Scotshouse

Community Plan

2019-2024

Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin
Monaghan County Council

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Foreword

This is our Plan. It is the result of the various groups which work for the development of the village coming together to share ideas and discuss what is best for the future of the area. It is also the result of consultation with the people of Scotshouse, who were given opportunities to feed into the planning process at the early stages and again when the Draft Plan was produced.

We believe that we have identified a set of Actions that will improve the village, and the lives of the people who live here, and we are committing each to delivering our part of the Plan.

We acknowledge that it will take a partnership approach in order to make real progress, and we ask that every person in the village thinks about how they can contribute to making Scotshouse a better place to live. Can you give some time to help in one of the clubs? Or perhaps start a new activity in the Community Centre, so that young people have something to do in the evenings? If everyone did something small in the community, then the change would be HUGE!

Since starting work on this Plan, we have already begun to see the benefits start to come to Scotshouse;

- Funding of €29,757 was secured under CLAR to finish off the car parking to the front of the community centre
- A new committee has been formed to look at the issue of childcare provision in the community, and the first after schools services were rolled out in November 2019
- Enhanced public transport services have been provided to the village, with a weekend night service being piloted in our community, responding to the need to find a way to enable people living in rural areas to retain a social connection with the village
- A teen hang-out area has been added to the playground, and funding of €72,000 was secured from the Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2018 to start work on the community park.
- A further €99,440 has been secured from the same fund in November 2019 to upgrade the running track and link to the community park

All these works were actions identified by the community, and the speed by which they were achieved demonstrates both the capacity of the people of Scotshouse to make great things happen and the commitment of us to our village, of which we are very proud.

The community was chosen by Monaghan County Council to represent the county in the All Ireland IPB Pride of Place 2019 competition, which celebrates excellence in community spirit and achievement – quite the accolade for our little community. Judging day was a wonderful occasion, with the whole hall filled with displays showcasing the activities and talents in our community. The judges had to have

been impressed by the community spirit on display, and particularly by the tradition of giving back to the community which was so evident wherever they looked.

We were so proud of how our community pulled together to prepare for the judges' visit. Thank you to everyone. We found the process of pulling all the local groups together to be a very positive one, and we have made room in this Plan for the groups to continue to meet in the future, for the benefit of all. A new Community Council is being set up to help all the groups in the village to keep in touch and drive progress on this development plan. If you are involved in a group which would like a seat on the Council, please don't hesitate to come forward. All are welcome.

One of the priorities for us is to nurture that community spirit and ensure that it is passed on to the next generation. We intend to create occasions when the whole village can come together, as we believe there are benefits to this which promote a sense of well being at the personal level, as well as bringing great benefits to the community as a whole. If you're interested in becoming involved, we'd be delighted to welcome new volunteers and try out new ideas.

There are many new people living in our village today, and we would like to say welcome to you. This is your home too. Please get involved in helping to look after and improve it.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone who participated in the making of this Development Plan. Thank you for your time, your energy and your ideas. Thank you also to Monaghan County Council for facilitating the local meetings and helping to put the Plan on paper. Thank you also to them for committing to continuing to meet with the new Community Council on an ongoing basis to help ensure that the actions don't grind to a halt.

This Plan represents a new way of doing things for our community. We ask that everyone gets involved and throws their energy behind it, so that it will succeed, and bring benefits to the people of Scotshouse.

Beir bua

Scotshouse Community Centre Committee
Scotshouse Tidy Towns
St Enda's NS Parents Committee
Currin GFC
Scotshouse Community Alert
Scotshouse Branch ICA
Scotshouse Bowls Club
Scotshouse Youth Club
Scotshouse Community Childcare Services
Scotshouse Development Committee
Scotshouse Residents Associations

Part I: Background Information Which Helped to Inform the Plan

1. The Planning Process

Monaghan County Council and the community of Scotshouse have a long history of collaboration, going back through the Tidy Towns competition. In 2016, the Council and Tidy Towns group came together to provide a playground for the village beside the community centre, with the community gaining access to the site by way of donation of the land and the Council accessing grant aid from the Dept of Children & Youth Affairs. An opportunity then presented itself for the Council to acquire the remainder of the site, and during 2017 the Council consulted with the people of Scotshouse on what the site should be used for. The result was a plan for the creation of a community park, and the selection of a general design for the park, which is to have a strong biodiversity theme, and zones where the community can gather to socialise.

Consultation on Community Park 2017

In mid-2017 the Council secured a small amount of funding from the Town & Villages programme, which it used to initiate some of the work on the community park. It also became aware that there would be further opportunities for other funding in the future, and that to be best prepared to take advantage of the funding on offer, the community needed to come together and discuss its needs. The Council organised a public meeting in November 2017 to discuss the community's needs. At that meeting, the various groups and residents present agreed that a Development Plan was needed, and agreed to forward their plans to the Council, for amalgamation into one global Strategic Plan for the area. Follow up meetings identified many key needs in the area. An online needs survey was also carried out, to give those not present at the meetings an opportunity to have their say.

A draft Community Plan was produced in November 2018 and considered all of the comments submitted throughout the various meetings, emails, and online submissions. It was circulated to the community for discussion, before being further developed to take into account any comments received during the consultation period. A short report was produced summarising submissions received and any recommended amendments to be made to the Final Plan arising from the submissions. These were presented at a public meeting on 14th May 2019, at which the Final Plan was signed off by the community.

2. A Quick Overview of Data which Informs the Plan

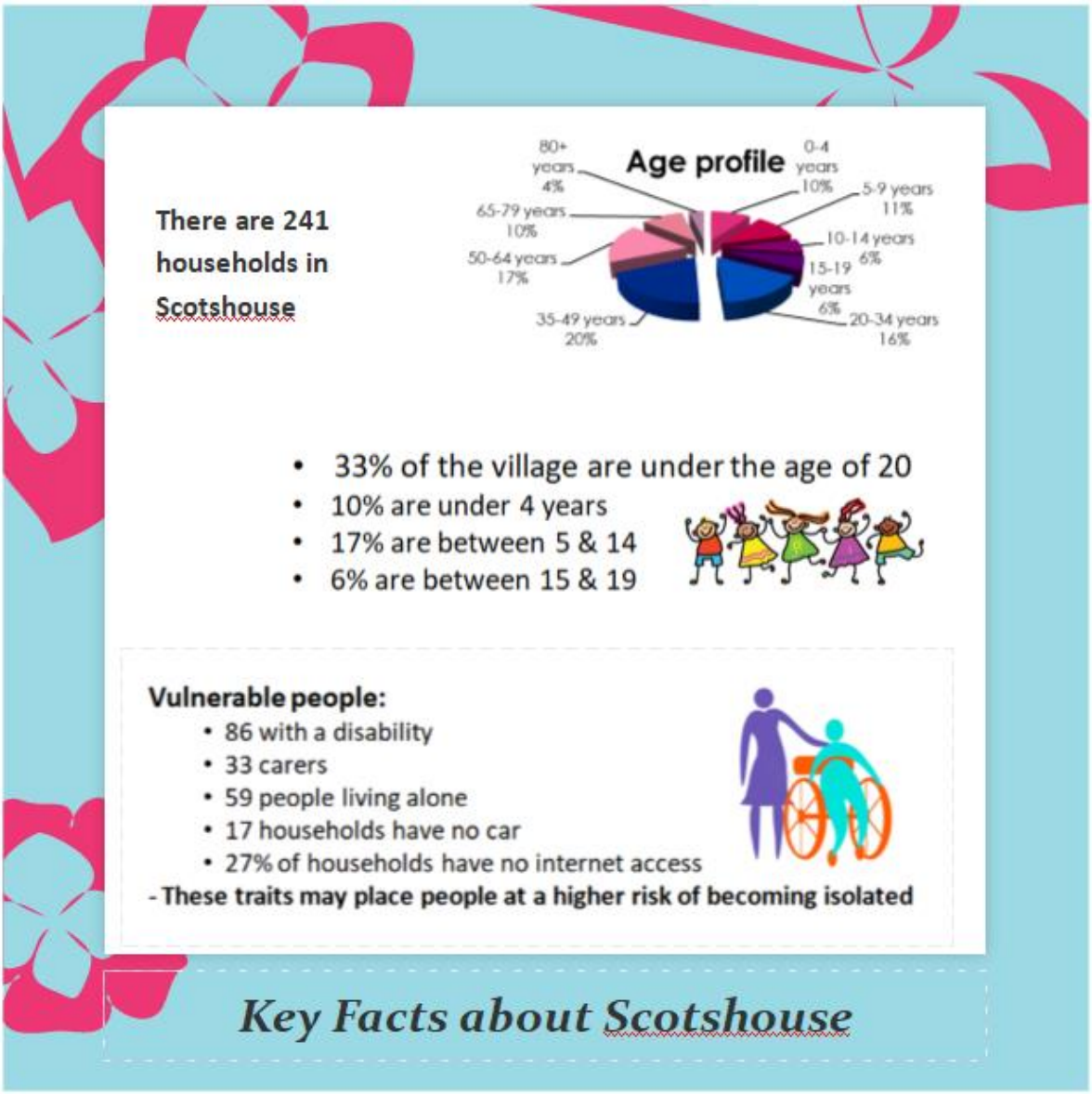
2.1 Situational Analysis

Location

Scotshouse is a small agricultural village about 7 kilometres from the border town of Clones, in County Monaghan. It lies close to the border with County Cavan and with Northern Ireland, specifically County Fermanagh. Cavan town is 18 km away and Monaghan town is 27 km away.

Population

The village was home to 220 people in 2016, according to the Census. The wider Currin Electoral Division, in which the village is situated, had a population of 676, living in 241 households.



