

# Clarina-Ballybrown Community Council

## Section 2 - Community Survey

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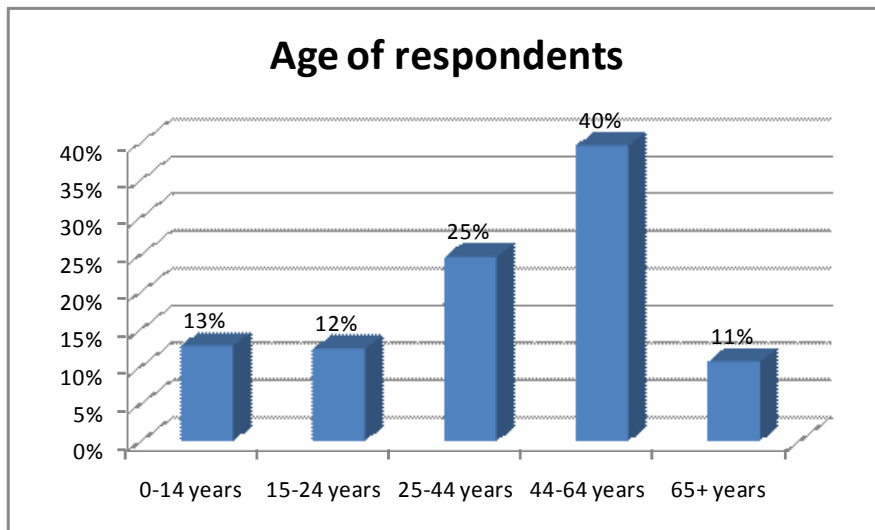
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## 2. Community Survey

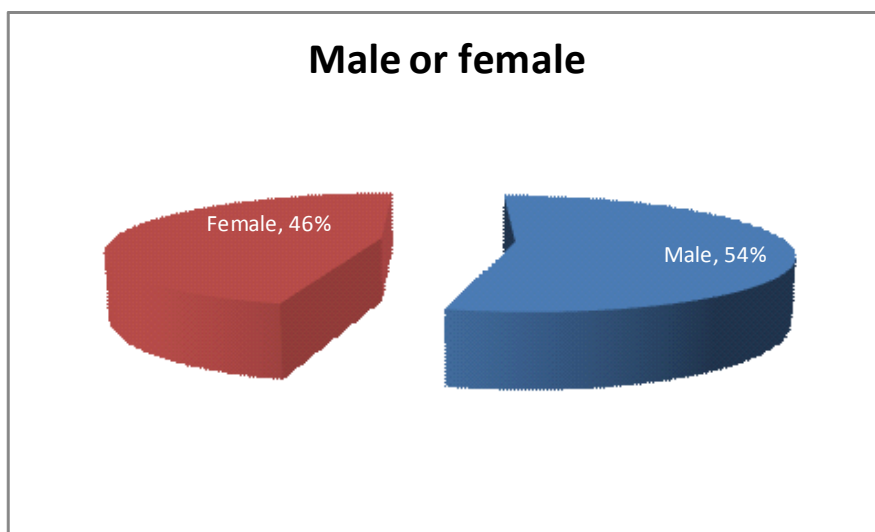
In May, 2011, the Community Council carried out a survey of the local community. In total, the responses represented the views of 240 residents from a variety of ages. A summary of the results and feedback from the survey is provided below and on the following pages.

### Profile of respondents

Responses came from a wide variety of ages, but with the largest response coming, as expected, from those in the 25-64 years age group.

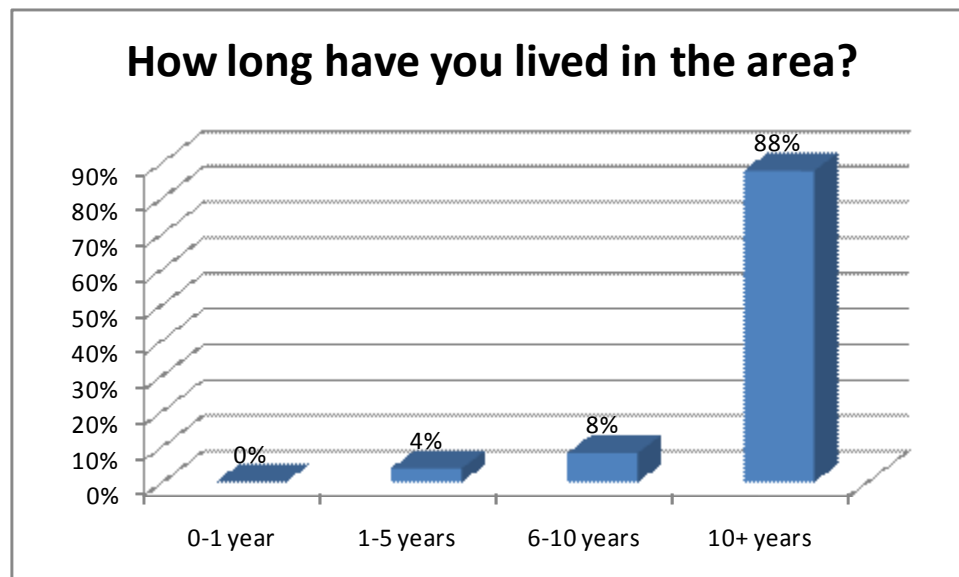


Returns were evenly distributed among males and females, with a slightly higher response from males in the area.



