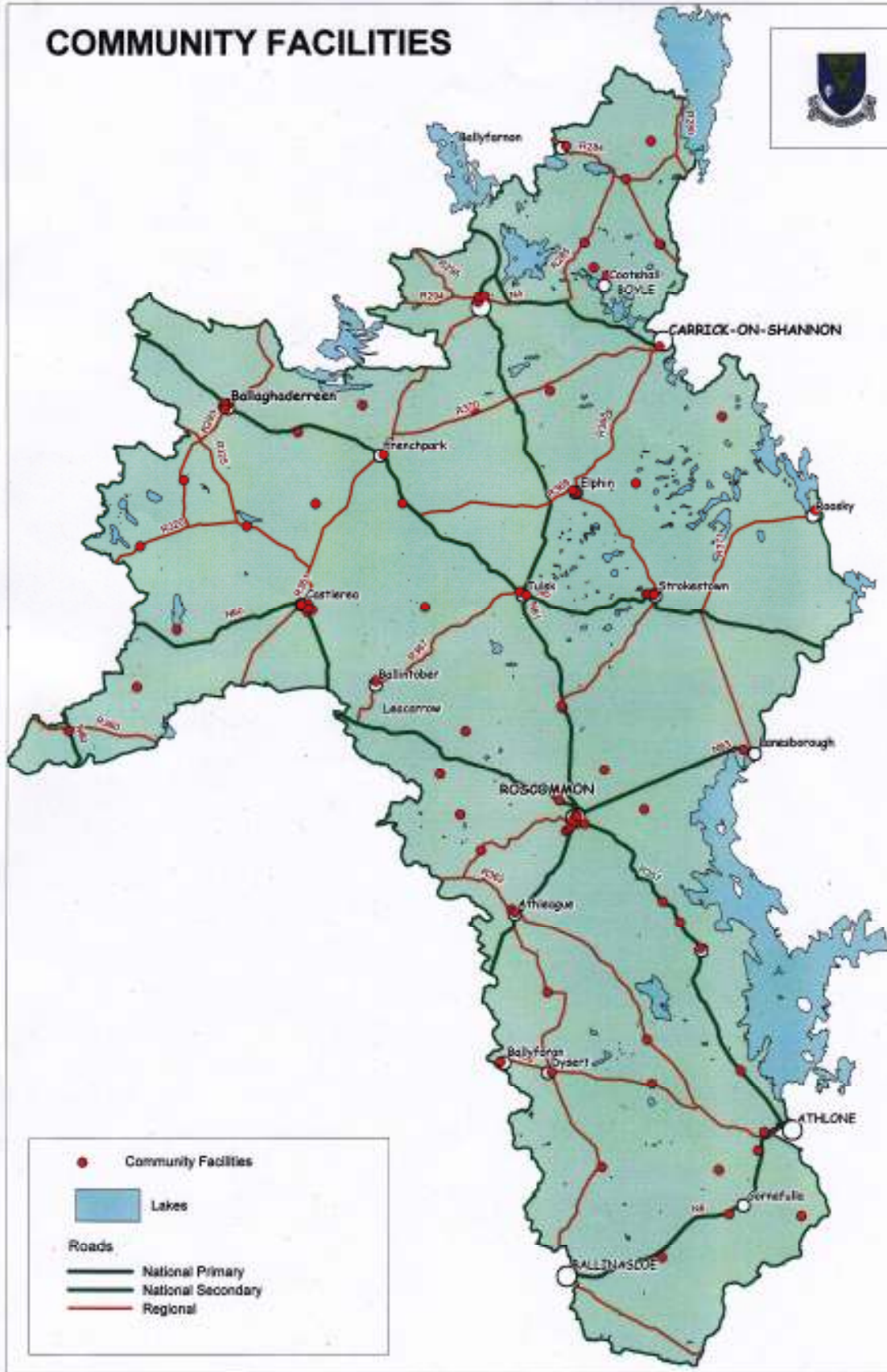


Table 4.1 NRCF Area - Community Buildings Location by Electoral Division

Electoral Division	Number of Buildings
071 Frenchpark	2
073 Loughglynn	1
072 Kiltullagh	2
081 Cloontuskert	1
084 Creeve	1
089 Elphin	2
092 Kilbride South	3
103 Ogulla	3
104 Roosky	1
110 Strokestown	5
Total of 32 Electoral Divisions	54

Table 4.2 SRCF Area - Community Buildings Location by Electoral Division

Electoral Division	Number of Buildings
001 Athlone West Rural	3
002 Ballydangan	1
003 Ballynamona	1
006 Carrowreagh	1
009 Cloonown	1
010 Crannagh	1
013 Drumlosh	1
016 Kiltoom	1
017 Lecarrow	1
019 Rockhill	1
020 Taghboy	1
023 Turrock	1

Table 4.2 SRCF Area - Community Buildings Location by Electoral Division

Electoral Division	Number of Buildings
076 Athleague West	2
082 Cloonygormican	1
087 Dunamon	2
090 Fuerty	1
098 Kiltreevan	2
099 Lackan	1
102 Mote	1
105 Roscommon Rural	5
106 Roscommon Urban	4
Total of 21 Electoral Divisions	33

4.2 Characteristics of the Facilities

4.2.1 Building Ownership and Age

Out of the 60 responses received 68% of respondents reported owning the building, and the remainder reported that they leased the building/s they operated. Almost two thirds (63%) of the buildings surveyed were 26 years old or over with the majority (80%) of these aged 50 years or older (Table 4.3)

Table 4.3 Age of Buildings Surveyed (n = 61)

Age	%
Under Construction	2
5 yrs old or less	4
6-10 yrs	4
11-25 yrs	27
26-50 yrs	15
>50 yrs	48

4.2.2 Condition of the Buildings

The 2007 Audit found that four in five (82%) buildings were reported as being in a good or very good condition. The majority (83%) of the remaining buildings were reported as being in a usable condition, but needed varying amounts of renovation work to make them fully functional (Table 4.4). Refurbishment work was reported to be in progress on three community centres.