Deprivation

The deprivation score for the District Electoral Division in 2016 was -6.65, or 'marginally below average'. This was a slight improvement from 2011 (-6.88), and in general the DED held steady with the fortunes of the wider area around it over these years. However, the area score must be considered in the context of the County score, which is -3.23. In general, west Co. Monaghan shows higher levels of disadvantage than ED's nearer the N2; the situation in Scotshouse needs to be monitored to ensure that it does not slide into continual decline.

Housing

Almost 22% of the houses in Scotshouse are rented, the majority from the private sector. 108 people are reliant on private landlords for their accommodation. 100 homes were built since 2001, giving accommodation to almost half (321) of the DED's population. 36% of the housing stock was constructed before 1980 and is therefore likely to not meet modern standards of energy efficiency.

Nationality & Religion

8% of the population of Scotshouse are not originally from Ireland. The most common country of origin for non-Irish nationals is Lithuania (22 people). Five people stated on the Census form that they do not speak English well.

There is an active minority Protestant community in the area, centred around the historic St. Andrew's Church of Ireland church in the village centre.

2.2 Assets Overview

Heritage

The village lies in the parish of Currin. It derives the English version of its name from Willie Scot, an English soldier in Cromwell's army in the early seventeenth century. The Gaelic name for the village is Achadh na hAbhla, or 'Field of the Apples', although there are no reminders of this legacy to be seen in the village today.

Hilton Park

Just outside the village is the Hilton estate, home to the Madden family since the 18th Century. There is a timeless quality to much of the area, which benefits from many mature tree lines, and is steeped in a rich heritage, such as the finely preserved archaeological site at the Black Pig's Dyke, which lies just outside the village. The Dyke is said to date back to prehistoric times and is the oldest known earthwork in Europe.

Environment

There is a small stream running through the northern edge of the village, between the school and the community centre. The village benefits from a proliferation of mature deciduous trees, a legacy from its association with the nearby Hilton estate. The countryside is largely unspoilt, and is a haven for wildlife, including red squirrel, pine

marten and even woodpecker. The whitethorn hedges which are such a feature of the Monaghan landscape, are strongly in evidence throughout the area.

Social & Community

The community has built up considerable 'social capital' over the years. The community assets include:

Buildings & Facilities:

- Scotshouse Community Centre
- Running track & small playing pitch
- St Enda's Primary School
- Community playground & youth hangout zone

Playground beside community centre

- Church of St Andrew
- Church of Immaculate Conception
- Currin GAA grounds

There are two projects of scale in the process of being developed in the community:

Community Park: Monaghan County Council has purchased the site beside the community centre/ playground, and following consultation with the community, has plans in place to develop it into a community park. Funding has been secured to proceed with those plans before the end of 2019.

Currin GAA: Currin GFC is the oldest (formed in 1886) and the smallest club in County Monaghan. They have recently purchased lands adjacent to the playing pitch with a view to developing a much needed second pitch and training ground. The Club was allocated €40,500 under the 2017 Sports Capital Grants Scheme which will see development of the project commence. The Club has also just completed building a

new stand to increase spectator enjoyment of games and provide universal access for all, especially for the older members of the community.

Groups:

- Tidy Towns
- ICA
- GAA
- Bowls
- Youth Club
- Currin Killeevan Aghabog Community Games
- Community Text Alert

The community would like to see more groups active in the area.

Activities

The main hub for activities in the area is the community centre. Activities include keep fit, dance classes, bowls and a senior citizens party at Christmas.

The community would like to see more activities available, right across the age ranges, but especially for the young and the old.

Human Resources

There are currently 4 workers assigned to community employment schemes around the village. They help out at the graveyards & churches, with the Tidy Towns, and at the school. The workers are a great resource to the community and are much valued.

Attractions

- Hilton Park
- Clones Golf Club
- Black Pig's Dyke

More could be done to link these to the community and raise awareness.

Services

Transport

The village is probably one of the best served rural areas in the county in terms of public transport, thanks to the Cavan Monaghan Local Link rural transport service. The village is on the route of a daily commuter service between Cavan and Monaghan, and a pilot evening service operates at the weekends. Details are provided in Appendix C.

Broadband

Fibre broadband is available in the village, but outside the village, connectivity is poor.

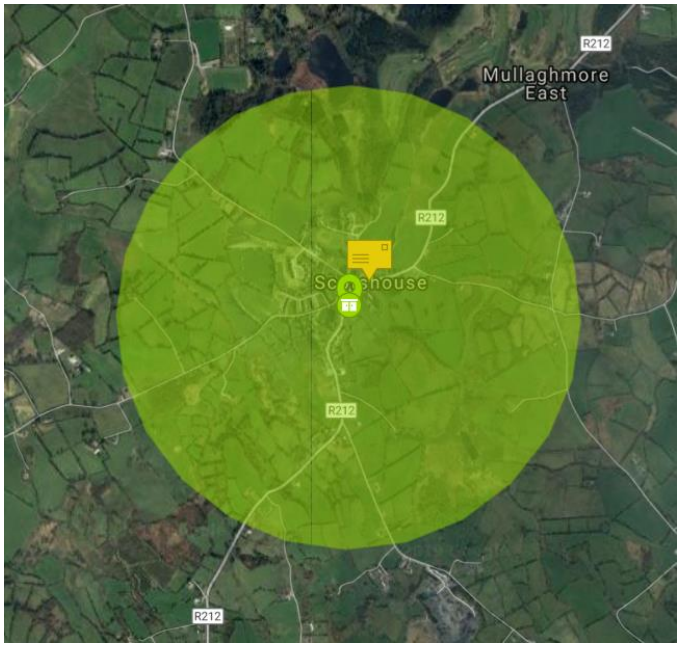


Image from www.fibrerollout.ie June 2019

2.3 Gaps in Community Infrastructure

There are certain amenities and services which are commonly seen in rural communities, and which are absent in Scotshouse. These include:

ATM

There is no ATM or post office in the village

Childcare

At the start of this community planning process, there was no pre-school childcare service available in the village. Nor was there any after school service available locally. These gaps were identified early in the process of identifying the needs of the community. A group of parents, along with the Principal of St Enda's School, have taken the initiative and are working with the County Childcare Committee to put a service in place. An after schools service opened for the first time in the village in September 2019.

Related to this, there are no parent & toddler or other support groups for young parents.

Older People/ Daycare

There is no regular service provided locally to older people, such as meals on wheels, or a daycare service through the community centre. A Christmas party is usually organised, with a collection taken up through the local pub and by the ICA to fund the event.

Other services

There are no local medical services.

There is a need for a facility such as a small meeting room with an adjacent waiting area which could be used to bring in service providers such as agricultural advisers, nurses, counsellors, etc, to the area to deliver a clinic locally rather than require people to travel.

Part II Interpreting the Data & Identifying the Needs for Scotshouse

3. SWOT Analysis

Every community, and every place, has attributes which give it an advantage over its neighbours, and maybe a few things that are still a work in progress. Arranging the key attributes of an area under the headings of '*strength, weakness, opportunity, threat*' can help a community to decide how to harness the assets and tools it has at its disposal, and to get the best from them.

A SWOT analysis was prepared for Scotshouse as part of the community planning process.

Strengths	Opportunities
- Long-established village - Unspoilt rural location - Mature tree lines through the village & on approaches - Rich heritage - Primary school in village - Community centre in village - Active GAA club with own grounds - Active Tidy Towns - Know-how in community to deliver projects like playground, community centre, GAA complex - New playground - A community which knows how to pull together - Willingness of people to get involved - Rural transport service	- New housing developments brought many new residents into the area - Lots of children and young people in the village at present – how to harness their energy? - Land acquired by Council to build a community park in village centre - Redevelopment of community centre to maximise its use - Running track behind community centre is available for development - Boundaries to open space throughout the village, if approached in a collaborative way with landowners, could create a significant impact on the visual appeal of the village - New youth group - New text alert group - Village stream could provide opportunities for biodiversity and water quality education/ awareness raising, sustainable energy projects, and village enhancement feature - The Kingfisher Cycle Trail passes through the village – could more people develop tourism supports to benefit from this? - Much heritage in the area, lots to offer in terms of tourism potential -
Weaknesses	**Threats**
- No area development group to drive overall village development - Some older buildings in poor repair - Many boundary fences/ kerbs missing, creating a feeling of 'disconnectedness' through the village - Derelict sites/ stalled development - Lack of all-day childcare service	- Lack of integration of new residents with existing community - Long hours of commuting by residents leaving less time for engaging in community life, eventually weakening the social fabric locally - Fewer volunteers

- Limited access to training locally - Limited activities which enable the community to come together & build a sense of community spirit - Limited safe physical activity amenities, outside of GAA - No post office	- Younger people not given opportunity to develop leadership skills and build capacity to give back to community - Pollution, climate change, littering etc may damage the largely unspoilt environment of the area - The derelict properties and unfinished development sites create an unloved air, which lowers the general morale of the community, and makes it harder for everyone to invest in the area's future

4. Community Needs Survey

A Needs Survey was distributed around the community and online, asking people's opinions of the village and the amenities, as well as asking them what they would like to see developed in the area. The information gathered by the survey was then considered as part of the issues to be addressed. It also helped to identify projects which were being undertaken which needed to be included as Actions in the Plan.