## Length of time living in the area

Interestingly, the vast majority of those responding to the survey were those who have been living in the area for a significant period of time. 96% of the respondents have been living in the area for 6+ years, while only 4% have been in the locality for less than 5 years.



## Satisfaction with local amenities

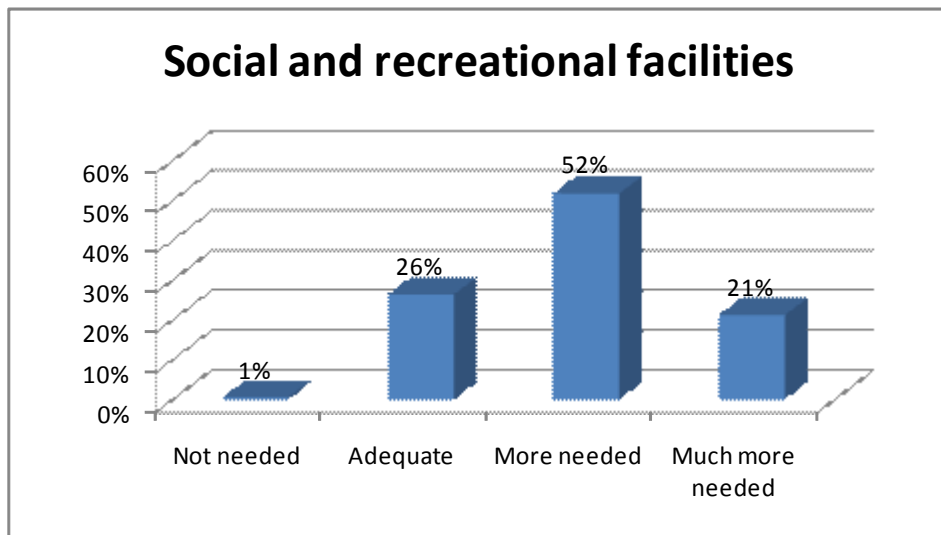
An important function of the community survey was to identify the community's satisfaction with local amenities and facilities, and suggest areas for improvement within the village and surrounding area. For the purposes of the survey, the amenities and facilities were grouped into four main categories, i.e.:

- ⊕ Social and recreational amenities
- ⊕ Sports facilities
- ⊕ Enterprise workspace
- ⊕ Village and rural renewal

The respondents were asked to rate each of the above in terms of whether they felt the current amenities are adequate or whether there is room for improvement. The results for each separate category are summarised below.

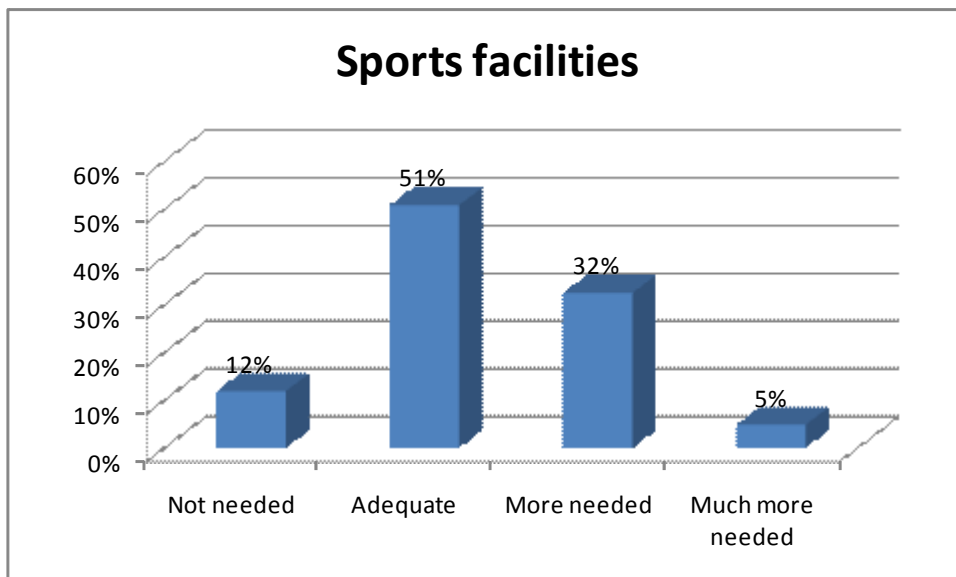
### Social and recreational facilities

These refer to facilities that are available for use by the local community, including groups, clubs, social activities, etc. 73% of respondents felt that this was an area for improvement in the community.



