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EXPLANATION OF PROCESS

Blue Moss was commissioned by Westmeath Community Development to undertake an Action Planning Initiative for seven rural towns and villages in County Westmeath, one of which is Streete. This initiative will act in support of the regeneration of these rural towns and villages and will prioritise projects for development in each of the seven areas.



Action planning for rural towns and villages has been set out in the LEADER Local Development Strategy for County Westmeath under the subtheme of Rural Towns. This sub-theme supports the regeneration of rural towns, promoting them as attractive places to visit, live and do business in. This is to be achieved by building on the economic strengths and

infrastructure of the area while also addressing the key challenges for business, community and recreation.

The process involving all seven villages took place over six months, between January and June 2018. They all followed a similar process based on a participatory model called Outcomes Based Accountability or OBA. Blue Moss have used this approach before as it is a process that is interactive and aimed at turning words into action. Each village went through the same stages however the number of meetings varied slightly depending on the availability of the group.

Process Stages:

- I. Development of a Vision Statement and underpinning values- What is good about living in the village and what would the group like to see in the future.?
- II. SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) of the village. The information gathered was then considered against statistical data, principally drawing upon a census completed in 2016
- III. Deeper consideration of the wellbeing that the group wanted to see in their village and the projects and activities that would be needed to create these. This led to the point of the first draft of the plan being developed which was circulated with the group.
- IV. Joint meeting of the villages where they considered aspects of their individual plans that overlapped and how the villages could support each other in reaching their goals.
 1. Castletown Geoghegan
 2. Collinstown
 3. Coole
 4. Milltownpass
 5. Multyfarnham
 6. Rosemount
 7. Streete
- V. Identification of potential partners and strategies- representatives of some of the villages met with public bodies and agencies relevant to their plans
- VI. Joint launch of all seven community plans hosted by Westmeath Community Development

Streete (*an tSráid*)

Streete (an tSráid) is a small rural parish in County Westmeath and bordering into County Longford, Ireland. Streete parish is situated along the regional road approximately 3km off the N4 at Rathowen cross and a one-hour drive from Dublin. Streete comprises of four villages, Streete, Boherquill, Lismacaffrey and Lisryan. The Streete area of Co. Westmeath/Longford comprises of just under 17,000 acres of mixed arable and bog land. It has been inhabited for about 7,000 years. Traces of Mesolithic settlement have been found at Corralana Bog near the River Inny and the shorelines of Lough's Kinale and Derravarragh also at Kilmore and Queenstown. The combined population of all four villages and hinterlands stands at 636 people, 2018. The Village Of Streete takes its name from an ancient tribe that inhabited this area of Westmeath called the Breacraigne and from that came the title "Sraid Maighne Breacraigne" which means "*the village (street) of the speckled plain*".

Streete parish, although rural comprises of many amenities. Serving the parish community is St. Fintan's National School Lismacaffrey, St. Mary's RC Church, Boherquill and St. Mary's Church of Ireland in Streete village. Streete Parish is a vibrant place to live with many social activities happening all year round. Streete Wildlife Club was founded in 1979 and is one of the longest established wildlife perseveration clubs in the country. Another club with a long-established history is Boherquill ramblers which is an energetic walking club which was formed in the year 2000 and attracts people of all ages for weekly Sunday walks. The Fiddlers Green Pub in Streete Village and The Crossroads Inn in Lisryan are the two main Public Houses in the Parish. Streete Parish Park Community Centre was conceived from an idea by a volunteer group in 1999 to purchase a piece of land to developed a community centre on, a place where people of all ages in the community could come together and take part in various sporting and leisure activities. Streete Parish Park community centre opened its doors for the first time in 2003. Today it is a hive of activity all year round with sporting and community groups providing a wide range of activities for the community. The Centre has seating capacity of up to 800 people as well as two viewing balconies, a fully

equipped kitchen, and a movable stage with amplification and bar facilities, if necessary. The Centre also features an International size Basketball Court complete with electronic scoring boards and is home to Streete Warriors Basketball Club formed in 1998. Streete Parish Park is also home to Inny Football Club and Streete Bowls Club. The Parish Park also hosts a children's play park, sports fields and a 1km walking/running track fully lit during the winter months. The Vintage Club in Streete is one of the busiest in the country and every summer host one of Ireland's biggest vintage shows at the Parish Park. The show is a celebration of all things vintage and offers a great family day out for everyone.