The second audit found similar result with 87% of respondents describing the condition of the facilities as good or better.

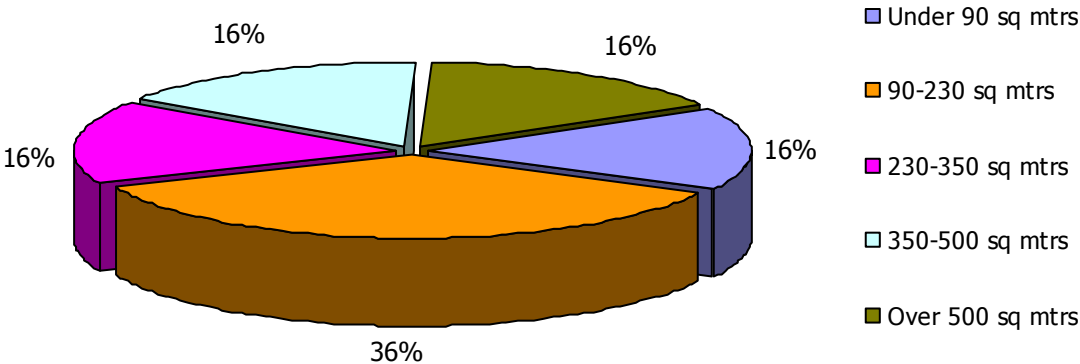
Table 4.4 Condition of the Buildings Surveyed (n =54)

Condition	%
In very good condition & regularly maintained	52
In good condition but in need of some maintenance	30
In a usable condition but in need of some renovation	11
In a usable condition but in need of extensive renovation	4
In a very poor condition & unusable	3

4.2.3 Size of the Buildings Surveyed

Half (52%) of all the buildings had a floor area of less than 230m² (2500 ft²). A third were between 230 - 500m² (2500 - 5500 ft²) and 16% had a floor area exceeding 500 m² (5500 ft²) (Figure 3)

Figure 3: Distribution of Floor Area of Buildings (n=50)



4.2.4 Accessibility of Buildings for People with Disabilities

In relation to the access of the buildings by people with physical disability, the 2007 study found only one in three (35%) reported that they were fully accessible throughout, and a further 59% reported that part of the building was accessible (Table 4.5).

Table 4.5 Disabled Access Status of the Buildings Surveyed 2007 (n =49)

Access Status	%
Fully	36
Partially	59
Not Accessible	5

One in four buildings were reported as fully suitable for use by people with some form of sensory impairment, whilst over one third (36%) were described as not suitable (Table 4.6).

Table 4.6 Suitability of Buildings for People with Sensory Impairment 2007 (n =47)

Level of Suitability	%
Fully	25
Partially	39
Not Suitable	36

The 2008 study asked respondents whether or not their facilities were accessible in relation to three categories of impairment – sensory, mental/intellectual and mobility (Table 4.7)

Table 4.7 Accessibility of Buildings for People with Disabilities 2008 (n =47)

Disability	% Yes	% No
Sensory	57	43
Mental/Intellectual	53	47
Mobility	68	32

4.2.4 Access to Facilities via Public or Rural Transport Services

One in two (51%) of 59 respondents reported that their facilities were located on or close to a public or rural transport route.

4.3 Facilities Provided

4.3.1 Indoor Facilities

The most frequently reported facilities within the buildings surveyed (excluding toilets) were kitchen and meeting facilities. The seating capacity of meeting facilities ranged from 10 to 250 people with over half (54%) reported as having the capacity to seat more than 50 people (Figure 4.8).

Seating Capacity	% Buildings
1 - 25	24
26 - 50	22
51 - 75	15
75 - 100	13
101 – 200	22
>200	4

Whilst facilities related to sports activities were reported in almost half of all buildings, 8% of them had no changing facilities and 16% had no showers. Childcare facilities were available in one in four (27%) of the buildings (Table 4.9).

Facility	No of Times Cited	% Buildings
Toilets	53	99
Kitchen	46	86
Meeting Room/s	43	78
Dining Area	28	51
Office/s	26	49
Social Area/Rest Room	25	47
Sports Hall	25	47
Changing Rooms	22	41
Showers	20	37

Table 4.9 Indoor Facilities Provided continued

Facility	No of Times Cited	% Buildings
Childcare Facilities	14	27
Training Room/s	13	25
Workspace to Rent	10	19
Gymnasium	4	8
Other - General Purpose Room x 2, Dance Studio x 1 - Counselling Rooms x 1.	4	

4.3.2 Availability of AV Equipment & Information & Communication Technologies

Three in five (61%) respondents reported having some form of audio visual (AV) equipment (eg flip chart, projector, TV, video DVD player) available on their premises.