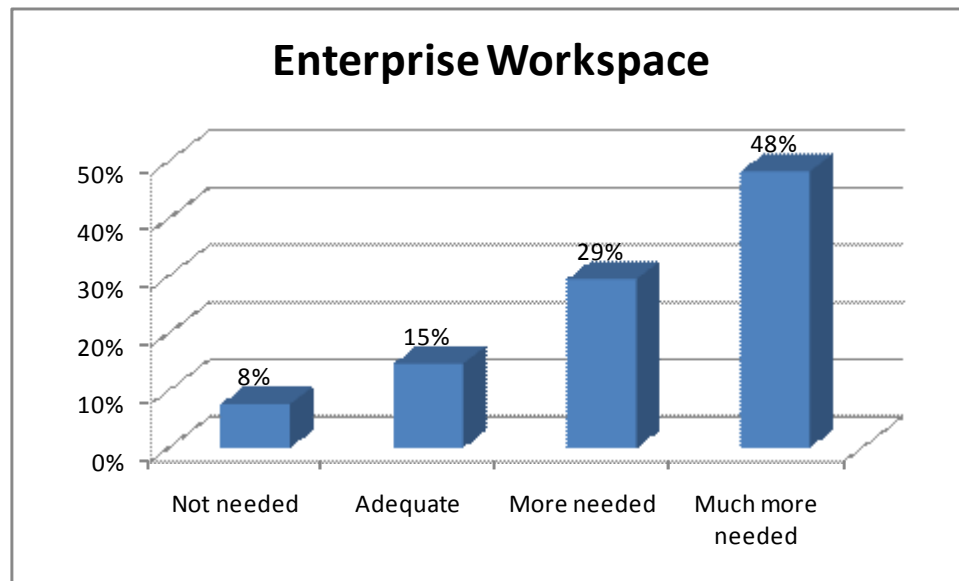
### Sports facilities

This obviously refers to the availability of adequate sports facilities in the area. The responses to this question reflect the general feedback from the surveys, which indicated that most people are satisfied with the level of sports facilities in the area. In this regard, only 37% stated that they felt more facilities were needed.



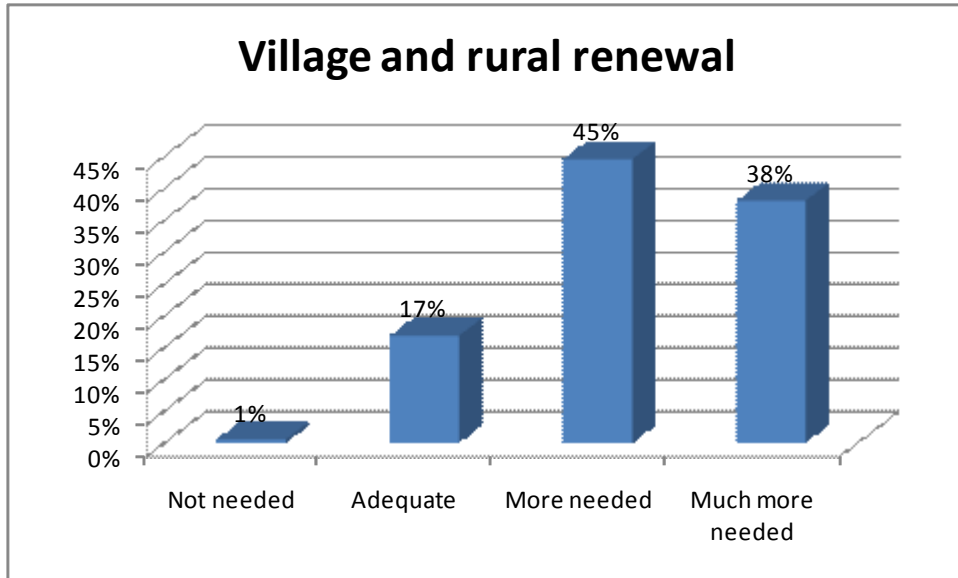
## Enterprise Workspace

This refers to facilities aimed at supporting enterprise, new and developing, in the locality. The majority of respondents highlighted this as an important area of improvement, with 77% stating that more such facilities were needed.



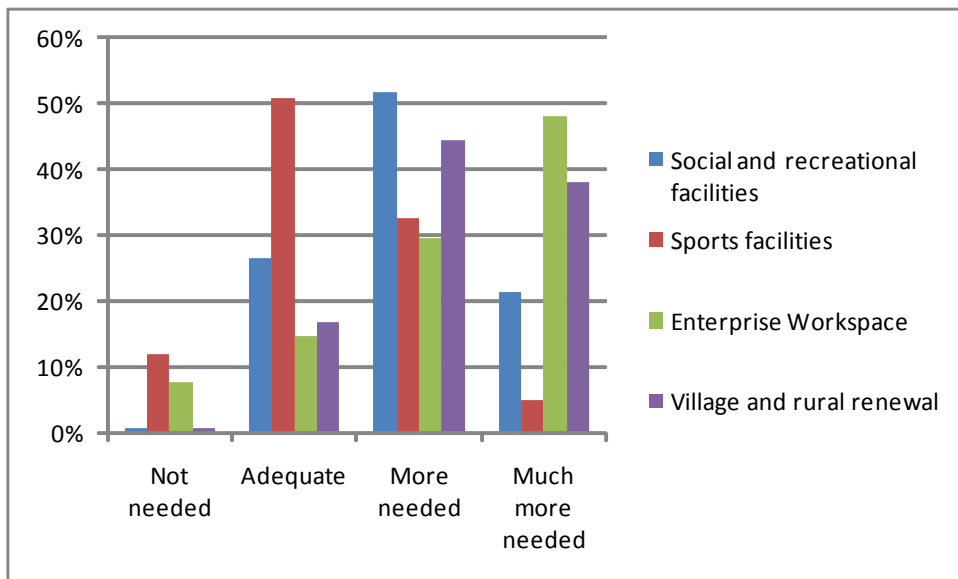
## Village and rural renewal

This refers to improvements in the physical urban and rural landscape in the locality, i.e. the village and surrounding areas. 83% of respondents stated that this was an important area for improvement.