The parish of Streete is enriched by its historical relevance. It is also home to many interesting people. In the 1800's, Daramona House in Streete Village was home to the noted Irish astronomer William E Wilson, who constructed an observatory adjacent to his house and was credited with making the first series of photo-electric measurements of the brightness of the stars. Thanks to the Wilson's industrial innovation, electricity was generated in Streete before the city of Adelaide in Australia. Streete was also the chosen home of Prince and Princess Ernest of Saxony in German who fled here during the war. Streete is surrounded by many other historic offerings such as the mythical tale of the Children of Lir at Lough Derravaragh along with many monastic discoveries around the Parish including the nearby discovery of an ancient bog road dating back more than 3,000 years. Streete had one of the biggest employers in the county, Bord Na Mona, which opened its works at Coolnagun in 1957 employing more than 300 people. Coolamber Institute was a well-recognised training facility in the 1960's which focused on teaching useful skills to people with disabilities. Streete has always had a history of friendliness, openness and willingness to help others in its community. In 1837 Streete was described as "an inconsiderable village" during the course of a survey of Westmeath. The author of that opinion could not have paid too much attention to the history of the area nor would he have known what the future would hold.

Vision:

The people of Streete enjoy a good quality of living in a Parish that is healthy, caring, supportive and welcoming. There is a pride in the community and a willingness to pull together with a can-do attitude to create an attractive place to live, work and raise a family. The people of Streete are ambitious for the Parish making full use of its rich cultural heritage and surrounding natural environment.

Values:

As a Parish we value the following:

- **Sense of Pride** in the being from the Parish
- **Fairness** – how we treat each other
- **Creativity** – generating new ideas
- **Inclusion** – a welcoming place
- **Dedication** – to protect the local heritage and environment
- **Ambition** – having a vision for the Parish
- **A can-do attitude** – we come together and make things happen
- **Collaboration**- supportive of each other
- **Commitment** – to the people and Parish
- **Respect** – caring of people
- **Community effort**- being good workers
- **Local chat and humour**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND KEY FINDINGS

The community spent time considering the current context and status of Streete. This included reflecting on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats connected to the village. This following is a record of the views of those who participated.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<i>Location- landscape and proximity Conservation area- High amenity + Garaskil Bog Community centre/festivals Rich history- culture Generous community – giving to charity Primary school – needs protected and strengthened We have Broadband (?) Strong community Generations of family Tourism potential Anti-social behaviour Farming Community</i>	<i>Rich history not used Public Transport- Rathowen expressway, Friday Rural Transport, Train station Edgeworthstown Employment Opportunities- locally Difficult to engage the community Geographically disjointed CG, no GAA, no Foroige- cultural- disjoint Aging population No website- communication, inclusion of all needs/abilities Hard to get people motivated Lack of volunteer culture.</i>
Opportunities	Threats
<i>Village plan Funding- Leader Strategic Funding Clar Healthy Ireland T&V Failte Ireland P&P Population- inward- pressure on big towns- Interdependence Brexit</i>	<i>Windfarm- impact on landscape Climate- effect on roads/land/work/product Brexit- farming community. Exports, policy support in EU Competing- heritage; environment, product tourism Emigration- building/locally- could bring pressure and make it too expensive If increased population means people just sleeping here Parish is divided by County lines Crime</i>

CONSIDERATION OF COUNTY WIDE AND VILLAGE CENSUS INFORMATION

Participants also considered a range of census information connected to and to County Westmeath. This brought up the question of what is meant by Streete and there was a very strong feeling that this should relate to the whole Parish and not just the area considered to be the village. In terms of population this means that contrary to the census information which indicated the population to be 269 it should in fact be 636.