Just under half (48%) reported having one or more computers within their building and three quarters (77%) of this group also had access to broadband. Almost 2 in five respondents (37%) of had neither AV or computer equipment on their premises (Table 4.10)

Table 4.10 Availability of Audio-Visual Equipment & ICT (n = 54)

Facility	No of Times Cited	%
Flip Chart & Easel	22	61
TV/Video/DVD	21	
Projector	19	
White/blackboard	11	
Computer/s	26	48
Broadband	20	37
No AV equipment or ICT	20	37

4.3.3 Outdoor Facilities

Excluding car parks, half (49%) of all respondents reported having some type of outdoor facilities, either on the same site or adjacent to, the respondent organisation's building/s. The most frequently cited facilities were sports related and included pitches, basketball and tennis courts (Table 4.11)

Table 4.11 Outdoor Facilities Provided (n =48)

Facility	No of Times Cited
Playing Field/Sports Pitch	9
Basket Ball	5
Tennis	4
Playground/Play Area	3
Handball Alley	2
Boating/ Angling	2
Walkway	1
Recycling Point	1

4.3.4 Parking Facilities

Almost nine in ten respondents (88%) reported having parking facilities on site. Over half of these (56%) included parking for one or more buses and a third (32%) provided one or dedicated parking spaces for disabled drivers (Table 4.12). More than half of the facilities reported parking capacities in excess of 51 cars (Table 4.13)

Table 4.12 On Site Parking Facilities Provided (n = 50)

Facility	%
Car Spaces Only	12
Car Spaces Include Provision for People with Disabilities	32
Car & Bus Spaces	56
On-Street Parking Only	12

Table 4.13 On Site Car Parking Capacities (n=50)

Facility	%
<50	47
51 - 100	26
101 - 150	12

Table 4.13 On Site Car Parking Capacities (n=50) continued

Facility	%
151 - 200	9
>200	6

4.4 Services & Users

4.4.1 Services Provision for Children 1 - 12 yrs

Over two thirds of respondents (69%) reported that they provided one or more of the seven service types listed in the questionnaire under headings for children between the ages of 1 – 12 years. Over 1750 children in total were reported as users of the services provided by all respondents.

The frequency which each service was provided was grouped within one of four categories ranging from five or more days per week to occasional provision ie equivalent to less than one day per month.

Childcare was the most cited service available on a daily basis and was provided by four of the nine respondents who reported providing services on a daily basis to this age group.

Most services were provided on a weekly basis, ranging from 1 to 4 days per week. Indoor games was the most frequently cited service category, with 16 respondent organisations (36%) involved in delivering indoor games activity to 270 children on a weekly basis.

Indoor games were also the most often cited service category across all usage frequencies with 19 organisations providing such services to 410 children. However activities related education and/or training such as computer classes, homework clubs etc in were reported as having the greatest numbers of users, with in excess of 564 children involved in the services provided by four organisations. These were followed by social activities, with fifteen respondent organisations providing such services to over 390 users. (Table 4.13)

Table 4.13 Service Provision for Children 1-12 Yrs of Age – Type, Frequency & Usage (n=34)

Frequency		Childcare	Mother & Toddler	Indoor Games	Outdoor Games	Social Activities	Edn/ Training	Other
4 or more days per week	No of Providers	5		3	2	1	1	
	No of Users*	100		80	190	20	14	
1-3 days per week	No of Providers	1	11	17	6	13	2	6
	No of Users*	?	110	280	95	60	70	200
1-3 days per month	No of Providers	2				2	2	1
	No of Users*	5				30	550	20

< 1 day per month	No of Providers			2	4	3	1	2
	No of Users*			70	30	360	?	80

* Data incomplete – figures are indicative only as some respondents did not provide data on user numbers
 ? = No data provided by providers

4.4.2 Services Provision for Children 13 – 19 yrs

Two thirds of respondents reported that they provided one or more of the six service types listed in the questionnaire, for children between the ages of 13-19 years old (See Appendix 1).

In excess of 1645 children were reported as users of the services provided by all respondents.

The frequency which each service was provided was grouped within one of four categories ranging from five or more days per week to occasional provision. Indoor games were the service type most widely available with fifteen of sixteen providers providing the service for one or more days per week to over 270 children. Social Activities were the second most cited service category, which were provided on a weekly basis by seven providers and on a monthly basis by a further two respondent organisations.

The service types reported with the greatest number of users were those related to education and training activities followed by indoor games (Table 4.14)

Table 4.14 Service Provision & for Children 13-19 Yrs of Age – Type, Frequency & Usage (n=34)

Frequency		Childcare	Indoor Games	Outdoor Games	Social Activities	Education /Training	Other
4 or more days per week	No of Providers	1	2	3		1	
	No of Users*	14	130	280		14	
1-3 days per week	No of Providers		11	4	8		7
	No of Users*		223	170	180		
1- 3 days per month	No of Providers		1	2	4	2	3
	No of Users*		10	?	85	550	110
< 1 day per month	No of Providers		5			1	4
	No of Users*		65			?	55

* Data incomplete – figures are indicative only as some respondents did not provide data on user numbers
 ? = No data provided by providers

4.4.3 Services Provision for Adults

Respondent organisations were asked to indicate the services they provided under one or more of eleven service types and to place the frequency of usage of each service within one of four frequency categories. Thirty nine respondents reported providing one or more services to over 2750 adults, with the majority of services available for one or more days per week.

Social activities and meeting facilities were the most widely available service categories with 19 organisations providing social activities to over 1000 users and a similar number providing services and facilities for meetings for 365 users.

The use of indoor sports facilities was reported by 16 respondents with 500 adult users involved, with a further 300 or more adults making use of the outdoor sports facilities provided by four respondent organisations.

Education and training facilities represented the category with the third highest number of users with ten community buildings providing such facilities to 230 or more adults, with the majority of users availing of the services at least once a month.