5. Key Issues to be Addressed

Once the SWOT and the data from the area overview were reviewed, the following issues emerged as being the most important to be addressed:

- The appearance of the village
- The need for a local all-day childcare service
- The continued improvement of facilities and activities at the community centre
- The creation of spaces for the community to use, mix and meet
- The creation of events and activities to bring the community together more often

Within these issues, several projects were identified, and ways forward were suggested. Some of these have already been acted upon, and are already in progress, which is wonderful to see. Others will take a little longer to achieve.

The most critical element of all, however, to progressing the Plan, is animation of the community itself. It is vital that everybody contributes to the community in whatever way they can. Your community needs you to GET INVOLVED. So, ask yourself how can you help, and get stuck in!

6. The Vision for Scotshouse

A 'vision' is a picture that the community creates in its head of the end result of its efforts. It describes what Scotshouse will look like at a specified time in the future –say in ten years' time - after all the hard work has paid off, and the various initiatives have been put in place to create the 'Ideal Scotshouse'.

Our Community Plan for Scotshouse focuses on building opportunities for the community to come together as often as possible, so that the people of the area can strengthen their connection to each other, and on building the social infrastructure that provides the support which enables this to happen. This is reflected strongly in the Vision:

A Vision for Scotshouse in 2028:

"There is a natural charm to Scotshouse village, which is well kept, with new developments melding seamlessly with the older features of the village. The community takes an obvious pride in its heritage which is evident in little touches throughout the village.

There is always lots going on in Scotshouse, and there are activities to suit everyone. There are a range of services available locally, and those which aren't are easily accessed via an excellent rural transport service.

Everybody feels welcome in Scotshouse, and everyone plays their part in community life; from the youngest to the oldest, all are equally cherished and respected. Community life in Scotshouse is very rich, with neighbours connecting through shared experiences, interests and a passion for passing on all that is special about living in this special community."

There are four key elements to this Vision:

1. The **physical appearance** of the village

2. The **community amenities** which are built up within the village

3. The **services and activities** which are available to the people of the village

4. **The community spirit**, where the people value their community and wish to contribute to their community. The idea of giving back to community should be automatic to everyone in a strong community.

7. Main Strategies & Priorities

7.1 Addressing the Physical Appearance of the Village

The streetscape is somewhat disjointed and lacking in continuity, partly due to the removal in places of plot boundary treatments such as fencing and hedgerows. It is proposed that missing fence lines be replaced, and the fantastic dry-stone walls in the area be replicated where possible throughout the village to create a dialogue between the village and the surrounding countryside.

It is proposed to reference the Irish translation of the village's name, 'Achadh na hAbhla', which suggests that the area was once associated with apple orchards, to create new themed signage for the village. These will give the area a unique identity, which can be extended into the planting scheme around the village.

Key elements of the Plan will be the creation of an image for the village and promoting the heritage of the area through signage and public art.

A planting scheme focusing on native permanent plants will be implemented, to compliment the mature trees and wonderful hedgerows in the area. This will help to screen off the unused development sites in the village, as well as support a wide variety of wildlife, and will require much less maintenance than annual plants and flowers.

Landscaping at the entrance to Oakland Grove, will also be undertaken. It is suggested that a grove of oaks, propagated from acorns harvested from local trees, be planted at the entrance to the estate, to give context to the estate's name.

A lack of boundary to site opposite Connollys breaks up the centre of the village

A simple low whitethorn hedge creates continuity and restores the visual connection from one building to the next to maintain the streetscape

Example of how landscaping can improve the entrance to Oakland Grove, with avenue of oaks to the left, and an apple orchard behind a low native hedge to the right

7.2 Improving Community Amenities

The following capital projects have been selected as for priority attention, based on feedback from the community:

- More facilities within the Community Centre
- Completion of the Community Park
- Upgrading of the Running Track/ Field behind the Community Centre
- Provision of Childcare Facility

Community Centre

The Community Centre committee has plans to build a modest extension costing just under €200,000. Key among the needs for the building is to add a ground floor meeting room, so that additional activities such as counselling, public health clinics, etc, can be run in the Centre. It is also in need of storage space, and a general comfort overhaul.

Many community centres around the country have benefited from providing a lobby area, which is not used for any structured activity, so that people can drop in casually and hang out at the Centre, as well as use it for organised events and activities. Parents can wait for children, or casual clubs such as a book club, might use the space to meet up and have a coffee and chat, and find out what is going on in the Centre.

One cohort of the community which particularly benefits from having a dedicated space is young people, for whom WIFI connectivity is important. A room set aside for their use is recommended.

Many community centres have also become involved in providing day care services for older people and childcare services at the other end of the age spectrum.

It is planned to set up a 'Programme/ Activities Committee', comprised of reps from the groups and users of the Centre. Their focus will be on creating activities for every age and interest in the village and managing bookings.

This will free the Community Centre's Management Committee to focus on the building itself and how it can be upgraded to meet the needs of today and tomorrow's users.

County Council Site – Proposed Community Park

The Council has purchased the undeveloped housing site beside the community centre, and after consultation with the community, a design has been selected for a community park. It is intended that it will become a meeting point and hub, complementing the role of the adjacent community centre.

A basic design, which heavily favours biodiversity and natural play principles, has been chosen by the community, and this will be advanced on a phased basis, as funding becomes available. It is planned to provide a bridge linking this new amenity to the running track behind it, to create one seamless amenity for community use. It is also planned to provide direct access to the park from St Enda's School, thus providing a safe off-road alternative route to the village.

After the Park was agreed with the community in 2017, funding was secured to construct the 'teen hang-out area', adjacent to the playground. This was completed in late 2017. Funding was secured in late 2018 to landscape the remainder of the site, and this work is expected to be complete before the end of 2019.

The chosen design for the proposed community park, which will complete the corner of community amenities which includes the school, playing field & running track, playground and community centre. Together these will form a fantastic hub for community activity and will play an important role in the lives of the people of the area.

Refurbishment of the Running Track

The running track & playing field behind the community centre currently have a very basic surface. It is planned to upgrade the track surface and add additional amenities such as outdoor gym equipment installed around the perimeter.

At present the field belongs to the Parish, it may be necessary to lease the amenity to the community in order to ensure it is eligible for funding, and so that it can be insured appropriately and available for general community events.

Childcare Facility

With the expansion in population and new families moving into the area over the past ten years, there is a need for local provision of childcare and after school care. The extent of the need has to be investigated, as this will determine how big the facility needs to be.

To get this project moving, local parents have recently formed a steering committee. Monaghan County Childcare Committee (CCC) will advise and mentor the team as they research the childcare needs of the area and develop a plan which meets those

needs. The CCC will also be able to advise on funding sources and help the team to put in place a management committee for the facility once up and running.

Sustainable Development

A number of initiatives are recommended in the Plan which promote sustainable development, including:

- The energy efficiency of older houses and community buildings could be addressed through the SEAI's Better Energy Communities initiative.
- The planting scheme suggested in this Plan is based on native species which supports more wildlife and is pollinator friendly.

Finish Housing Estates & Address Dereliction

There are substantial development lands in the centre of the village which are very visible, and which detract hugely from the village's appearance. These need to either be screened off with hedging, returned to good agricultural condition, turned into another amenity and maintained in an appropriately good condition, or developed, so that the village can flourish.

Monaghan County Council will enter into discussions with the owners of the properties to discuss how they can be assisted to bring forward their plans. Likewise, the owners of derelict and vacant properties in the village will be encouraged to put a plan in place to address their current state of neglect.

Taking In Charge

An application has been submitted by the Residents Association of Scotshouse Close to have the estate formally taken in charge by the Council. Monaghan County Council is currently in discussions with the Residents Association regarding outstanding matters.

7.3 Enhancing Services and Activities

Enhancing the Programme at the Community Centre

A consistent thread through the community consultation was that people of all ages would like to have more activities available locally. The basic facilities are available in the Community Centre; what is required is some imaginative programming and a budget to cover costs. Facilities can be improved over time; however, the drive needed to make improvement to the building often result in the focus being taken off the day to day planning of activities. To ensure this does not happen, the Centre will set up a 'programming committee', whose purpose is to identify the services and

A good way to find out what social activities will attract viable numbers is to run 'come and try it' taster sessions over a number of weeks where over a number of weeks, different activities are offered each night so that people can try out new things like pilates, ballroom dancing, heritage talk, etc. Based on feedback, the Centre might then opt to make some of the activities a regular feature in the weekly roster.

activities which the community need and find ways to bring those to the Centre. They will develop an 'activities plan' to breathe new life into the programme of activities on offer through the Centre.

The Centre should consider how it might become a place which every member of the community has a reason to visit at least once a week. It needs to be a true hub of community activity and needs to work towards this goal.

One initiative it might undertake, requiring little capital investment, is to start a 'couch to 5k' drive in the community. This will need to involve indoor fitness sessions, talks on nutrition, motivation etc, as well as organising a final 5km event, which will act as a community celebration. Another option might be to set up a walking club in the community. Advice / assistance on exercise programmes for all ages and all levels of fitness can be sought from Monaghan Sports Partnership.

We suggest that the Centre looks at activities which have been working in other areas, such as supports for local families, older people, people living alone, and people wishing to adopt healthier lifestyles by running regular events on nutrition, wellness and mental health by running talks and training events on these issues.

The Centre Committee should consider any proposed changes to the centre in the context of the needs of the community. For example, could small changes to the kitchen be made to make it suitable for holding small courses / cookery demos, or could a small room be provided which would be suited to use by a counsellor/ nurse so that these services may be delivered by the HSE locally? Could the Centre's energy resources be managed remotely, by App, to cut down on costs and improve user comfort levels?