After further discussion it was agreed that this plan is a Parish wide plan despite the fact that Parish is geographically fragmented with an element of it being in County Longford.

In terms of census information the following information was noted as points of interest:

- ❖ *Aging population*
- ❖ *No new homes built in last 7 years*
- ❖ *Once educated people move away*
- ❖ *High statistics for people with disability according to statistics.*

QUALITY OF LIFE CONDITIONS

In considering how they would like the village in the future, local people thought that the following elements were vital:

- ❖ People feel safe
- ❖ There is an infrastructure that promotes connection and is accessible
- ❖ Health and Wellbeing for all
- ❖ Life-vibrancy – there are activities for all that bring a richness to life in the Parish
- ❖ Creativity - there is a space for new ideas to be explored
- ❖ Social economy- that is sustainable and supports growth
- ❖ Engaging - people want to be part of what is going on
- ❖ Attractive – physically and economically
- ❖ Opportunities for all especially the younger generations.
- ❖ Entrepreneurial - the Parish needs to be ambitious
- ❖ Education – formal and informal to build capacity across the Parish

OUR OUTCOMES

The primary intention of this plan is to enable people across the Parish of Streete to achieve their intended vision for the village:

The people of Streete enjoy a good quality of living in a Parish that is healthy, caring, supportive and welcoming. There is a pride in the community and a willingness to pull together with a can-do attitude to create an attractive place to live, work and raise a family. The people of Streete are ambitious for the Parish making full use of its rich cultural heritage and surrounding natural environment.

This will be achieved through a focus on the three long term strategic themes across which fall 10 outcomes:

THEME 1: Health & Social Wellbeing

Outcome 1: All people from Streete benefit from improved health and wellbeing

Outcome 2: All people from Streete enjoy and contribute to a Parish that has better social connections

Outcome 3: All people from Streete feel safe and secure in their homes and village

THEME 2: Sustainable Environment & Infrastructure

Outcome 4: All people from Street use and promote the recreational opportunities that the local environment has to offer.

Outcome 5: All people in Streete use and promote the rich local heritage that the Parish has to offer.

Outcome 6: All people from Streete will have a local infrastructure that supports a good quality of living.

THEME 3: Education & Economy

Outcome 7: Streete is widely recognised as a tourist destination as a place of natural beauty and rich heritage

Outcome 8: The people of Street benefit from and have access to good education and training

Part Two – Action Plan

Theme One: Health and Social Wellbeing

Outcome One: All people from Streete benefit from improved health and wellbeing				
Action Project	Indicators of success	Timeframe	Potential Partners	Strategy and funding programme links
Set up a defibrillator group for the parish and train Cardiac Responders.	<p><i>Increase in number of people confident to respond in a cardiac emergency.</i></p> <p><i>Reduction of response time to cardiac emergencies</i></p> <p><i>Increase in number of people recovering from a cardiac attack</i></p>	Short	Department of Rural and Community Development	CLAR
Locate defibrillators in strategic places across the parish	<i>Reduction of response time to cardiac emergencies</i>	Short	Local Action Group	
Make the parish accessible to those with a disability.	<i>Increase in buildings that have appropriate modifications e.g. handrails and ramps</i>	Medium	Westmeath County Council	Community Grants

	<i>Increase in disabled parking spaces</i>		Westmeath Community Development Westmeath Disability Federation of Ireland Local Action Group	
<i>Explore the possibility of developing an all-weather AstroTurf pitch for outdoor sports</i>	<i>Increased opportunity for sport. Increased opportunity for activity Reduction in obesity Increase in physical health.</i>	Medium	Westmeath Community Development	Leader

Outcome Two: All people from Streete enjoy and contribute to a Parish that has better social connections