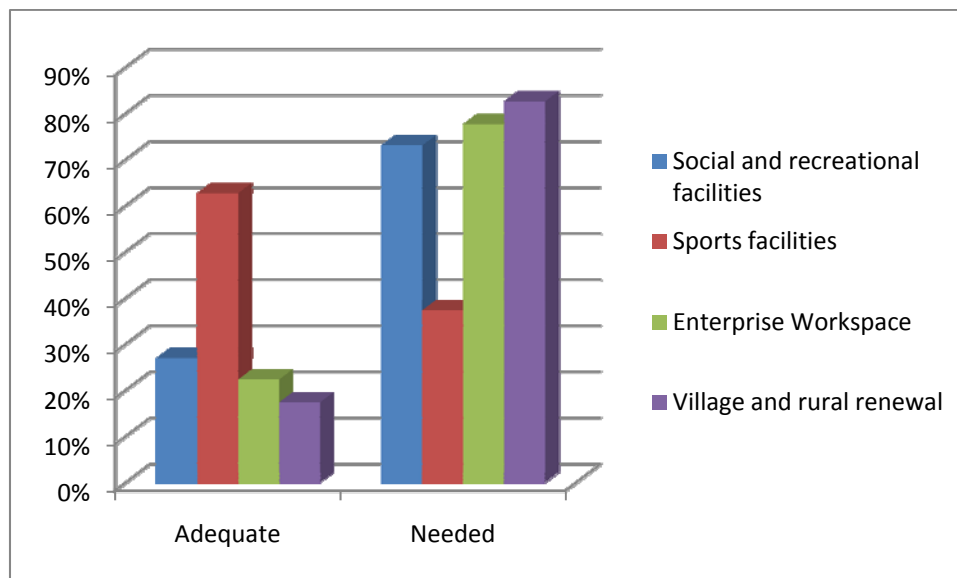


### Areas for improvement

Based on the responses to the survey, the overall feedback for each of the four categories for improvement can be illustrated as follows:



Combining the responses into two ratings, i.e. Adequate (combining 'not needed' with 'adequate') and Needed (combining 'more needed' and 'much more needed'), the responses can be summarised as follows:



These responses, in conjunction with comments provided by individual respondents, have been used to prepare a proposed Action Plan, discussed in Section 4.

## Community spirit

Regarding community spirit, the survey asked two questions of the respondents, i.e:

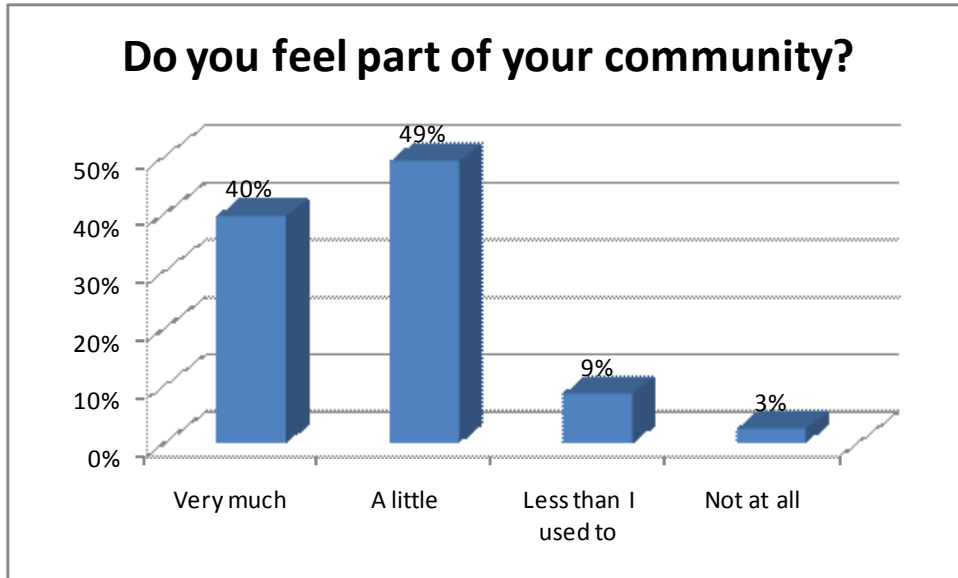
- ⊕ Do you feel part of your community?
- ⊕ How satisfied are you with the area as a place to live?
- ⊕ Do you feel reliably informed of community activities?

The aim of these questions was to generate a realistic picture of how people feel about the local community and the locality.

### Do you feel part of the community?

The response to this question was very impressive. 89% of respondents stated that they feel part of the community, with 40% of those stating that they felt 'very much' a part of the community.