Rural Transport

The people of Scotshouse are heavily reliant on the private motor car for getting about. But what if you're too young to drive? Or the family car is away to town already? The ability of young people and old people, in particular, to participate in activities, take up employment, or avail of services is especially impacted by the availability – or lack - of transport. It is critical therefore that regular transport links to all of the surrounding towns are developed if the people of Scotshouse are to have full access to all of the opportunities they need and deserve. Cavan Monaghan Rural Transport Coordination Unit have introduced a number of services recently. If these are not used, they will be lost again to the area. It is therefore very important that the people of Scotshouse work hard at changing their travel habits to make sure that they maximise use of these services and give them a chance to bed down.

Community Alert

The Community Alert group has been recently revived in the village, which will enable householders in the area to avail of a range of useful initiatives, such as Text Alert, property marking, free smoke alarms to older people, and Seniors Alert.

The group has recently joined Monaghan County Council's county-wide Monaghan Community Alerts service, which provides FREE Garda Alerts to both smartphone users

via an APP and mobile phone users via text message. The service also allows the group to send community messages out to their local membership, which could be developed into a useful mode of communication for community activities in general.

Youth Club

Scotshouse needs dedicated space which is available on a permanent basis for young people to use. The new youth group in the village has recently secured funding from the Community Enhancement Programme to set up a Youth Facility in the Community Centre. It is proposed to give over a room in the Centre to young people to use as a dedicated drop-in space. The project is in its infancy, but is a very welcome development, as it opens the door to the provision of a range of youth services and supports, as well as encourages young people to get more involved in other activities based in the Centre.

The young people of Scotshouse have led this initiative to date, but need the support of the wider community in order to ensure the project continues to flourish. They also need to be included in local decision-making, as they have a stake in the future of the area, and they are more than capable of playing their part.

Children's Activities

If you're not interested in GAA, what else is there to do if you're a child in Scotshouse? Activities such as a weekend kids' club, and a summer camp should be explored, as a support to parents, an educational resource to children and as a possible income opportunity for the community centre. Should there be insufficient numbers to run such activities in Scotshouse, the feasibility of organising a bus service to Clones, Cavan or Monaghan to facilitate children participating in activities there, by availing of the Local Link rural transport service should be investigated.

It is suggested that the best people to organise such activities would be a Parents Group. Interest has been expressed in parenting supports and parent & toddler activities; perhaps an active group of parents, working with the Community Centre and supported by the County Childcare Committee, might put together a programme?

7.4 Building Community Spirit

Pulling Together

Sometimes, people simply don't realise that their help is needed, and would be more than willing to give a few hours if asked.

So we'll say it here: EVERYONE's help is needed to make Scotshouse a great place to live and to ensure that it remains that way. So think about what you can offer, and offer it!

A Community Notice Board is to be placed in the Community Centre. Groups are to use it to post anything they need help with – from small, regular 'ten minute' jobs to large one-off tasks. Individuals might also use it to offer their skills or time, or to advertise that they are interested in starting a particular activity and see if anyone else would like to join them in setting it up.

Respondents to our Community Survey told us they would volunteer to help start a gym, a community alert group, and an initiative around positive mental health for both adults and children.

Improving Communication

Building a reliable way of getting word out to all the community of events, activities, etc, is a very valuable piece of work, and one which should be prioritised. The community should agree on certain 'information channels' and run these well. For example,

- All local groups should submit news to the 'Scotshouse News' Facebook page and Northern Standard notes as well as to their own PR channels
- The community centre could keep an up to date notice board in the lobby, which should feature local news, but also information which may be of use to local people, such as grants, emergency helpline numbers, etc
- Consideration should be given to a paper-based Newsletter once or twice a year. This should be left around each house, as it provides an opportunity to contact everyone and get valuable feedback
- Scotshouse Community Alerts has access to a messaging service and can issue messages to all Scotshouse subscribers free of charge. This has the potential to be a very powerful method of keeping the community in contact with what is going on, not just for community alert activity, but across all community activity.

Community Festival

Strong communities come together often, and we need to create those opportunities. We recommend that an event similar to the old sports day which so many enjoyed in the community be revived. A family day, with a bit of craic, food and music, and which may even raise a bit of money towards the next community project.

We suggest that two annual events be introduced; a summer event, and a Christmas event. The events can also provide an opportunity to listen to people's project ideas, find out what they wish to see happen in the community, and listen to how they feel

about what is going on. The Christmas event should be a celebration of the community and focus on rewarding volunteers for the effort they have put in all year.

Community Council

All the groups in the area will come together to form a Community Council. This will make it easier for the community in general to stay in touch, agree what needs to be done, review this Plan, meet with the County Council, decide which projects should be done first, where funding should be allocated, etc.

Each group in the area will have one seat on the Community Council. This Plan will become the Community Council's guiding document, and the Community Council's main job will be to oversee progress on the delivery of this Plan.

8. The Main Objectives Behind the Priority Themes

- *The 'why' behind the Plan*

Support to Families

Age profiling suggests that childcare services and facilities for young people are urgently required. The needs survey revealed that there is an interest in parenting and parent & toddler groups. Activities for children who are not interested in ball sports were also highlighted as a need.

Addressing Isolation

The research has shown that for many reasons, there are many people in the community who are at risk of becoming isolated, be it because they live alone, or they are newly arrived to the area, or they have small children and can't get out much, or they are disabled, or they have no transport or no internet access.

Councils and community groups working together can be very good at addressing causes of isolation, through the provision of services, the development of amenities, and the running of activities such as fun days, evening classes, etc.

A number of actions are proposed for Scotshouse, including the creation of a Community Park, where people can come together, and the creation of an annual family festival, to enable people to celebrate together and strengthen community connections.

Promotion of Community Spirit & Pride

When a small community expands as rapidly as Scotshouse has over the past ten to fifteen years, it can be hard to ensure that all new arrivals feel welcome and included in community life. Involvement in community activities can be difficult when you don't know many people; it can be intimidating to step into a gathering where you're the only person who seems to not know everyone there.

Giving the community – young and old, newly arrived and lifelong residents alike – a Community Plan to get behind, to sign up to, and to play an active role in delivering,

gives everyone a chance to be part of a fresh start for Scotshouse. Everyone will be asked to identify what part they play, and what gifts they bring to the community.

There is a general air of neglect in the village, due to a combination of unfinished developments, stripped-out boundaries, vacant or derelict buildings and abandoned vehicles. Such eyesores work to demotivate all from looking after their properties and encourage vandalism and littering. Giving the village a 'face-lift' will lift community spirit. It will also spur people on to take on further projects and encourage them to think what else they might achieve. Giving the village a visual spruce-up will serve as a reminder every day of the progress the community is making on other projects too.

We recommend that as part of the village 'face-lift', a logo or brand for the village be developed using the heritage of the area as inspiration. This should be featured on welcome signage at the entry points to the village. Branding the village with a strong sense of identity which is unique to it will help to build a sense of pride of place amongst those who live here.

Apart from helping to promote a sense of place and foster a sense of pride, creating a clearly defined start point to the village can have a very practical benefit also, such as helping to calm traffic.

Sensitive Development & Promotion of Local Heritage

The village is situated in an ancient pocket of the county and has much heritage to be explored. However, there is little signage or literature promoting the area's history and culture. The Plan includes actions which will promote the area's heritage and make it more accessible for visitors. This will also help to generate local pride in the area.

Buildings of heritage add value to the village, such as the old water mill and the former RIC barracks, and might be considered as possible community projects, should their current owners be willing to consider an approach.

The dry-stone walls and stone ditches which are traditional to the area are very distinctive. Those that remain should be preserved, and every effort should be made to ensure that new developments work well with these traditional features. Where possible, the traditional techniques should be used to continue to create new boundaries, echoing and honouring the labourers of the past.

Funding might be accessed to provide training to local people in traditional skills, so that they might continue to use these skills on their own properties. This would benefit farm buildings, etc, for many years to come.

Part III: The Actions – What is going to be done, and who will do it

9.The Actions

The table below outlines the wider suite of projects and activities which have been suggested by you, each of which will play a part in achieving the vision set out for Scotshouse.

Project Detail	*Who*	*Supported by*	*How*
1. Address the physical appearance of the village			
1.1 Create a 'brand' that the people of Scotshouse can take pride in			
- Develop a Theme for Scotshouse, to be used on welcome signs, websites, tourist info boards, newsletters, etc	Tidy Towns	Monaghan County Council	Commission logo for village, to draw inspiration from Black Pig's Dyke, apples, dry stone wall & oaks. Develop an artist's brief, decide on a budget, invite artists to submit proposals
- Commission sculpture to place prominently in village centre, to create a focal point for the village, and promote the village 'brand'	Tidy Towns	Monaghan County Council	Source heritage apple trees. Identify waste areas for regeneration/ screening off
- Plant apple trees in community park and around the village	Tidy Towns		Schools competition. Winning concept to be used by graphic designer on final artwork
- Create welcome features & link to branding	Tidy Towns	Monaghan County Council	
1.2 Address the disconnected feel created by the removed boundaries, unfinished development sites and derelict & vacant properties	Tidy Towns/ property owners	County Council	Secure funding to address open boundaries to disused development sites, improve entrance to Oakland Grove estate, and boundary fence to Scotshouse Close estate.
1.3 Develop a 3-year Plan for Tidy Towns	Tidy Towns		Commission a consultant to work with the group to devise practical work programmes for improving and managing the public realm, habitats and amenity areas in the village
1.4 Highlight the heritage features, such as stone walls, the creamery, the Protestant Schoolhouse, RIC Barracks (Fitches) - Open the Black Pig's Dyke to	Property owners/ Tidy Towns/ Monaghan County Council		Identify each section to be re-instated and the technique/ style to be used. Source funding and skilled workers. Carry out restoration – sometimes it can be done as a demonstration/ training exercise more cheaply than it could by a contractor