Four respondent organisations reported having a total of six workspace units available for rent (Table 4.15)

Table 4.15 Service Provision for Adults – Type, Frequency & Usage (n=43)

Frequency	No of Providers	No of Users*	Indoor Games	Outdoor Games	Social Activities	Education /Training	Meetings	Information /Advice	Care Services for Older People	Healthcare/ Wellbeing	Other	Workspace for Rent
4 or more days per week				2						1		4 Providers 6 Rental Units
1-3 days per week			16	4	15	2	11	4	4	2	4	n/a
			525	30	1480	70	150	?	65	20	165	n/a
1- 3 days per month			2		4	6	9			1	1	n/a
			20		140	105	200			?	5	n/a
< 1 day per month					5	3	4				2	n/a
					160	60	110				250 Bingo	n/a

* Data incomplete – figures are indicative only as some respondents did not provide data on user numbers
 ? = No data provided by providers

4.4.4 Users of Facilities and Services from Socially Excluded Groups

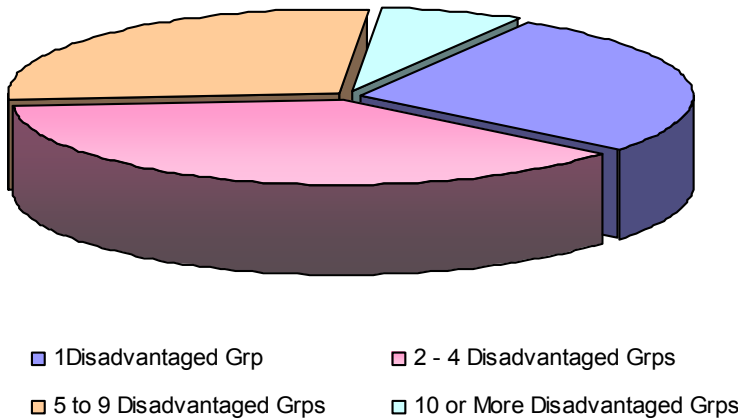
Half of all respondent organisations reported that people belonging to one or more of fifteen categories of socially excluded groups were amongst their service users with unemployed/underemployed people and older people the most frequently cited groups (Table 4.16).

The remaining organisations (28%) that reported providing facilities/services for a single category of disadvantaged person were providing to older people in all but one instance.

Table 4.16 Service Users from Socially Excluded Groups		(n=36)
Group	No of Times Cited	
Unemployed/Underemployed People	18	
Older People	18	
Disadvantaged Men	10	
Disadvantaged Women	10	
Children/Young People at Risk	7	
People with Disabilities	7	
Disadvantaged Families	7	
Lone Parents	6	
Early School Leavers	4	
Traveller Community	2	
Asylum Seekers	2	
Foreign Nationals	2	
Prisoners & Ex Prisoners	1	
Substance Abusers	1	
Homeless People	0	
None	4	

Almost three quarters (72%) of organisations that reported providing services to socially excluded persons were doing so for two or more disadvantaged user groups, with the majority of these (66%) reporting between two and four categories of socially excluded groups (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Number of Disadvantaged Groups among Services/Facilities Users (n=30)



4.5 Operational Issues

4.5.1. Legal Form of Respondent Organisations

The majority (68%) of respondents reported that they had some form of legal structure. Just under half (43%) were incorporated as companies limited by guarantee and a further 25% established as either a trust (19%) or cooperative (6%).

The remainder (33%) operated as a club or association or as ad hoc groups. Table 4.17)

Legal Form	%
Company Limited by Guarantee	47
None/Club/Association	33
Trust	13
Cooperative	7
Company Ltd by Shares	0

4.5.2. Staffing Levels in the Management and Operation of Buildings/Service Delivery

In relation to volunteer staff, 44 respondents reported having a total of 367 people involved in the management of their buildings. Fewer volunteers were engaged in service delivery and/or other duties directly related to the operation of the building and facilities, with 37 organisations having 327 volunteers involved. (Table 4.18)

However in both types of role the average number of volunteers per organisation was the same. Respondents in general reported that both types of volunteer role were largely populated by the same individuals.

Table 4.18 Volunteers Involved in Building Management & Service Delivery/Operations

Duties	No of Organisations	No of Volunteers	Average No per Organisation
Management Committee	44	367	8.3
Operations/Service Delivery	37	327	8.8

Of the forty one respondents who answered the question concerning the number of paid staff, twenty four (61%) reported that they had paid employees. Two thirds of this group employed part time employees only, whilst six respondents employed a mix of part time and full time staff and one respondent employed only full time staff. The average of number of employed staff per organisation was the same for both part and full time employees.

The total numbers of paid employees amounted to 85 people, of whom 66 were part time and 19 full time. The employment level across the twenty four employer organisations amounted to 50 full time job equivalents (Table 4.19)

Table 4.19 Paid Staff Involved in Building Management & Operation (n =48)

Staff	No of Organisations	No of Employees	Average No per Organisation
No Paid Employees	16	0	n/a
Part Time Paid Employees	25	67	2.7
Full Time Paid Employees	7	19	2.7

4.5.3 Policies & Child Protection

Seven in ten respondents (72%) had at least one written policy in relation to their facilities. The top four most frequently reported were; child protection (67%), equality (60%), anti-bullying (55%) and drug use policies (52%) (Table 4.20) Of those who reported having policies, two thirds had four or more policies (table 4.21) whilst a half (52%) had a nominated person responsible for child protection (Tab

Table 4.20 Policies in Place (n =58)

Policy	No of Times Cited
Child	39
Equality	35
Bullying	32

Table 4.20 Policies in Place (n =58) continued

Policy	No of Times Cited
Drug	30
Internet Usage	9
Other	11
None	16

Table 4.21 Policies in Place (n =42)

Number of Policy	%
One	10
Two	19
Three	5
Four	48
Five or more	18

4.5.4. Insurance Covers

Nine in ten respondents to the 2008 survey provided information on the insurance covers their organisation had in effect. All respondents reported that they had public liability insurance, and in 40% of cases it was the only type of insurance cover in place. A further 20% of respondents reported having two types of insurance cover, principally employment liability or property damage covers. With a single exception, these latter two covers were also reported by the 15% who had three types of insurance in place (Tables 4.22 and 4.23)