Action Project	Indicators of success	Timeframe	Potential Partners	Strategy and funding programme links
Develop a Men's Shed and Community Garden	<p><i>Increased opportunities for men of all ages to come together.</i></p> <p><i>Increased skill set amongst the group</i></p> <p><i>Successful community garden.</i></p> <p><i>Increase in positive mental health within the group.</i></p> <p><i>Increase in positive intergenerational relationships</i></p>	Short	<p>Westmeath Community Development</p> <p>Irish Men's Sheds Association</p> <p>Men's Shed Ireland</p> <p>Men's Shed: Mullaghmeen Castlepollard</p>	<p>Leader Programme</p> <p>Irish Men's Sheds Association</p>
Maximise the potential of the Parish centre in terms of usage and potential income including construction of meeting rooms,	<p><i>Increased usage of the centre</i></p> <p><i>Increase diversity of usage of the centre.</i></p>	Short	Westmeath Community Development	Leader Programme

Employ a staff to develop the Community Centre as a community hub including a Parish support officer and a caretaker	<p><i>Increased potential for the centre</i></p> <p><i>Increased usage of the centre</i></p> <p><i>Increased co-ordination of events and activities.</i></p>		<p>Westmeath Community Development</p> <p>Community Services Programme</p> <p>Pobal</p>	Pobal
Develop a social enterprise model within the Community Centre	<p><i>Increased income</i></p> <p><i>Increased investment in the Community Centre</i></p> <p><i>Increased opportunities for training and courses at the Centre</i></p>	Medium	Westmeath Community Development	Leader Programme
Support the growth of traditional sports across the Parish	<p><i>Increased sense of community spirit across the Parish</i></p> <p><i>Increase in value given to traditional sports</i></p> <p><i>Increase in sporting success of teams associated with the Parish</i></p>	Medium	<p>GAA</p> <p>Local sports' groups</p> <p>Local Action Group</p>	
Develop the pub in the village to be used for social events	<p><i>Increased use of pub</i></p> <p><i>Increased number of social events such as clubs</i></p> <p><i>Increase in intergenerational relationships</i></p>	Medium	<p>Local Interest groups</p> <p>Local Action Group</p>	Local Fundraising

<p>Carry out a feasibility study to look at the potential for parent and toddler group, pre-school and after-school group</p>	<p><i>Increase in resources for children Increase in resources for parents/carers Increase in support for parents/carers Increase in places for children to meet and socialise Reduction in social isolation Increased support for children in their personal and educational development.</i></p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Westmeath Childcare Committee</p>	
<p>Establish an age action group</p>	<p><i>Increased support for the older members of the community Reduction in social isolation Increased mental health Increased support for families</i></p>	<p>Short</p>	<p>Westmeath Community Development- Westmeath Age Friendly Department Local Action Group</p>	<p>Westmeath Age Friendly Department</p>
<p>Establish a development association/action group with representation from across the whole parish</p>	<p><i>Increased connection across the parish Increased relationships across the parish Increased sharing of resources across the parish Increased skill set</i></p>	<p>Short</p>	<p>Local Action Group</p>	

	<i>Increase in potential for development of ideas Increased opportunities for sharing good practice.</i>			
Develop a parish shop	<i>Increased resources in the village Increase in opportunity</i>	Medium	Westmeath Community Development Pobal Westmeath County Council	Leader
Upgrade of playground	<i>Increased resources for children and young people Increased meeting place for children Reduction on social isolation Increase in fitness of children Reduction in obesity Increased support for families</i>	Medium	Westmeath Community Development	Leader
Create a social media presence for Streete Parish including Facebook and a website to include a weekly calendar	<i>Increased awareness across the parish of activities and events Increased opportunity for sharing information Increased participation across the parish in events</i>	Short	Westmeath Community Development Westmeath County Council :Tourism Other 6 villages within this programme	Leader Community Grants