visitors and provide visitor information at the site - Carry out an audit of the mature trees, and collect seeds for re-planting - Reinstate stone walls at village entrance to Hilton Park			
2. Improve amenities			
2.1 Improve visitor information - Provide information point on local heritage - Develop other local tourist infrastructure, e.g. brochure, walking trail, app - Provide tourist information linking to Kingfisher Trail and other county and regional routes	Tidy Towns Tidy Towns Tidy Towns	Monaghan County Council Monaghan Tourism	Provide a visitor information point with map in village centre Script panels on Black Pig's Dyke, Hilton Park, Scotshouse Village, select sites and access funding. Consider further projects, e.g. producing in booklet/ app form Ensure local literature carries links to county websites, and vice versa
2.2 Create community park beside community centre	Monaghan County Council		Design already agreed with community. Secure funding & construct
2.3 Upgrade parish field behind school, to become multi-sports facility	Currin Parish/ Community Centre Committee	Monaghan County Council	Investigate the insurance & lease on the grounds. Have drawings done for all weather pitch to centre, resurfaced running track & outdoor gym equipment around perimeter. Secure funding.
2.4 Investigate the feasibility of Monaghan County Council taking Scotshouse Close in charge	Monaghan County Council		Council to discuss with developer of the estate
2.5 Address road safety issues in the village - carry out road safety audit, to include condition of trees on approach roads	Monaghan Co Co Ballybay Clones Municipal District	Monaghan County Council Road Safety Officer	Road safety assessment of village to be carried out, suitable crossing points to be identified, funding accessed

- Provide safe crossing points to facilitate movement of people between new houses and community centre/ school - Carry out a traffic speed survey and install traffic calming where required - provide car parking/ set down/ bus turning at school - construct footpath/ cycleway from village to GAA grounds	Monaghan Co Co Ballybay Clones Municipal District Monaghan Co Co Ballybay Clones Municipal District St Enda's Parents Cttee Currin GFC		Identify a viable route. Secure landowners' permission. Prepare detailed design & costings. Seek funding. Construct.
2.6 Investigate the feasibility of restoring a local heritage building as a community hub	Scotshouse Development Group		Identify available buildings, eg Fitches Carry out building survey Commission architect to reimagine the building as a community hub & prepare costings Seek funding
3. Enhance Services & Activities			
3.1 **Improve community information modes** - Develop community website - Provide information point in community centre - Build a contact list for distributing information around the community	To be determined Community Centre Ctee Scotshouse Community Alerts		Develop an online portal, connecting all groups in the village and linked to Facebook page. Find a small group of people willing to write for the page and keep it updated. All groups to contribute content & be given access to back-end of website Notice board to be provided, with sections for 'Help Needed', 'Help Offered', 'Upcoming Events', 'Community Notices' Subscribers to Komeer service through 'Monaghan Community Alerts' will receive Garda alerts, but also Scotshouse Community Alerts can send out messages about local issues. The Scotshouse group has over 500 subscribers.

- Produce community newsletters & distribute around the area	Tidy Towns		To be used to keep the residents in contact with all that is happening around the community. Time the newsletters to maximise publicity to upcoming events. All groups to contribute
3.2 Investigate feasibility of setting up a childcare facility in the village	New Committee to be formed from interested parents	County Childcare Committee	Conduct a survey to determine the level of demand. Identify a suitable site near school. Work with Co Childcare Committee to access funding
3.3 Upgrade community centre facilities: - Surface car park & provide boundary treatment to roadside - Provide social hub/ relaxation area/ coffee dock/ library - Provide youth area - Upgrade kitchen - Upgrade heating & lighting systems	Community Centre Committee		Carry out full needs analysis. Look at the services and activities that people want to be able to have in their centre. Find a way to make the building suitable for those needs. Invite users to design rooms which suit their purpose. Invite groups who use the centre to help programme the activities & share the burden. Position the centre as the Hub of all activity in the community. Aim to have it somewhere that every person in the community has reason to go at least once a week.
3.4 Provide bus shelter & bus stop to facilitate Local Link rural transport service	Monaghan County Council		Council to liaise with CMTCU to identify routes & suitable sites for bus stop.
3.5 Enhance the range of services available locally			
- Provide afterschool service in village	Community childcare group - yet to be established	County Childcare Committee	as part of childcare project. Perhaps a temporary service could be established in the school or community centre in the interim?
- Set up active retirement group	Community Council		Build on annual Christmas OAP dinner to work with older people to identify their needs and set up a service around these. Link to U3A group in Monaghan town
- provide access to Wifi and pc at community centre	Community Centre	Monaghan Council Council	to facilitate the delivery of computer training in the community centre, and also the use of the pc by local people to do business online, and the use of the Wifi to facilitate the centre's use by young people as a meeting point
	Community centre		Start a taster session, beginners leagues, kids lessons etc

- Build on successful bowls club in the village to reach out to new arrivals, children etc - Find a way to provide post office and ATM cashpoint services in the village	community council OR private sector		Could be done as a social enterprise in the community centre, staffed either by volunteers or Scheme workers.
- Get involved in Better Energy Communities programme & avail of funding to carry out energy saving work in the community	Tidy Towns	County Council	Start with energy audits & home retrofits; community oil purchase scheme
4. Build Community Spirit			
4.1 Develop a Summer Family Festival	Community Council	Monaghan County Council	Summer event to bring back memories of the old 'sports day'. Also to be used as a way to check 'how are we doing and what needs doing next?' and to create an occasion for people to get together. Encourage people to bring food/ eat together.
4.2 Organise a winter celebration event	Community Council	Monaghan County Council	Christmas event to celebrate achievements and give thanks to volunteers for their efforts. Christmas event to include a fun awards ceremony. All groups to play some part at each event
4.3 Build Social Capital in the community & increase the capacity of the leaders in the community to carry out projects that bring about real change & improvement. - Nurture future community leaders & give talent an opportunity to contribute & grow from their experience - Support the recently established youth club & facilitate it to grow	Community Council	Monaghan Public Participation Network	Source funding to organise training events. Invite the ETB to deliver training locally. Make a policy to encourage new talent forward into positions of responsibility on committees. Provide mentoring support to new committee members through a shadowing scheme. Structured training programme in place. Deliberate policy of bringing new people onto committees and providing them with the opportunity to try new ideas. Youthwork Ireland have recently set up in the village. Support this newly formed group & ensure it thrives

- Organise training to local groups in committee skills, fund raising, event planning, and accessing funding - provide a volunteering space on the Community Noticeboard in the Community Centre, to encourage individuals to donate their time and skills to the community			Carry out training needs survey with the local groups. PPN, ETB, MID and other agencies to be brought in to provide training. All local groups to avail of the training Contact Volunteer Centre; get volunteer locally to co-ordinate requests from groups for assistance. Post up the requests on community centre notice board and on social media. Publicise the work. Celebrate the successes
5. Coordination & Implementation			
5.1 Set up a Community Council	All groups, mentored by Monaghan County Council		Community Council to contain a seat from each local group, and to meet annually with the County Council. This Strategic Plan will be their guiding document. Their job will be to monitor progress, identify barriers/ areas where progress has halted, and work to remove barriers
5.2 Review the Community Plan & Update as needs evolve & actions are achieved	Community Council	Monaghan County Council	As the years go by, some actions will be achieved, and will need to be replaced with new ones. Others may stall, and the reasons need to be explored and decisions taken around what to do about it.
5.3 Investigate the feasibility of a Shared Fundraiser - Where all groups share in the funds raised - Where the fundraising goes on continually at a moderate level, meeting all the needs of all the groups, without creating a drain on the community, or overburdening any one group	Community Council		Discuss the idea Identify each group's funding needs to meet normal running costs Identify each group's projected needs for special projects for the next five years Calculate the total amount of funding needed by the community for all. Calculate how much per month is required Investigate fundraising ideas which provide a yield above the monthly amount required. Examine the risk involved, the manpower involved, the setup costs, overheads etc. Agree on a fundraiser, how & when to divide the funds raised, what to do if it under/ overperforms

10. Implementation

Unless a task is assigned to someone, it doesn't get done, and unless the task has a deadline, it never moves forward. So, against each Action, an organisation(s) is listed who will take the initiative to make that project happen.

To make sure that the Plan is progressed, we have built an Implementation process into the Plan. Every group in Scotshouse is a Stakeholder in making the community the best it can be, so every group will be invited to sit on a new Community Council. This body will be tasked with making sure that the Community Plan is put into action. They will be responsible for a number of actions themselves, and as they bed into their role, they no doubt will take on more responsibility and identify more actions that they wish to take on.

The Community Council will meet once a year with Monaghan County Council to go over the Community Plan, and discuss progress on each action. They will look particularly at:

- actions which have gone well
    - what lessons can we learn from them?
    - can we replicate the success in other areas?
    - if the action is now complete, does it need to be replaced with a follow-up action?
- actions that have stalled
    - reason for lack of progress – can it be rectified?
    - decision on what to do – amend the action/ remove the action/ replace the action?
- changes in the community
    - are there emerging needs that we have to respond to?
    - are there some needs which are in the Plan but which are no longer a priority?

Based on the outcome of the above discussion, the Community Council and County Council will prepare a Project List, with projects sorted into Short, Medium and Long Term priorities. This will help to form the basis of any funding applications that the council makes on Scotshouse's behalf.