Table 4.22 Types of Insurance Covers (N=54)

Insurance Type	No of Times Cited
Public Liability	54
Employer Liability	23
Property Damage	23
Burglary Cover	11
Product Liability	10

Table 4.22 Types of Insurance Covers (N=54) continued

Insurance Type	No of Times Cited
Cash Cover	9
Member to Member Liability	9
Business Interruption Cover	2

Table 4.23 Number of Insurable Risks Covered (N=54)

Number of Risks	%
1	41
2	20
3	15
4	6
5	0
6	11
7	6
8	2

Almost half of respondents (46%) reported Sun Alliance as their insurance provider followed by Allianz at 17% (Table 4.24). The lowest cost of cover reported was €390 whilst the highest figure reported was €4000. 50% of respondents reported that the cost of their insurance was €1000 or less (Table 4.25)

Table 4.24 Insurance Providers (N=35)

Insurance Type	%
Sun Alliance	46
Allianz	17
Church & General	11
FBD	11
Other	15

Table 4.25 Insurance Premia (N=30)

Cost Range €	%
<500	23
501 - 1000	27
1001 - 2000	23
2001 – 3000	17
3001 - 4000	10

4.5.5 Annual Operating Costs & Income Sources

When asked to indicate the cost of the annual operational overheads for the building/s, 43% reported that they amounted to less than €5,000 per year, whilst a third (34%) reported the cost as less than €20,000. Four respondent organisations reported that their annual operating expenses were in excess of €100,000 (Table 4.26)

Table 4.26 Annual Cost of Operating Buildings (N=45)

Cost	%
Under €5,000	43
€5,001 – 20000	34
€20,001 – 50,000	11
€50,001 – 100,000	2
€100,001 – 200,000	5
Over €200,000	5

When asked to categorise the source/s of income to meet the cost of the operating the buildings, facilities and services, the two most frequently cited source categories were through local fundraising activities, and through a traded income arising from charging for their services and/or use of facilities (Table 4.27)

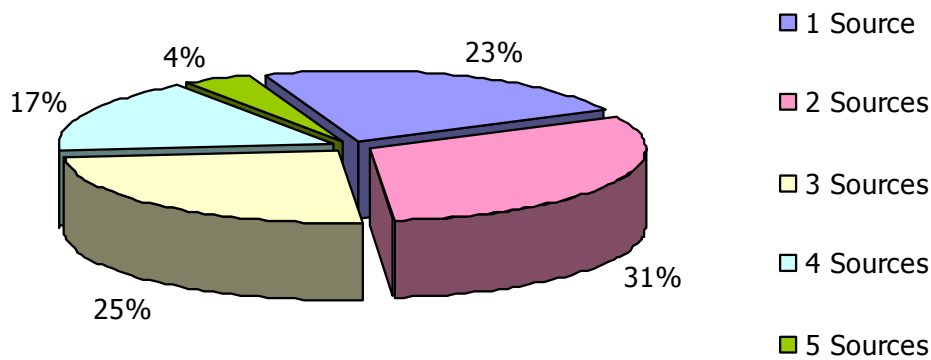
Eleven respondents (23%) reported that they obtained their income from a single source category. Of this group six respondents reported that it was in the form of grant aid, two derived their income from traded activity alone and three from local fundraising activity, namely bingo.

The majority of respondents (77%) reported obtaining their income from multiple source categories, with 31% obtaining their income from two categories, 25% from three categories and the remaining 21% from four or more categories (Figure 4).

Table 4.27 Sources of Income (N=49)

Source Category	No of Times Cited
Local Fundraising	33
Charging for Use of Facilities/Services	31
Grant Aid	20
Employment Scheme	15
Five or more	4

Figure 4: Number of Income Sources Reported by Respondent Organisations (n=46)



4.5.5 Issues & Challenges

The major challenges identified by respondents were related to financial and human resource issues.

The financial challenges were associated with concerns about their continuing ability to meet the costs associated with operating and maintaining existing facilities and services as well as carrying out improvement works and to a somewhat lesser extent, meeting the rising costs of insurance cover. These issues are typified by the following responses:

"Struggling with our annual budget"

"The major issue for us is the continued availability of grant aid"

"Lack of funding for renovations and maintenance"

"There is an urgent need to upgrade the Centre but with our increasing overhead costs and the decline of bingo as a funding source, finance is a problem"

“The building desperately needs renovation and we are trying to secure grant aid”

“Rising cost of adequate insurance cover”

The challenges related to human resource issues focused on current and anticipated difficulties in recruiting volunteers for both management and operational duties, as illustrated by the following responses:

“The age profile of the present committee and the apparent disinterest of young people to get involved with running the hall”

“Generating interest in running the facilities”

“To get the local community more involved”

“Our ageing committee – 3 over 70yrs, 3 late 60s, 1 is 50yrs and 1 in the 20s - and we can’t get volunteers”

“Lack of support from the younger generation”

“Keeping a committee together to run the Hall and to make plans for the future”

The range of issues reported by all respondents were categorised under seven themes as summarised in Table 4.28

Issue/Challenge Facing Organisation	No of Times Cited
Volunteer Recruitment	20
Securing Sufficient Income/Funding to Meet Operating Costs	16
Maintaining & Upgrading Facilities	11
Cost of Insurance	9
Under Utilised Facilities	5
Improving Service Quality	3
Time Associated with Making Funding Applications	1
Keeping Abreast of Changes in Regulations	1

5.0 Discussion

5.1 Preamble

A community centre or parish hall represents an important infrastructural asset for any community. It provides a focal point for a range of social, cultural, leisure, sporting and other developmental activities as well as enhancing the attractiveness of a location for newcomers. Research carried out in the UK² involving 916 community buildings reported that *"community buildings play a major role in strengthening their local community, often providing the only place where local people can associate with their neighbours, thus combating social isolation and encouraging social cohesion.* Clearly access to community facilities helps facilitate the development of human and social capital within the support communities, and the impact of this is made manifest as a strong "sense of community".