	<p><i>Increased presence in terms of tourists</i></p> <p><i>Increased awareness across the parish of the rich cultural heritage of the area</i></p> <p><i>Increased opportunity for people to connect over shared interests.</i></p>			
<p>Construct meeting rooms to meet the growing needs of the parish</p>	<p><i>Increased parish resources</i></p> <p><i>Increased places to do training, courses etc</i></p>	medium	Westmeath Community Development	Leader
<p>Construct stone-face wall to extend the original wall along the field with the Moat to integrate Moatland Mews into the village</p>	<p><i>Increased the sense of village</i></p> <p><i>Increased integration with the Moatland Mews development.</i></p>	medium	Westmeath County Council	
<p>Re-establish the Tidy Town committee in Streete and Lismacaffery</p>	<p><i>Increased sense of community involvement in the upkeep of the villages</i></p> <p><i>Increased opportunities to build relationships.</i></p> <p><i>Increased attractiveness in the villages</i></p> <p><i>Decrease in visible litter in the villages</i></p>		<p>Westmeath County Council</p> <p>Tidy Towns</p>	Tidy Towns

Outcome Three: All people from Streete feel safe and secure in their homes and village

Action Project	Indicators of success	Timeframe	Potential Partners	Strategy and funding programme links
<i>Put up lighting outside the community centre in the carpark,</i>	<i>Increase in safety to use the centre at night</i>	Short	Westmeath County Council	
<i>Establish Community/Garda Alert across the parish</i>	<i>Increased sense of sense of security across the Parish Decreased sense of social isolation</i>	Short	An Garda Siochana Muintir na Tire	Muintir na Tire
<i>Erect or upgrade speed reduction signage on entry and exit points in Streete and Lismacaffrey Villages</i>	<i>Increase in road safety Decrease in dangerous driving within the parameters of the village</i>	Short	Westmeath County Council Roads Department	Annual Roads Programme Town and Village Renewal
<i>Implement traffic calming measures in the villages of Streete, Lismacaffrey and Boherquill</i>	<i>Increased safety for pedestrians in the villages</i>	Short	Westmeath County Council, Roads Department	Community Involvement Scheme Town and Village Renewal Low cost safety scheme Annual Roads Programme

Theme Two: Sustainable Environment and Infrastructure

Outcome Four: All people from Street use and promote the recreational opportunities that the local environment has to offer.				
Action Project	Indicators of success	Timeframe	Potential Partners	Strategy and funding programme links
<i>Map the Parish in terms of its natural environment</i>	<i>Increased local awareness of the beauty within the parish Increased opportunities to come together across the Parish Increased appreciation of the local environment.</i>	Short	Tourism Officer – Heritage Officer - Westmeath County Council	
<i>Develop walk and cycle ways across the Parish to make the natural environment more accessible</i>	<i>Increased appreciation of the local environment. Increased opportunities to explore the local environment Increased physical health and wellbeing.</i>	Medium	Westmeath County Council Department for Transport, Tourism and Sport	

Outcome Five: All people in Streete use and promote the rich local heritage that the Parish has to offer.

Action Project	Indicators of success	Timeframe	Potential Partners	Strategy and funding programme links
<p>Map the Parish in terms of its rich local heritage</p>	<p><i>Increased local awareness of the heritage within the parish</i> <i>Increased opportunities to come together across the Parish</i> <i>Increased appreciation of the local heritage.</i></p>	<p>Short</p>	<p>Heritage Officer- Westmeath County Council, Westmeath Community Development</p>	
<p>Create a heritage trail across the parish</p>	<p><i>Increased appreciation of the local heritage</i> <i>Increased access to the local heritage sites</i> <i>Increased sense of Parish history</i> <i>Increased attraction for visitors to the Parish</i> <i>Increased sense of connection across the Parish</i></p>		<p>Heritage Office Westmeath County Council Westmeath Community Development</p>	

Produce an oral history resource recording people telling their stories of life in Streete	<i>Tangible archive of life in Streete Increased intergenerational awareness. Increased local awareness Increased sense of being a Parish</i>	Medium	Heritage Officer Westmeath County Council Westmeath Community Development Failte Ireland	Ireland's Ancient East (https://www.irelandsancienteast.com)
Create a cemetery plan and map of plots in all the grave yards of the Parish	<i>Increased knowledge across the Parish</i>	Short	Heritage Office Westmeath County Council Westmeath Community Development	
Enhance and Protect the current heritage sites across the Parish	<i>Improved physical appearance of the Parish Improved safety of heritage sites across the Parish Increased access to heritage sites across the Parish</i>	Medium	Heritage Officer Westmeath County Council Westmeath Community Development	

Outcome Six: All people from Streete will have a local infrastructure that supports a good quality of living.