When prioritising projects, the following criteria will be used, in determining how one project is given priority over another on the list:

- their potential to impact on a large number of people
- their potential to have far-reaching impact through facilitating people accessing personal development opportunities

- **their potential to improve the quality of life for people in the village through improved services, access to opportunities etc**

Plans work best when they stay flexible and respond as local circumstances change.

This Plan is a Working Document, which means that it is designed to change over time;

- as we achieve one action, we cross it off, then replace it with whatever needs to follow it.
- If one thing isn't working, we review it and find out why. Then we either remove the blockage and get it back on track, or remove the action and replace it with something that will work
- Sometimes needs change; technological advances could make broadband obsolete, and we might find ourselves removing it as an Action from the Plan and replacing it with something else

There are three important steps to ensuring the Plan is the **right plan, and that it happens:**

- Agreement at the outset – the whole community is consulted and buys in to the set of actions which are proposed
- A structure is put in place to facilitate everyone's involvement in implementing the Plan, so everyone is invested in making it happen – the Community Council
- We review progress regularly, talk about what's working/ not working, and identify anything that needs to be changed in the Plan

11. Making it Happen

To transform any Community Plan from a document into reality needs three key ingredients:

1: Commitment from the Community

- From groups, from families and from individuals
- And also from Monaghan County Council and other agencies, who will support you in your work to make your community better

2: A Process/ Structure which enables everyone to play their part

- This agreed Plan, with the improved channels of communication for keeping in touch with what's going on in the community – the Facebook page and the Komeer app - is your process
- The Community Council and volunteering noticeboard is your structure

3: Resources

- You, the people of Scotshouse are the most important resource that your community has. As you proved with the playground, there's little you can't achieve together when united behind a cause!
- With projects identified in this Plan, and worked up with design drawings and costings, Monaghan County Council will help the community to identify funding opportunities to take project proposals forward to apply for the resources necessary to get projects completed.

We would like to energise the whole community behind this Plan and use it to get people who are not yet active in community life to come out and find out more about the benefits that being more closely connected to the community brings.

To help give this new approach the shape and structure it will need, we propose a new Community Council be put in place, to fill the gap which exists due to the lack of an Area Development Group. The Community Council will work to co-ordinate the efforts of all, for the overall benefit of the area rather than the good of any one organisation. It will also seek to address gaps, get new activities going etc if there is an agreed need. It will also meet with the County Council to review progress and address any barriers.

Commitment is also required at an individual level from every person living in Scotshouse. Your time and skills are needed, and you are urged to play your part. Get into the habit of dropping into the Community Centre and looking for something you can help with. The Community Notice Board will be a good place to start.

Together, we will ensure that Scotshouse remains a vibrant community that people are proud to live in and love to call home.

12. A Partnership Process

The making of this Community Plan was a partnership process between the people of Scotshouse and Monaghan County Council. The realisation of the Plan will also be achieved through community/ Council partnership.

The journey towards achieving our goals can sometimes be the most important part of what we do, and this is never more true than in community work, where the process makes all the difference to where the journey ultimately ends.

For this journey to end in a strong, sustainable Scotshouse, where people of all ages are thriving, we need more people in the Scotshouse of today to step up into leadership roles, and to be willing to say 'I'll give that a go'.

So, what are you going to do for your community today?

Afterword

Co. Monaghan communities have a long and proud tradition of community development. A strong community takes a special sense of pride in the area, reaches out to those that are vulnerable, cares for those most in need, celebrates together when times are good, and gathers around to support one another in the sad times.

Communities need to be nurtured in order to grow; they need a mix of physical resources such as meeting facilities, and activities and services which encourage and support all members of the community, from the youngest to the oldest. They also need leaders, who know that the process of bringing people together can often be as important as the event itself, as it can help to foster a sense of achievement, belonging, and pride in their community.

Monaghan County Council is committed to supporting communities to be the best version of themselves. As part of our drive to support communities, we are helping communities to prepare Community Plans.

This document is the product of a year-long process of consultation and planning which was facilitated by the Community Dept of Monaghan County Council. It gathers together the opinions, plans and aspirations of the people of Scotshouse for their community.

Over the next few years, you will hopefully see the months of planning and consultation bear fruit as projects are delivered in Scotshouse for the benefit of the community. Already, funding has been secured to upgrade the playground and carry out village improvements throughout the village, both actions identified in the Plan.

Monaghan County Council hopes to play a significant role in many of the projects outlined in the Plan and views the drafting of this document, together with you, the community, as the first step in a long and fruitful partnership.

Thank you for your investment in your community, and in helping to make Co. Monaghan the best county to live in Ireland.

Eamonn O Sullivan

Chief Executive

Monaghan County Council

Explaining Monaghan County Council's Ethos Behind Supporting Community Development:

Building Strong Communities = Building Resilient People

Why is supporting communities so important? We believe it's because being part of a strong community helps individuals to reach their full potential. Communities are a supportive environment where the young are safe to explore and learn, the youth are supported to challenge themselves and find what they shine at, parents find that their family is embraced and supported by the entire community, and the older members of the community still feel they have something to contribute and feel secure in their homes. The vulnerable are looked after, and everyone is included.

Without the support of a strong, nurturing community, structures and supports break down, and it gets harder to succeed in life. The odds begin to stack against you; people fall through the cracks; the most vulnerable are lost, and as we all become hardened in order to survive, we all lose the best qualities of ourselves and our communities; compassion, empathy, caring, hope, love. This is not the kind of community that Monaghan County Council wants for the people of Monaghan.

A strong community develops a set of values, lives by these values and passes them on to the next generation. These values include caring for people; knowing the value of spending time with those we love; learning from life's set-backs and picking ourselves up and trying again; not having to do everything alone, but learning to share both the burdens and the joys of life. These are the kind of 'life lessons' that people pick up as they bounce off other people. There is much wisdom in the old saying, "it takes a village to raise a child"!

A community needs strong, resilient people, who can work together, support each other in hard times, bounce back from life's set-backs and cheer each other on to success. Resilient people know that life will not always be smooth sailing, and they develop the ability to dust themselves off and go again whenever they encounter difficulty. Some people are born knowing how to be resilient, but it is a skill that can be learned, and communities are good places to pass it on.

A community thrives when the people who live and work in it know each other well and come together often. They learn from one another, and they help one another to grow. They also look out for each other. As a person passes through life, there will be times when they will need a lot of care, and other times when they have the capacity to give care to others.

There will be times in their life when things are going well, and other times when they will need the support of others to get through; sometimes emotionally, sometimes physically, sometimes even financially. There will be people in the community who will have skills that they can use to help give something back; others will be vulnerable

and need the community's protection. A strong community finds a place for all, and everyone finds their place.

Monaghan County Council has a part to play in creating the conditions which help the people of the county to flourish individually, as well as together. We provide amenities such as playgrounds, public spaces and leisure facilities, and we support local communities to provide all kinds of facilities and services in every corner of the county.

Building communities is about investing in people. We put amenities in place in order to provide people with somewhere to go to avail of training, pursue a personal interest or hobby, meet friends, develop social skills, grow in confidence and raise their sense of self worth. They get an understanding not just of themselves, but of how they connect with others, and how they contribute to the wellbeing of other people and to the community as a whole.

Think of those amenities as building blocks, each one helping to build something worthwhile. The blocks are held together with things like volunteering, leadership, fundraising – the cement which binds the blocks into something greater than the individual pieces. How we know which blocks are needed, and what mix of cement will give the best result is by getting the foundations right – doing surveys, needs analysis, community planning, etc.

Directing the construction are the community groups, who hold the "Vision" for their community. The bigger the vision, the higher the people within their community can climb! But only so long as the groups nurture the foundations, the blocks and the cement equally!

So, it all starts with Community Planning. And what we are ultimately trying to arrive at is a strong, tight-knit, resilient community which can cope with whatever life brings, both on an individual level and on a community level, both today and in twenty years – because part of being a strong community is raising children to know the value of community and who will want to nurture it for their children, too.

