# CADRA Scoping Report

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Mentoring and Business Support | Strategic Planning | Training | Community Development | Excellence Through People

This Report has been undertaken with the assistance of the LEADER Programme 2014-2020

The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: “Europe investing in rural areas”

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# 1. Introduction

This Report sets out the case for future activities of the Carraroe And District Regeneration Association (CADRA) in relation to the development of amenities serving the needs of the residents of the wider Carraroe, County Sligo area. The Report was commissioned by CADRA and was carried out in partnership with Meehan Tully Associates Ltd.

## Methodology

The methodology employed in addressing these objectives reflects ae strategic approach to planning that poses the following questions:

- Where are we now?
- Where would we like to be?
- How are we going to get there?

To answer these questions, the promoters undertook a review of the current situation in relation to the area's demographic profile and existing services, amenities, and attractions available in the CADRA area. A survey of local residents and groups was also carried out. The results of these efforts led to the identification of a range of projects and initiatives with the potential to address the needs of the wider Carraroe community, as described later in this Report (Note: a draft Tidy Towns Plan has also been developed and is included at Appendix I of this document).

## Introduction to the Promoters

The promoter, Carraroe And District Regeneration Association (CADRA), is an umbrella group representing the many community-based initiatives working to enhance the Carraroe and District area. The group was established in 2009 for the sole purpose of developing and enhancing the greater Carraroe and environs area to better serve the needs of all residents, community groups, schools, clubs and organisations, and visitors to the region. To this end, CADRA has in recent years undertaken successful fundraising activities and has secured grant aid from a number of funding sources in order to deliver community development initiatives such as the installation of two CPR/AED machines and the training of more than 50 volunteers in how to use them (see: www.facebook.com/CADRA1234).

CADRA also participates in the National Tidy Towns Competition (classified as a Category 'B' community - population of 201-1,000 persons) and in partnership with Sligo County Council has delivered a number of

beautification and enhancements projects to the area including, most recently, 'greenway'-type walking and cycling facilities along the R287 Sligo – Ballisodare road. The Association is working towards improving access to and interpretation of Carns Hill with the support of local residents, Coillte, and Sligo County Council. CADRA is fully associated with the Sligo Public Participation Network (PPN) and CADRA members represent the Community and Voluntary sector on various committees.

A committee of ten members oversee the activities of the Association on behalf of the wider membership of approximately 70 community members. Presently, the officers of the Association are as follows:

| Name | Position |
|---|---|
| Bridie McLean | Chairperson |
| Pat Benson | Secretary |
| Dympna O'Loughlin/ Mary Dunbar | Joint Treasurers |

The Group commissioned this Report to assist them in identifying and responding to the needs of the local area in an appropriate and sustainable manner. As part of this process, an on-line survey was conducted to ensure a community-wide response to identifying the needs of the CADRA area.

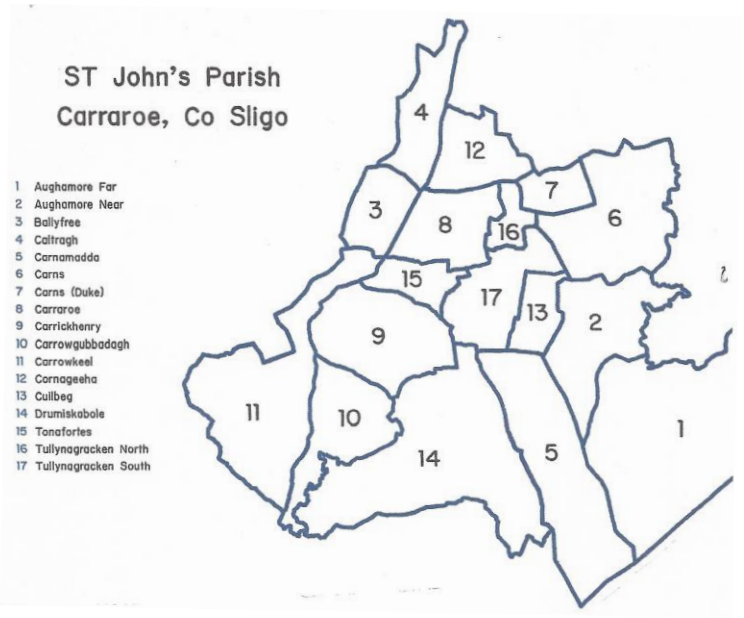
# 2. Catchment Area

Located on the Atlantic coastline of the Northwest of Ireland, Sligo (population 65,535) is a county 179,608km$^2$ in size bordered by the ocean and the neighbouring counties of Leitrim, Roscommon, and Mayo. County Sligo is known for its largely rural unspoilt landscape including mountains, lakes, and almost 200km of rugged coastline. Situated on the banks of the Garavogue River, between Lough Gill and Sligo Bay, Sligo City (population 19,199) serves as an important economic, social, and cultural centre for the Northwest region. In the City and its environs can be found two third level colleges, five secondary schools, an acute general hospital, significant state and commercial services, a number of large private sector employers, cultural facilities, and a wide range and variety of retail outlets. The immediate area is well served by public bus and rail transportation, regional and national road networks, and Ireland West Knock Airport is approximately 45 minutes to the south.