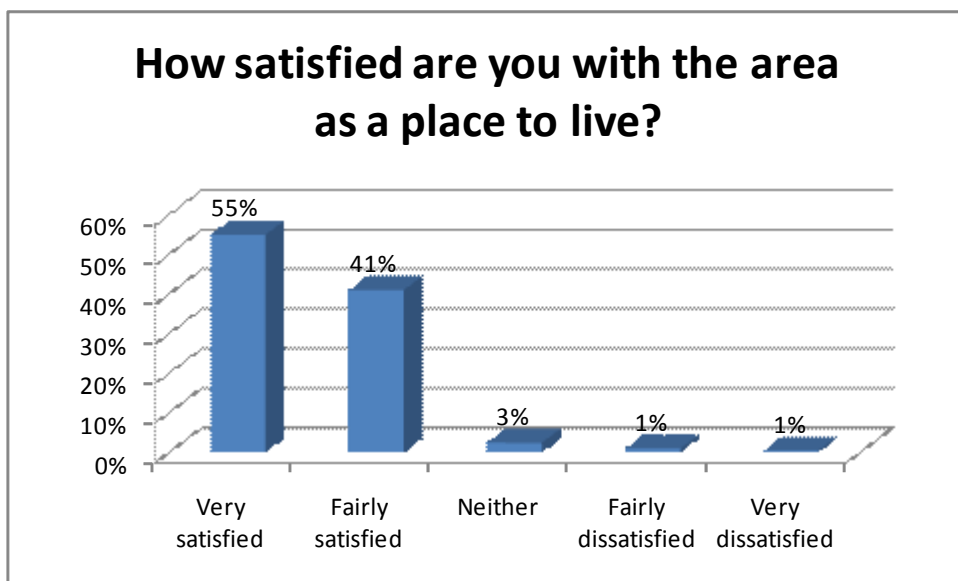




These results are very positive, ranking very high compared with results from similar surveys taken in comparative localities in other parts of Ireland. It has to be stated that the relatively high connection between the people and the locality provides an excellent foundation for the implementation of future community-based actions.

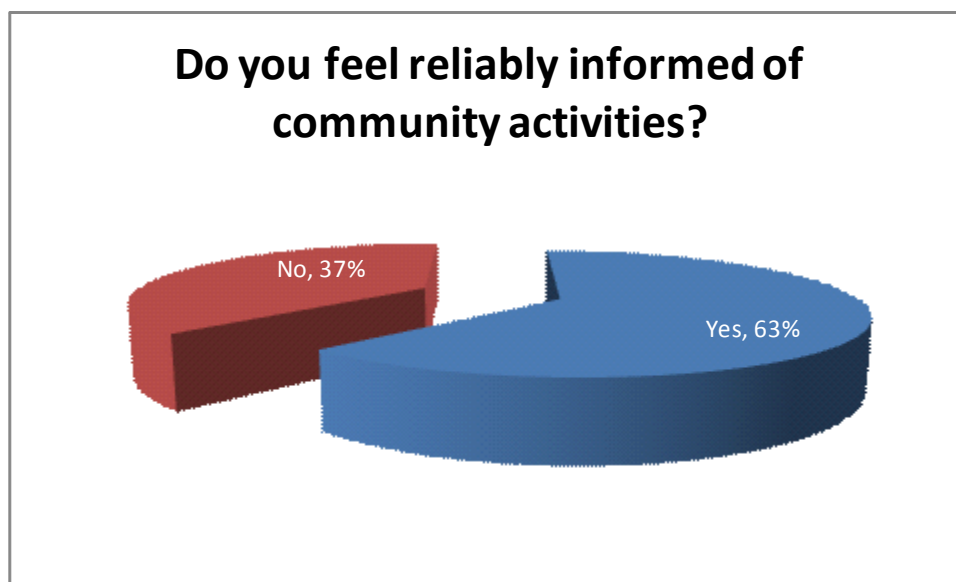
### How satisfied are you with the area as a place to live?

Again, the results from this question show a good relationship between the community and the locality. A return of 96% satisfaction is very high for a community of this size.



### Do you feel reliably informed of community activities?

As with the previous questions in this section, the responses to this issue were very positive, with a large majority, i.e. 63% stating that they did feel reliably informed.



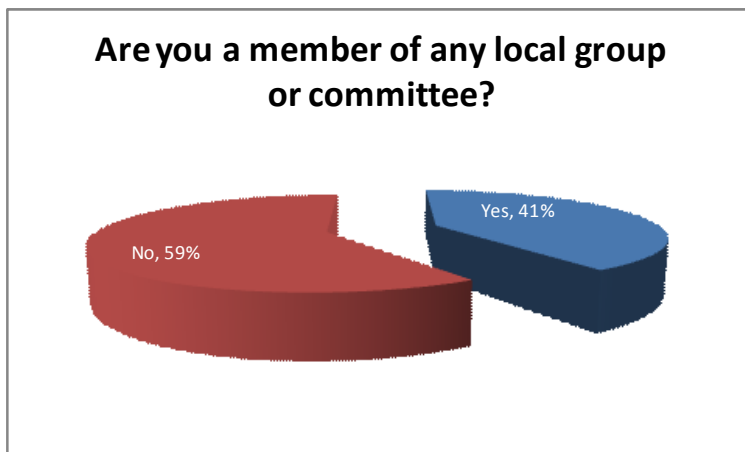
A number of suggestions were made for improvements in communication, and, in conjunction with other comments in this section by individual respondents, these have formed part of the basis for the preparation of a proposed Action Plan, to be discussed in Section 4.