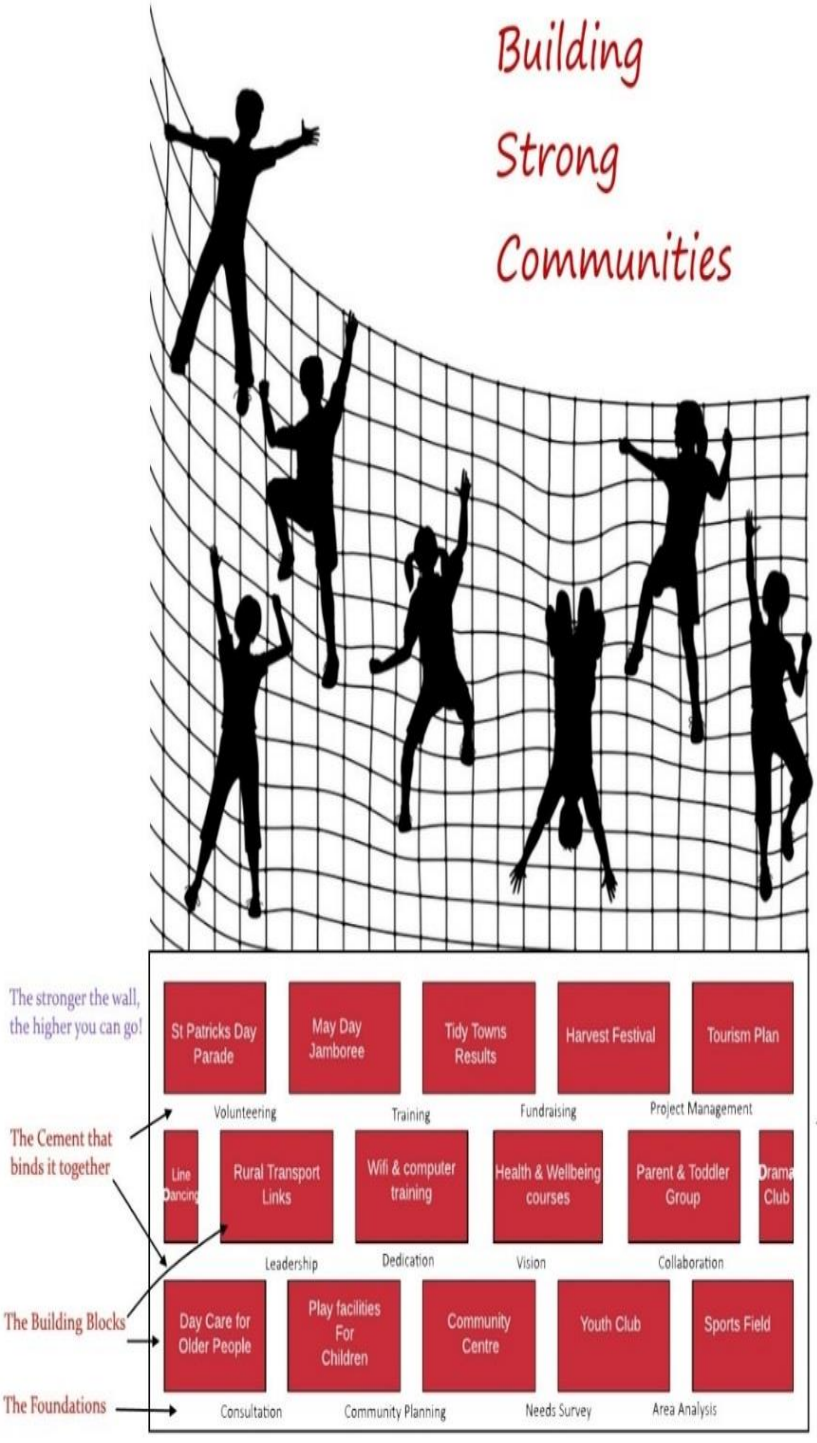
And so we come to the work at hand. Monaghan County Council committed to preparing local community development plans as an Action of the Local Economic & Community Plan, a key strategic document which guides all local development in the county. As part of this commitment, we carried out an exercise where we mapped funding coming into the county, to identify those communities which were availing of the many opportunities currently available, and those who appeared to be missing out. We then selected four priority communities to work with in 2018/9, with the intention of bringing them through the process of agreeing a development plan for their communities. One of those priority communities is Scotshouse.

Monaghan County Council attended a public meeting in Scotshouse in November 2017, and outlined our vision for creating sustainable, resilient communities throughout the county. The people of Scotshouse wanted that for their community too and

agreed to enter into partnership with the Council to devise and deliver a Community Plan.

This document is the result of that commitment. It marks the end of an opening phase of collaboration between the local community and the Council, where agreement has been reached on the issues facing the community and the solutions which are to be taken. Over the next five years, Monaghan County Council will work with the local groups to progress the Actions as identified in the Plan. We will meet with the groups to review progress, and we will assist with expertise and resources.

We hope that having access to our team of engineers, community development staff, tourism, heritage and other expertise will assist the various groups in the village to advance their projects, individually and collectively, and we look forward to seeing Scotshouse grow and thrive in the years ahead.



HOW TO BUILD A STRONG COMMUNITY:

1. START WITH STRONG FOUNDATIONS:
   - A STRONG IDENTITY
   - SHARED VALUES
   - A SENSE OF PRIDE & BELONGING
   - KNOWING THAT PEOPLE ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THINGS
2. BUILD AMENITIES
   - TO BRING SERVICES TO THOSE WHO NEED THEM
   - TO PROVIDE SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES
3. COME TOGETHER OFTEN
   - CELEBRATE
   - REMEMBER
   - SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER
4. BUILD PEOPLE
   - LEAD BY EXAMPLE
   - CREATE RELATIONSHIPS
   - PASS THE SPIRIT OF CARING ON
   - RAISE THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

Appendix A: Development Constraints Map, Scotshouse

From County Development Plan 2019-2025

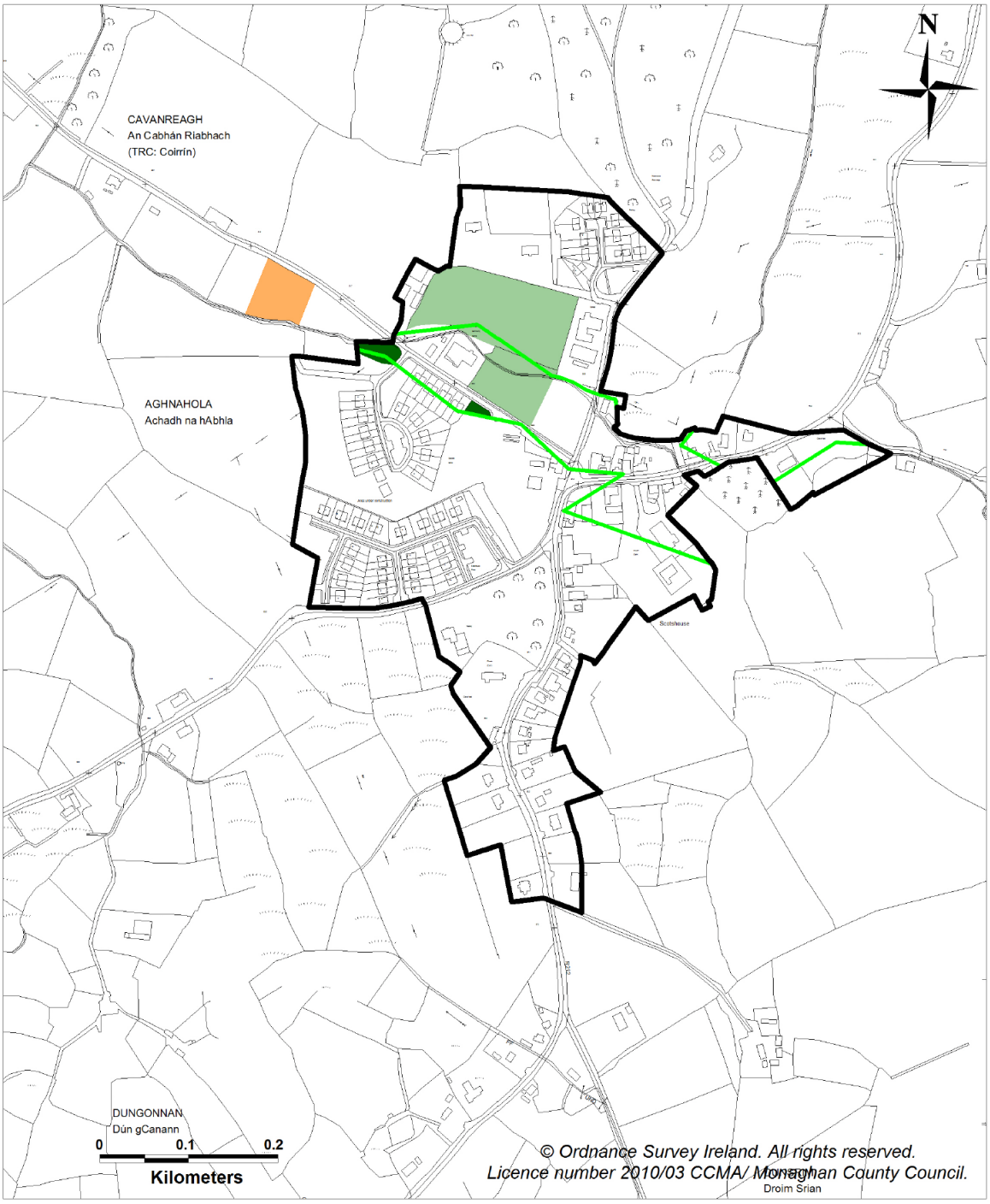
A quick explanation of what it is and why it's important to have a look at it:

The County Development Plan is a statutory document. It is used by Monaghan County Council to determine what is, and is not, permissible when you apply for planning permission.

Each urban area (which includes villages) in the County is given a 'development envelope', and planning permission is more straightforward to achieve within this envelope than outside it. Land can also be 'zoned' for different purposes. Land may be zoned for 'residential', 'commercial', 'amenity', 'industrial' or 'agricultural' use, for example. If you are seeking permission to put a noisy nightclub in an area that is zoned 'residential', expect a few eyebrows to be raised!