Action Project	Indicators of success	Timeframe	Potential Partners	Strategy and funding programme links
<i>Improve the quality of broadband and mobile phone service</i>	<i>Increase in broadband speed and quality Increase in mobile phone reception Increase in quality communication options Increase in ability to work from home Decreased negative impact on work, family and social life</i>	Short	Westmeath County Council – Department of Communication	
<i>Build a sewage system that supports the current and emerging needs across the Parish</i>	<i>Improved services within the Parish Increased opportunities for growth of the Parish</i>	Long	Irish Water	Capital Programme
<i>Build an on/off slip road from the motorway to give access to Streete</i>	<i>Increased access to main motorways Decrease in travel times Increase in access to Streete</i>	Long	Transport Infrastructure Ireland	

Put up signage at the N4 exit for Parish amenities	<i>Increase potential for visitors to the Parish Increased knowledge of the parish amenities</i>	Medium	Westmeath County Council	
Develop Streete as a Sustainable Energy Community working with SEAI	<i>Increase in overall standard of living. Increased attraction to living in Streete Decrease in energy bills</i>	Long	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) Westmeath Community Development	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) Leader Programme
Develop a renewable energy project for the Community Centre	<i>Increased sustainability for the centre</i>	medium	Westmeath Community Development Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)	Leader Programme Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)
Improve the water supply to the Community Centre including providing a fire hydrant	<i>Increased possibility for sustainable development of the centre</i>	medium	Irish Water Westmeath County Council	
Retain and add to the local bus service that brings people to Granard Edgeworthstown or Longford	<i>Increased accessibility to local transport links Increased access to bigger local town</i>	short	Local Links	