### Involvement with local groups

The survey invited feedback regarding the respondents' involvement in local groups or committees.

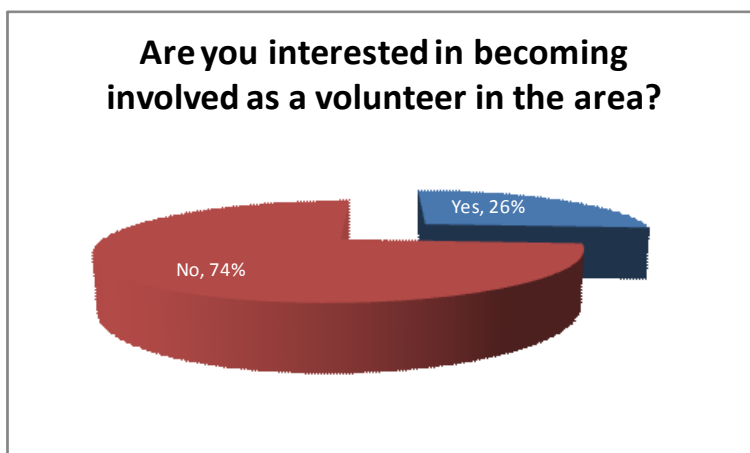
### Are you a member of any local group or committee?

Responses to this question stated that 41% of respondents were involved as a member on a local group or committee. This is a comparable rate of involvement to that indicated, on average, by other communities in Ireland in similar surveys, i.e. between 35-40%.



**Are you interested in becoming a volunteer?**

At first, a review of the responses to this question seem largely negative, with 74% stating they were not interested in involvement as a volunteer. However, it should be noted that 74% is a very similar rate to other communities in Ireland at this time.



Furthermore, building upon the comments provided by the respondents, and the good community spirit in the area, it should be possible to improve this situation, particularly with the introduction of new activities and groups in the locality, as suggested in the survey responses. This is discussed further in the proposed Action Plan later in Section 4.

## Other feedback and comments

When completing the surveys, a large number of the respondents provided other feedback, comments and suggestions for the development of the local area. Many of the comments were of a similar nature and focused on issues that seem to be of significant importance to the local community including, for example:

- ⊕ Improvements in infrastructure for roads, footpaths, cycling and lighting
- ⊕ Visual improvements to the village and surrounding area
- ⊕ A playground to be developed in the local area (this was one of the most popular suggestions)
- ⊕ Recycling facilities in the Village, serving the surrounding area
- ⊕ Setting-up new clubs and activities, to expand range of interests being served in the area
- ⊕ Establishing and supporting youth activities for those in the 14-17 year age group

A sample of some of the comments made on the surveys is provided below:

### Newsletters

- ⊕ More frequent newsletters should be provided
- ⊕ Use a community email
- ⊕ Send out flyers as part of notices in local shops or announcements at Mass
- ⊕ Have a community text system, i.e. SMS
- ⊕ It would be useful to have information about Clarina/ Ballybrown on-line
- ⊕ Use the internet more as a medium to inform the community
- ⊕ A central information point would be helpful, e.g. local website, etc.
- ⊕ The community council newsletter is very good
- ⊕ The information is confined to Ballybrown and not across the whole of Clarina
- ⊕ The newsletter is great when we get it but it can be infrequent

### Groups, societies and activities

- ⊕ Re-establish the Community Alert scheme
- ⊕ Reorganise Neighbourhood Watch
- ⊕ We need a Neighbourhood Watch Programme
- ⊕ Look into the possibility of installing CCTV at the main points
- ⊕ We need a Neighbourhood Watch or something similar
- ⊕ Prepare a list of community and social groups in the area, for distribution to people
- ⊕ Start training programmes for the local community, e.g. stay-at-home parents, 55+ age groups, etc.

- ⊕ Set up a walking group, book club
- ⊕ Events tend to be driven by individual groups, it would be good to see them come together as one for a community event
- ⊕ Organise more activities, like the Carrigogunnell climb
- ⊕ More should be done for the elderly in the community
- ⊕ Establish a drama group
- ⊕ Have an outdoor activity that has nothing to do with sports, to get people together who normally wouldn't do so, e.g. treasure hunt by car, bar-b-q and music at community field

### Traffic, roads and lighting

- ⊕ Improve the visibility of the traffic lights at Clarina Cross
- ⊕ Traffic coming from town very often don't see traffic lights and make no effect to slow down
- ⊕ Traffic lights at Clarina Cross are more of a hazard than convenience
- ⊕ Provide cycle paths around the village
- ⊕ Fill in the potholes in the secondary roads
- ⊕ The roads around the village are treacherous for pedestrians
- ⊕ The state of the roads is terrible around the village
- ⊕ A footpath is required between Ferrybridge and Brick Lodge
- ⊕ Better road signage should be provided on the approach roads
- ⊕ Footpaths need to be improved
- ⊕ Traffic calming is needed at Ferrybridge and along "the line"
- ⊕ Vehicle speed limits need to be reviewed
- ⊕ We need the road, footpaths and street lighting upgraded
- ⊕ A slow down sign for people crossing at the Brick Lodge
- ⊕ A proper footpath or barrier from Doon's Cross to Clarina
- ⊕ The traffic on the N69 is dangerous