A similar point is made in Roscommon County Council's Draft Development Plan³ which discusses the importance of communities having access to a broad range of community facilities, including community centres, in *"enhancing a sense of community"* and an *"overall better quality of life."*

The lack of community facilities is a significant component of spatial inequality, particularly in rural areas⁴ (ADM, 2003). Poor or diminishing access to services and consequent effects upon the quality of rural life has been the catalyst for many community development initiatives over the years in which the provision of community centres has been central to bringing about benefits and quality of life improvement for members of their support communities. More recent examples can be seen among the numerous urban generated housing developments, where developer-led housing has been built without any provision of community facilities to provide a focal point for emerging communities.

The absence of facilities where groups of people can come together and hold community events was one of a number of inter-related barriers to volunteering and civic involvement identified in the consultation process on active citizenship undertaken by the Government during 2006⁵. Indeed addressing such deficits in the social infrastructure is an important component in a more holistic approach to *"rural economic development"*⁶ and to the development of sustainable rural communities.

The findings of this study indicate that many communities throughout Co Roscommon have worked hard over the years to provide and/or maintain parochial halls, community centres and other facilities in order to bring quality of life gains for their members, and in many instances, to counter the increasing spatial inequality associated with rural decline.

5.2 Spatial Considerations

Mapping the locations of the eighty two facilities across the county reveals a fairly evenly spread distribution pattern with one or more facilities located in 64 of the county's 112 Electoral Divisions (Map 1).

When locations are considered in relation to the Relative Index of Disadvantage for each Electoral Division (ED) there is only one of the eight EDs designated as Disadvantaged lacks a community facility (Carrowduff), whilst 18 of the 53 EDs designated as marginally below average do not have a facility within their boundaries. Generally where EDs lack any facilities are generally located in one or more neighbouring EDs, with exception of the eastern side of the mid county area where there is a cluster of EDs in the catchment of Strokestown and along the boundary with County Longford.

² *Forgotten Resources?* (1997) Joseph Rowntree Foundation & Community Matters, York

³ *Roscommon County Development Plan 2008 – 2014.* Chapter 9. Roscommon County Council

⁴ *Community Work in a Rural Setting* (2003), Area Development Management Ltd, Dublin

⁵ *Report on Active Citizenship Process* (2006), Task Force on Active Citizenship, Dublin

⁶ *Rural Ireland 2025: Foresight Perspectives* (2005) COFORD, NUI Maynooth, UCD & Teagasc, Dublin

An analysis of the distribution of facilities according to the Forum area in which they are located reveals that 63% of the community facilities were found within the 74 of the county's 112 Electoral Divisions which make up the North Community Forum area. The distribution of community facilities between the two Fora areas broadly reflects the population distribution as 57% of the county's population is located in the NRCF area⁷

The North Community Forum area enjoys a greater availability of community facilities than its southern counterpart and has one facility for every 639 persons (1.57 facilities per 1000 population) compared with one for every 852 persons (1.17 facilities per 1000 persons) in the SRCF area.

5.3 Size & Condition of the Building Stock

The stock of community owned and/or operated facilities identified in the two audits represent an important asset base for communities in County Roscommon. Indeed it is estimated⁸ that the combined floor area of the forty nine buildings which were surveyed in the 2007 audit exceeds 17,000m² If it is assumed that the remaining thirty two facilities for which data are not available each has a floor area of 100m² then the total area for all facilities identified is in excess of 20,000m². Using the figure for the ratio of facilities in community ownership (68%) this suggests that there is of the order of 14,000m² of buildings owned by communities throughout the county

Whilst the survey found that half of the facilities were in good condition, the remainder require varying degrees of repair and/or modernisation work to make them safer, to improve functionality, to upgrade their insulation values and generally to make them more attractive to users. A substantial number of the photographs taken of the facades of the facilities in the 2008 study indicate the need for some remedial works. Clearly there is also a need to upgrade facilities to improve their accessibility for people with physical and sensory disabilities.

5.4 Asset Value of the Building Stock

The RIAI⁹ suggest that the construction of an industrial/warehouse type unit with a small area of offices, toilets and other accommodation using traditional materials and construction methods with basic finishes and services on a greenfield site, would cost in excess of €2000 per m² excluding fitting out costs.

Applying this cost to the estimate of the total floor area for the facilities in community ownership derived in section 5.3, suggests an overall value of the building assets of €28M. This figure cost does not include professional fees, planning fees and charges, fit out costs or the value of the land on which the facilities are located. Furthermore if the cost of outdoor facilities such as sports pitches, play areas etc which are provided by many of the facilities were included, the asset value of all community owned facilities would be increased substantially.

5.5 Facilities and Usage

Although one in five respondents failed to provide any data on user numbers, the information provided by the 80% who did suggests that at a minimum, there is of the order of 6500 people of all ages using the facilities and services provided in community buildings countywide. This figure

⁷ *Principal Statistics* (2006) CSO Cork

⁸ This was derived by using an average floor size (based on the median value) for each of the five floor area ranges in the survey as a multiplier for the number of buildings within each size range

⁹ *Cost Guidelines* (2006) Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland, Dublin

indicates that at least one person in ten of the County's population uses a community facility to some extent over a twelve month period.

In relation to levels of utilisation and the types of user, the survey revealed that where services and facilities are used for four or more days in a week, these primarily involve children rather than adults, whilst the most common frequency of use reported was on a weekly basis and involved users of all ages.