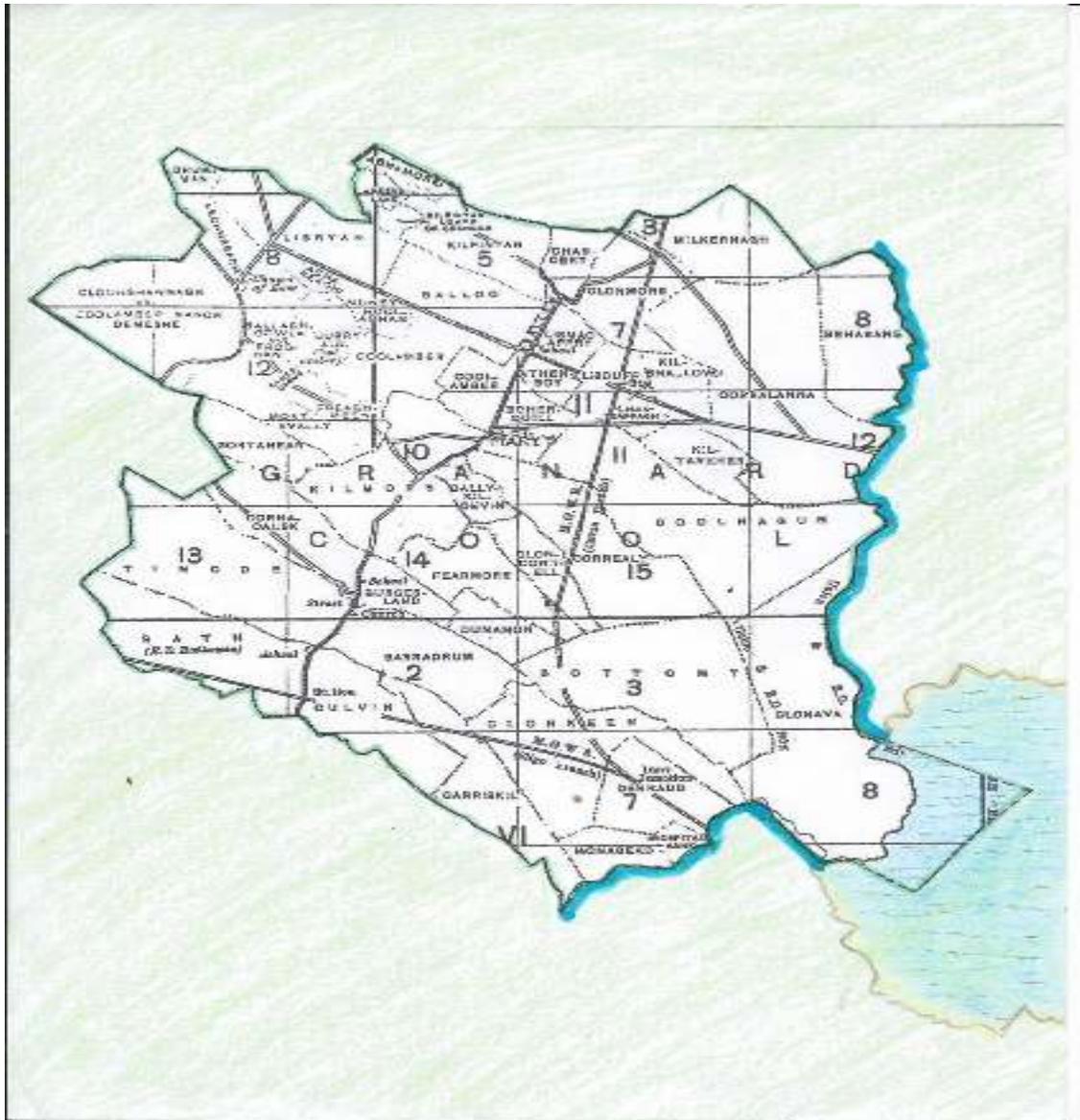
Theme 3: Economy and Education

Outcome Seven: Streete is widely recognised as a tourist destination as a place of natural beauty and rich heritage				
Action Project	Indicators of success	Timeframe	Potential Partners	Strategy and funding programme links
<i>Include all of the Parish of Streete (Westmeath/Longford) in the new Heritage Plan for Tourism Strategy for Westmeath/Longford</i>	<i>Increased tourism across the Parish Increased wider awareness of the attractions of the Parish Increased opportunities for collaboration and growth</i>	Short	Tourist Officer Westmeath County Council Westmeath Community Development Longford County Council	
<i>Include the Parish in the Hidden Heartlands</i>	<i>Increased tourism across the Parish Increased wider awareness of the attractions of the Parish Increased opportunities for collaboration and growth</i>	Short	Tourist Officer Westmeath County Council Westmeath Community Development Failte Ireland	Ireland's Ancient East

<p>Develop signage across the Parish</p>	<p><i>Increased accessibility to the areas of natural beauty.</i> <i>Increased accessibility to areas of cultural heritage.</i></p>	<p>Short</p>	<p>Heritage Officer Westmeath County Council</p> <p>Westmeath Community Development</p> <p>Other 6 villages</p>	
<p>Develop and implement a protection plan for Daramona House and Mill.</p>	<p><i>Increased preservation of historical heritage sites.</i> <i>Increased tourist attraction to the area specifically targeting the World of Astronomy and Physics.</i></p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Heritage Officer Westmeath County Council</p> <p>Westmeath Community Development</p>	

Outcome Eight: The people of Street benefit from and have access to good education and training

Action Project	Indicators of success	Timeframe	Potential Partners	Strategy and funding programme links
<p><i>Develop a Community Services Programme for the Community Centre</i></p>	<p><i>Increased opportunities locally for the people of Streete. Increased opportunities for skills development. Increased employment opportunities locally Decrease in social isolation Increase access to potential funding</i></p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Longford Westmeath Education Training Board Local Businesses</p>	
<p><i>Develop a training programme locally for Community Groups</i></p>	<p><i>Increased capacity of local community groups. Increased group learning and sharing of good practice. Increased capacity within community groups.</i></p>	<p>Short</p>	<p>Longford Westmeath Education Training Board</p>	





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