### Bus stop

- ⊕ Provide a proper bus stop in Clarina village
- ⊕ A bus stop should be provided

### New or improved facilities

#### Provide a playground

- ⊕ A playground for younger children is badly needed
- ⊕ A kids playground
- ⊕ We need a playground

- ⊕ Areas are needed for children
- ⊕ A children's playground
- ⊕ There should be a playground for children in the parish
- ⊕ More kids events should be organised; if kids aren't going to school locally then they can feel left out

#### Youth facilities and activities

- ⊕ More facilities are needed for the younger generation
- ⊕ Establish a youth café, hosting youth events occasionally, with regular meetings
- ⊕ There is very little available for young people in the 14-17 year age group outside of sports
- ⊕ Kids that do not play sports are poorly served
- ⊕ Facilities other than sports facilities need to be the focal point of the community
- ⊕ Develop facilities for non-team sports

#### New Resource Centre

- ⊕ The new Resource Centre would be a great help in the community
- ⊕ The sooner a community hall/ facilities are built the better
- ⊕ The community centre would be great for the area
- ⊕ There is no community hall, we need a Centre
- ⊕ The new centre would be an ideal facility to locate and post information, as well as hold meetings, functions, etc.
- ⊕ Provide classes in the new local hall, to increase the interaction of new parish members with old
- ⊕ The community hall is going to be very important to the area

#### Other suggestions

- ⊕ There is no public nurse in the area
- ⊕ Clarina village needs a letter box
- ⊕ There is no enterprise workspace available, perhaps the vacant site might be a suitable location

#### Visual improvements

- ⊕ Lobby Limerick County Council regarding the unfinished develop in Clarina Village
- ⊕ Remove the auctioneer's sign at the Post Office at Clarina Cross
- ⊕ More flower beds and hanging baskets in the new and old village
- ⊕ Carry out more frequent rubbish clean-ups

- ⊕ A better awareness of litter blackspots, in conjunction with those involved with Tidy Towns
- ⊕ Provide a bin recycling area
- ⊕ Provide a recycling area for glass, paper, clothes, etc.
- ⊕ Clean up the village development area
- ⊕ The lovely village has been destroyed by the developments
- ⊕ The unfinished development is shocking to the eye
- ⊕ Use the area between the roundabout and Brick Lodge, i.e. the wetlands, could be used for wildlife and children could visit and be educated, etc.
- ⊕ We're very dissatisfied with the eyesore left in the new development

### Other comments

- ⊕ The new village does not feel part of our community
- ⊕ There is a good family community here
- ⊕ Wonderful area with huge potential
- ⊕ I would never live anywhere else
- ⊕ It is convenient to the City and is a private community
- ⊕ I would be willing to deliver community correspondence in my area
- ⊕ It is a lovely place to live, but there is not an adequate support structure for those who do not play sports
- ⊕ The neighbours are very friendly in the area
- ⊕ Because of the geographic spread, it is difficult to know the whole community as well as a person would like to

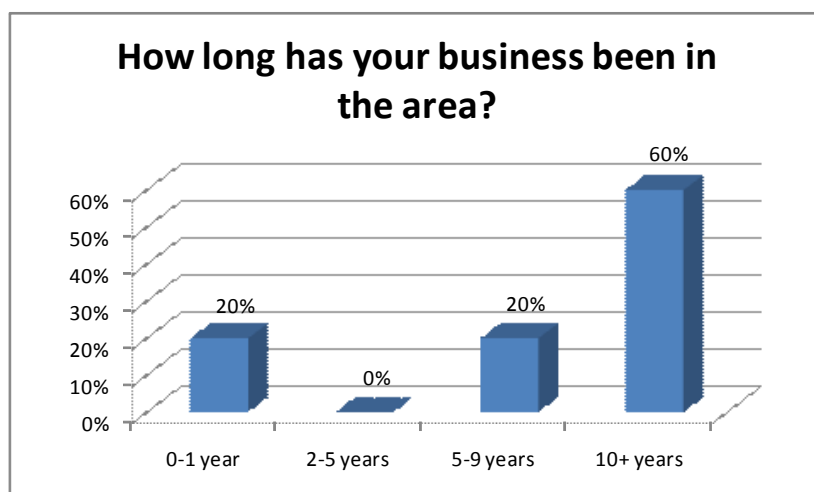
The suggestions and recommendations identified have formed part of the basis on which a proposed Action Plan has been developed (see Section 4.)

## Business Survey

As well as surveying the local community, the Community Council also sent a survey to the local businesses. Despite the small numbers involved, it was very helpful to involve the businesses and encourage feedback on the development of the local area. A summary of the responses to the survey is provided below.