In terms of facilities for adult users the most widely reported were those related to meetings and/or social activities, with four in five buildings able to accommodate meetings as well as provide some form of catering facilities. Almost half are also capable of providing space for other social activity.

Usage by adult ranges from only a few occasions per year to regular daily usage, and the findings suggest that where facilities for meetings or social events are available to communities, they are made use of. This reflects the important function which community halls and centres perform in providing a physical focal point for the adult members of local groups and organisations to meet and interact, and in many instances, engage with others living in their catchment areas.

Over half of the buildings have facilities for indoor sports, and half of these have outdoor sports facilities as well. Sports facilities and services are provided to a combined population of users in excess of 800 adults.

When compared with the figure of 75% of respondents providing facilities for adults, slightly fewer buildings (66%) offered facilities and services for children between 1 – 19 years old. Daily childcare facilities are the most widely available services for pre-teenage users, whilst games, sports and social activities predominate amongst the facilities and services provided for older children.

The facilities and services operated by respondent organisations are clearly providing opportunities for children and younger people to engage in sporting, leisure and social activities to aid their physical, emotional and social skills development. Importantly these activities take place in community operated buildings and these experiences should afford them some practical exposure of community development and volunteering in a local context.

Whilst many organisations clearly had space to rent for meetings and other activities, only four respondents reported having work/office space available for rent.

From a social inclusion perspective, just over half of respondent groups indicated that there were people from one or more socially disadvantaged groups amongst the users of the facilities and services provided. However only one in three of the buildings are fully accessible for people with disabilities, and only one in four is able to cater adequately for people with sensory impairments.

A summary of the facilities and services provided on the premises owned and/or operated by the forty nine organisations who provided data is provided in Appendix 3

5.6 Human Resource Issues

One in two organisations reported employing paid staff, with only a fifth of those with paid employees employing them on a full time basis. Clearly for those with no employees or only part time staff and those, much of the responsibility for managing the day to day to day operations (as well as helping out with activities within their facilities) falls upon members of the voluntary management committees. It is not surprising therefore that many committees have little time or enthusiasm to engage in the strategic development work needed to ensure that their community facilities continue to provide what people in their support communities want.

Without some process of appraisal of the local situation in terms of needs ie who the people are with the needs, how they can be reached, what their interests and concerns are and why they are not using the building at present, management groups are unlikely to keep abreast of changes in

demand, and their ability to plan effectively will be impaired. Furthermore this is likely to have a negative impact on the potential of groups to source new volunteers to help out managing and/or running their facilities as the pool of users declines.

The study showed that more than 365 volunteers are involved in the management and service delivery of the community facilities operated by respondent organisations, which represents a major input of time by those involved. The average number of volunteers per organisations derived from this study suggests that there is of the order of 750 volunteers involved in the eighty two community buildings identified.

Unpublished work carried out by Roscommon Community Fora involving a review of existing literature and local research on the time input into community activity by volunteers found that on average volunteers spent 3.2 hours per week on their voluntary activities. Using this average time input for the figure of 750 volunteers involved in community buildings suggested by this study, the total annual time input amounts to 115,500 hours. If the average industrial wage is used to calculate Replacement Cost as a means of valuing the input by the number of volunteers reported in this study, the costed volunteer time amounts to €1.73M annually

The time input by volunteers derived above represents 72 full time job equivalents (FTE). By extrapolating the figures found in the 2007 study for the average numbers of full time and part time employees, the numbers in paid employment in all eighty two facilities is of the order of 115 full time and 33 part time jobs. When combined these jobs represent 130 FTEs, and when added to the 72 FTEs derived for the time input by volunteers, indicates there are in the region of 200 FTE jobs connected with the management and operation of community facilities countywide.

The difficulty experienced by community organisations in relation to the recruitment and/or retention of volunteers was a key resource issue highlighted by the survey. With the average age of management committee members rising inexorably, there are major concerns relating to their succession and who will engage in active stewardship of community facilities in the not-to-distant future.

5.7 Financial Issues

Over three quarters of respondents indicated that the annual cost of operating their community buildings was below €20,000, and the majority of these reported operating costs of under €5000 a year. Although the sums may appear to be relatively small, they still present considerable challenge to many groups and organisations who struggle to generate sufficient income to cover basic overheads such as heat, light and insurance. Even though management groups try to be cost effective by paring back their operating costs, in many instances there is little money available for the repairs and renewals needed to maintain their buildings to adequate standards.

However the survey also found that groups appear to be quite resourceful in addressing the challenge of generating income, as four out of five respondents reported incomes derived from two or more sources. Income generated by fundraising initiatives among the support communities was reported by two out of three respondents, with a similar figure for income derived from fees charged for use of facilities and services provided.

It is evident that the majority of respondent organisations operate as social enterprises and many are managing to keep their community facilities going in the absence of any grant support, as only 42% of respondents reported any form of grant aid amongst their portfolio of income sources.

Although the issue of rates on community buildings was not investigated as part of this study there has been some anecdotal evidence subsequently to suggest that rate demands are being served upon a number of community organisations in the county in respect of their premises. In some cases the amount of rates demanded on buildings has been equal to, or greater than, the total income derived from trading by the community organisation operating services on the premises. This

situation needs urgent investigation as it could seriously jeopardise the precarious financial situation of many community led social enterprises.

5.8 Comments & Recommendations

Given the important role which access to adequate meeting and social facilities has in developing and maintaining social capital within communities in the county, community centres, halls and other facilities must be valued as essential components of community infrastructure on a par with water services, adequate road access, provision of schools and other public goods.