Scotshouse

Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025



Proposed Development Limit

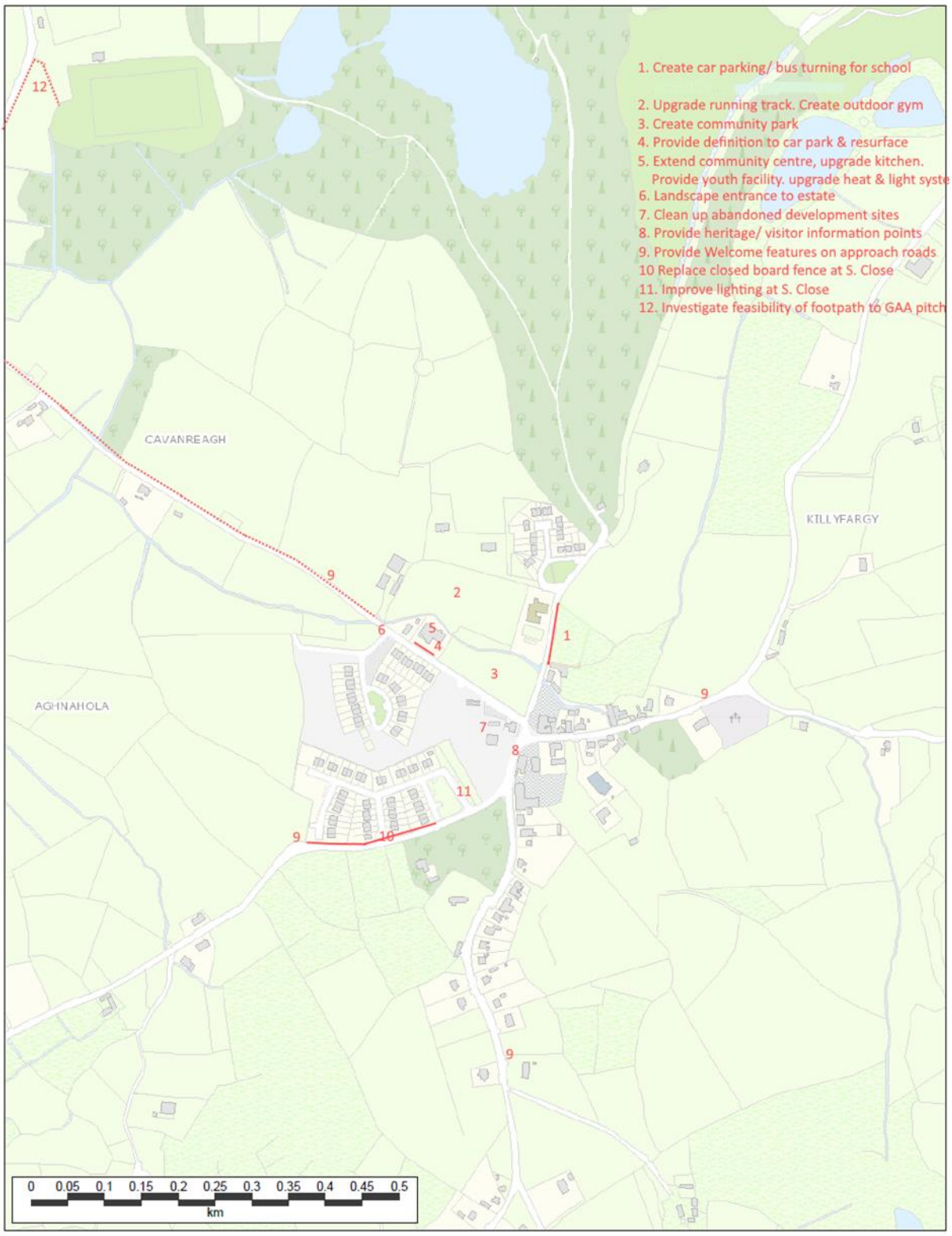
Sewerage Treatment Works

Landscape Protection/Conservation

Recreation/Amenity

Flood Risk Area

Appendix B: Map of infrastructure projects



Appendix C: Rural Transport Services through Scotshouse

Cavan Monaghan Transport Co-Ordination Unit operates a weekly 'Local Link' service to Clones on a Friday morning, leaving Scotshouse at 10.15 and passing through Newbliss. The bus departs from Clones to return to Scotshouse at 12.15.

In addition, a pilot **weekend evening** bus service was introduced in June 2018. It runs on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings, and is designed to enable those who wish to socialise to be able to do so without needing access to a car.

A **'Daily Commuter'** service started on 1st September 2018 between Cavan and Monaghan and runs through Scotshouse in both directions five times a day from Monday to Saturday.

Scotshouse Village Evening Service

Operate Friday, Saturday and Sunday Evening Service Only.

- This service centres around the village of Scotshouse, Co. Monaghan
- Adult €2 per journey, Child/ Student €1 per journey. Free Travel Pass accepted. Under 5's go Free.

Timetable

1850 211 923

Scotshouse Village Evening Service

SCOTSHOUSE VILLAGE EVENING SERVICE				
Departs	**Friday & Saturday**		**Sunday**	
Clones	21:40	-	21:00	-
Greengates	21:48	-	21:08	-
Scothouse	22:00	00:30	21:20	11:45
Redhills* / Laurel Hill	22:12	00:42	21:32	11:52
Scotshouse	22:20	00:45	21:40	00:00
Cavany	22:25	00:50	21:45	00:05
Drumurcher*	22:30	00:55	21:50	00:10
Corrinary	22:35	01:00	21:55	00:15
Carnroe	22:42	01:05	22:00	00:20
Scotshouse	22:45	01:10	22:05	00:25
Knox / Quarry Rd*	22:50	01:15	22:10	00:30
Scotshouse	23:00	01:25	22:20	00:40
Greengates	-	01:30	-	00:45
Clones	-	01:40	-	00:50

Note: Bank Holiday Weekend - Sunday timetable will be the same as Friday / Saturday
*Pre-book by calling 087 7186899

Cross county Cavan and Monaghan Town Route 176

Cross county daily commuter service Route 176 between Monaghan and Cavan towns

- From Monday 26th August, Route 176 will operate to a revised timetable in order to facilitate college students going to Monaghan and Cavan colleges.
- **Route 176:** Ballyhaise, Scotshouse, Clones, Newbliss, Threemilehouse, Monaghan and Cavan town.

Timetable

176 Cavan - Monaghan

CAVAN – MONAGHAN VIA BALLYHAISE – SCOTSHOUSE - CLONES – NEWBLISS – THREEMILEHOUSE					
Pick Up Point	**Monday - Saturday**				
Cavan General	-	09:45	11:30	16:00	17:55
Cavan Bus Station	07:15	09:48	11:33	16:03	18:00
Cavan Institute	07:17	09:51	11:36	16:06	18:03
Ballyhaise	07:26	09:59	11:44	16:14	18:08
Scotshouse	07:40	10:13	11:58	16:28	18:20
Clones	07:52	10:25	12:10	16:40	18:32
Newbliss	08:06	10:39	12:24	16:54	18:43
Threemilehouse	08:17	10:51	12:36	17:06	18:53
Monaghan Dawson St	-	11:03	12:48	17:18	19:05
Monaghan Library	-	11:06	12:51	17:21	19:08
Monaghan Hospital***	08:29	11:09	12:54	17:24	19:11
Monaghan Bus Station	08:31	11:11	12:56	17:26	19:13
St Macartans College*	08:36	-	-	-	-
Monaghan Institute**	08:45	-	-	-	-

MONAGHAN – CAVAN VIA THREEMILEHOUSE - NEWBLISS – CLONES – SCOTSHOUSE – BALLYHAISE					
Pick Up Point	**Monday - Saturday**				
Monaghan Institute**	-	-	-	16:10	-
St Macartans College*	-	-	13:15(w)	16:15	17:30
Monaghan Bus Station	07:30	09:00	13:17	16:20	17:35
Monaghan Library	07:33	09:06	13:23	16:26	17:41
Monaghan Hospital	-	09:09	13:26	16:29	17:44
Threemilehouse	07:44	09:20	13:37	16:40	17:55
Newbliss	07:56	09:30	13:49	16:52	18:07
Clones	08:07	09:41	14:00	17:03	18:18
Scotshouse	08:20	09:54	14:13	17:16	18:31
Ballyhaise	08:32	10:06	14:25	17:28	18:43
Cavan Institute	08:42	10:16	14:35	17:38	18:53
Cavan Bus Station	08:46	10:20	14:39	17:42	18:57
Cavan Hospital	08:52	10:26	14:45	17:48	19:03

* Monday to Friday School Term only
** Monday to Friday College Term only
*** Request Stop Only
(w) Wednesday Only

Appendix D

From Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025

(The excerpt below may not be complete. It is recommended that the County Development Plan be referred to when carrying out research)

Record of Protected Structures in Scotshouse

41401603	Clones Gatelodge - Detached three bay gatelodge	Hilton Park, Scotshouse
41401606	Scotshouse Gatelodge - Two bay single storey gatelodge	Hilton Park, Scotshouse
41401608	Church of the Immaculate Conception	Scotshouse
41401610	St. Andrew's Church	Currin, Scotshouse
41401611	St. Alphonsus Catholic Church	Clontask, Connons
41401612	St. Mary's Church of Ireland	Drummully
41401613	Hilton Park - Enclosed two storey stableyard	Scotshouse
41401614	Hilton Park - Freestanding four stage entrance/viewing tower	Scotshouse
41401615	St. Andrew's Church graveyard	Currin, Scotshouse

Record of Protected Monuments

016-/08/4	MO016-004	Annies	Ringfort (Rath \ Cashel)
016-/08/3	MO016-005	Lisabuck	Ringfort (Rath \ Cashel)
016-/12/1	MO016-006	Annies	Enclosure
016-/12/3	MO016-007	Gortnana	Ringfort (Rath \ Cashel)
016-/10/5	MO016-008	Annaghraw	Crannog
016-/16/1	MO016-009	Cavanreagh	Enclosure
016-/12/5	MO016-010	Hilton Demesne	Crannog
016-/16/2	MO016-011	Killyfargy	Ringfort (Rath \ Cashel)
016-/14/6	MO016-012*	Fastry Cornapaste	Earthwork
016-/08/3	MO016-013	Coolnalong/Lisabuck	Crannog
016-/15/6	MO016-014	Lislea	Ringfort (Rath \ Cashel)
016-/16/5	MO016-015	Lisnale	Ringfort (Rath \ Cashel)
016-/15/4	MO016-016	Annagheane	Earthwork Site
016-/12/5	MO016-017	Hilton Demesne	Enclosure