### Length of time in business

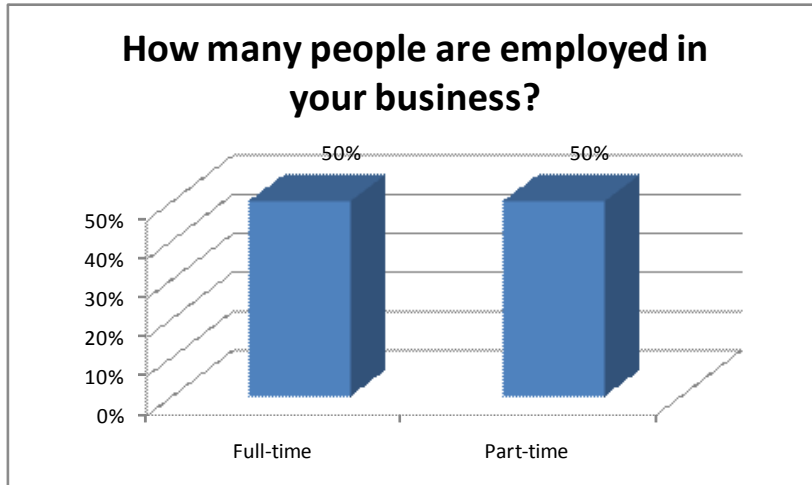
As with the general community survey, the majority of respondents were those who have been based in the area for 10+ years.



### Numbers employed

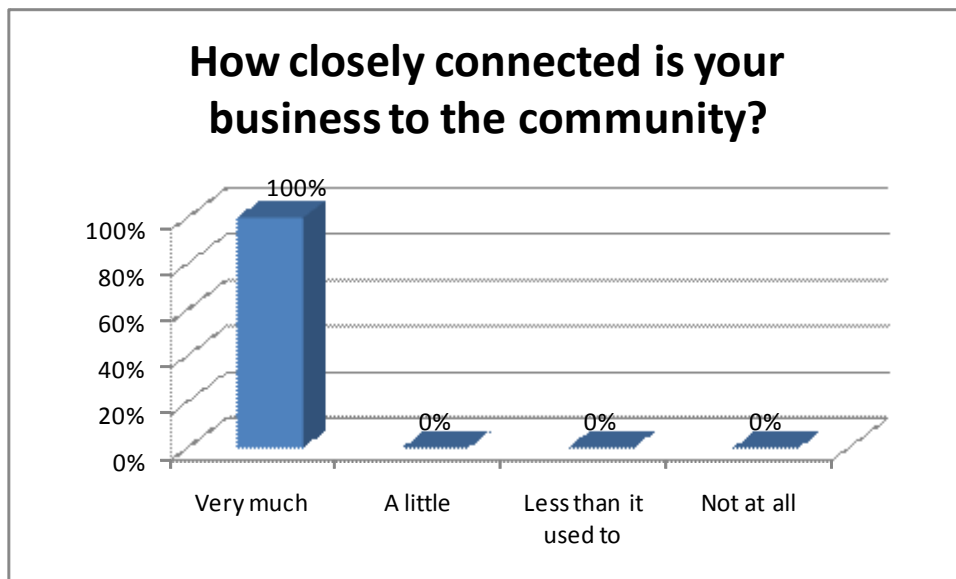
A total of 18 people, full and part-time, were recorded as being employed by the responding businesses.





### Connection to the community

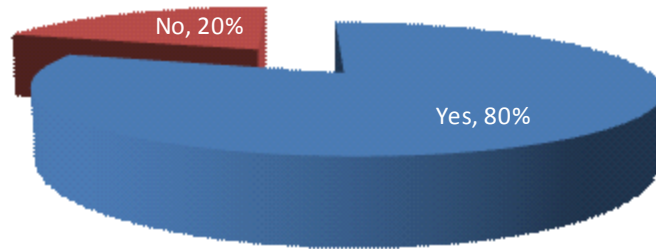
The businesses were asked to provide feedback regarding how closely connected they felt their business is to the community. The response to this question was extremely positive, with all respondents stating that they felt their business was very closely connected to the community.



### Informed of community activities

The majority of businesses stated that they were reliably informed of community activities. The remaining business stated that they would like a more regular newsletter to be kept up to date with potential activities within the community.

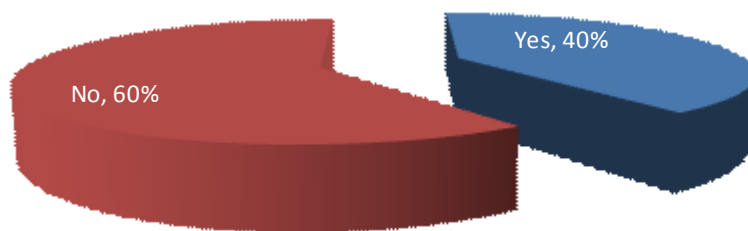
**As a business, are you reliably informed of community activities?**



**Member of local group or committee**

As with the general survey of the community, 40% of those responding stated that they are a member of a local group or committee. This is comparable to other similar communities in Ireland.

**Are you a member of any local group or committee?**



**Other feedback and comments**

When completing the surveys, a number of respondents provided feedback regarding the local area, which included the following comments:

- ⊕ A more regular newsletter should be provided
- ⊕ Businesses should be more informed with regard to discussion topics that come up during meetings
- ⊕ Traffic lights from Clarina to Limerick are very restrictive to flowing traffic. Travel time to Limerick has doubled since their introduction at peak times.
- ⊕ The Ferrybridge is probably the most dangerous bridge on the N69. The traffic signs need improving.
- ⊕ The cleaning of the village by local residents has improved its image and perception.
- ⊕ The building in the new development should be completed.
- ⊕ The village badly needs a hotel

The results from the business survey, as well as the feedback and comments, form part of the basis for the preparation of a proposed Action Plan (see Section 4.)