However there are many community groups and organisations struggling to maintain their buildings and operate their facilities because of lack of volunteers and money. This can result in under-utilisation of the buildings and decline in their condition leading to further contraction in the number of users and potential users.

Many of the community buildings surveyed were built in times when local needs were quite different in many respects from those of today. Given the social and demographic changes which taken place over the past twenty years, there is clearly a need to reconsider the role of community centres. Furthermore alternative and perhaps more innovative and enterprising approaches need to be found for enabling community organisations to operate and develop their buildings and the facilities and services that they are able to provide.

Although government supports in the form of the Community Employment Programme, the Community Services Programme and the Rural Social Scheme and funding from a number of government departments and State agencies are available to help community organisations to staff and/or maintain community centres, less than two in five of respondent organisations surveyed in this study were in receipt of such support. Whilst many local authorities provide indirect support for community buildings by virtue of waiving of the collection of rates, there are also examples where community centres are supported directly by local authorities, particularly those located in urban areas.

When the role of community facilities is considered within the broader context of EU and national priorities regarding rural development¹⁰ and in achieving "vibrant rural communities"¹¹, there are a number of possible opportunities to develop the role and vibrancy of community buildings. To this end, it is recommended that communities are supported to engage in the drafting and delivery of a development plan for their buildings. Individual plans would aim to profile and prioritise the particular needs of the catchment communities concerned, particularly in relation to local social inclusion issues.

Such plans could address how the buildings could be best utilised to meet the local needs identified, how the plan would be implemented and who would be involved. Such an initiative could be tried on a limited, pilot basis, and involve Roscommon County Council and other local development agencies and stakeholders in looking at how an integrated package of technical, financial and other supports could be provided.

Importantly such an approach would engage those responsible for managing community centres and parish halls in a process of taking stock, involving an appraisal of needs and an exploration of ways in which the community buildings might be used to address such needs and realise a more enhanced local development role, and act as hubs for sustainable development locally. Options for networking and collaboration with regard to the management and operations of clusters or other groupings of community buildings could also be explored.

¹⁰ The National Rural Development Programme 2007 – 2013

¹¹ Irish White Paper on Rural Development (1999)

The findings of this survey suggest that in many cases any development plans would first need to address how the fabric and finish of buildings could be brought to a level at which the physical environment is safe, secure and comfortable for users.

Many community buildings are cold, draughty and hard to heat and improving their energy efficiency by measures such as improving insulation and replacing old central heating boilers with more efficient systems, including those utilising carbon-neutral fuels. Such improvements could attract grant aid, and could provide an effective way of increasing awareness of the need to use energy efficiency and encouraging users to make energy saving improvements in their own homes. Indeed the visible adoption and promotion of more sustainable modes of living could form an important component of the developmental role played by the community and voluntary sector in the future.

Providing well finished buildings with good quality facilities will help ensure that they are attractive to potential users as well ensuring that they are accessible to everyone. With almost two in three facilities with no broadband there is a significant opportunity to equip the buildings with broadband. With community buildings broadband enabled, a range of potential new opportunities become possible with regard to:

- Provision of ICT training for building capacity amongst adults of all ages in the support community
- A means of helping to counter e-exclusion
- Access to ICT for children to complement their school based access and learning
- Providing access points for local people to the increasing number of state services which are provided on-line
- Building social capital by developing linkages with other communities, local, national and global

As well as providing the more “traditional” facilities such as meeting rooms and sports and leisure facilities, community centres might also adapt existing space, or indeed create new space, to provide additional facilities appropriate to local needs such as:

- Office resources for the local community development group and other interest groups in the locality
- Workspace for local microenterprises
- The provision of automated teller machines
- The development of community operated retailing, postal and other income generating services
- Providing back office services for local businesses, including any which may be operating within the community building, as well as remotely servicing the needs of more distant business/ social enterprise.

A development programme targeted at a number of community centres could be steered by a partnership of key stakeholders and possibly coordinated by the Community Fora. The expertise needed to provide mentoring and other supports could be sourced externally. The animation role which community centres could play in the development of social enterprises the county was highlighted in a recent report by Westbic¹².

A second recommendation relates to declining volunteerism and the pressing need for many community organisations to recruit additional volunteers to look after the management and operation of their buildings and facilities.

Clearly this problem is not confined to Co Roscommon. The national consultation process conducted by The Taskforce on Active Citizenship (ibid) found that one in two people involved in community and

¹² *Report on Social Entrepreneurship Needs in County Roscommon* (2008). Westbic, Roscommon

voluntary organisations thought there was less volunteering and involvement now compared with the past. The Taskforce Report (p15) concluded that

“rather than there being less willingness to volunteer per se, it is the nature of volunteering that has changed and has become more demanding, requiring greater commitment in terms of time and responsibility, which makes it harder for the same number of people to become involved”.

The Taskforce Report also noted that the Catholic Church and Volunteering Ireland along with many other community and voluntary organisations, have reported a strong interest in volunteering, and the issue was not with recruiting volunteers willing to give a few hours of their time, but in finding people who were prepared to take on positions of responsibility or leadership.

To provide support for community and voluntary groups in the county to recruit and retain volunteer staff it is recommended that a volunteer placement service be established. This could be modelled on the existing volunteer centres or bureaux operating elsewhere in Ireland, such as the service model developed by Volunteering Ireland presently operating nationwide in seventeen locations including Roscommon’s neighbouring counties of Westmeath, Longford and Sligo. The establishment of a Volunteer Centre was one of the key recommendations contained in the Westbic report (ibid) with regard to the provision of supports aimed at the social enterprise sector.

Finance to establish a volunteer centre in Co Roscommon could possibly be accessed under support measures contained in the National Rural Development Plan 2007 – 2013, with ongoing operational funding sourced from local and/or central government.