One of Sligo's most distinctive features is its heritage, specifically its literary associations with the poet William Butler Yeats and the significance of its archaeological sites. With 220 extent known sites, County Sligo has the highest density (8%) of the national total of megalithic monuments. Chief amongst these are the sites located in close proximity to Sligo City: Carrowmore megalithic cemetery, Knocknarea, and Cairns Hill.

## Carraroe and District Area

Carraroe (*An Cheathrú Rua,* Carrarow, or *Carrowroe*), County Sligo is one of the 34 townlands or administrative divisions of land that constitute the Civil Parish of St. John's in the Barony of Carbury. Carraroe, together with 16 adjacent rural and part-urban townlands, comprise Carraroe and District Regeneration Association (CADRA), the boundaries of which closely align with those of the Roman Catholic parish of St. John's as depicted on the adjacent map.




Located to the south of Sligo City centre, between the River Garavogue/Lough Gill and the route of the N4 Dublin Sligo road, the Carraroe and District catchment area is defined primarily by its proximity to the city centre. The northern half of the CADRA area is relatively well developed with several larger housing estates and numerous streets of terraced, semi-detached, and detached dwellings. A large retail park, hotel, petrol stations, fast food outlets, car dealerships, and other commercial activities are located in the centre of the area, where St. John's church and Carraroe National School are also to be found. The focal point for the 'village' of Carraroe, and the local community, the wider environs of the church and school forms the 'project area' for Carraroe's Tidy Towns activities. The southern parts of the CADRA area are predominantly rural, agricultural lands with dispersed one-off dwellings.

Situated on eastern end of the Coolera (Cúil Irra) peninsula, one of the most significant ritual and cultural centres of Neolithic Ireland (c. 4000-2500 BC), Carns Hill is the location for two large passage tomb cairns, one on top of each of the hill's two flat summits. Of the approximately 250 passage tombs in Ireland, 70 are located on the peninsula and most can be found at Carrowmore, Ireland's largest cemetery of megalithic tombs ranging from 5,000 to almost 6,000 years old, which is located to the southwest of the CADRA area. To the west is Lough Gill a 8km long lake flowing into the Garavogue River and Sligo Bay. The lake is almost surrounded by woods and contains approximately 20 small islands including Innisfree, the island of William Butler Yeats' famous poem of the same name. There are numerous forest walks around the lake such as the 1.2km lakeshore forest walk at Dooney Rock at Aghamore Far, another site made famous by Yeats. Recently, in early 2018 funding was announced for the development of a new 'blueway' facility at Lough Gill along the Garavogue.

## Demographics/ Population Statistics of Catchment Area[1]

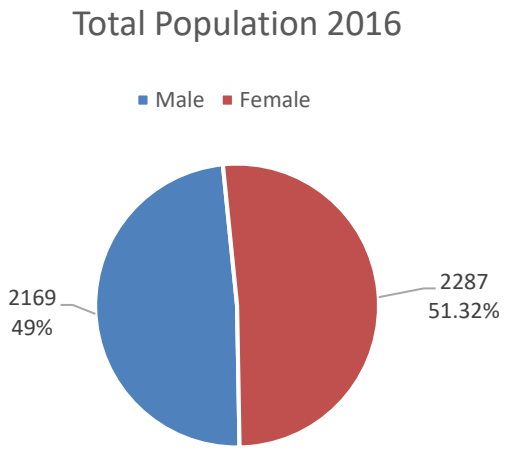
The Association's catchment area, as identified in the parish map shown previously, does not readily align with modern-day administrative areas such as Electoral Districts as it crosses several District boundaries. It does, however, correspond with 17 individual Small Area Population Statistics (SAPS) areas for which some statistical data is available. The findings of the review of relevant statistical data provided for these individual areas is presented in summary form in the following paragraphs.

As the SAPS areas do not align completely with the identified CADRA parish townland boundaries, the total population for the catchment area is imprecise. For example, more rural parts of Caltragh (identified as No. 4 on the parish map) are included in the SAPS for the larger urban Magheraboy area and so have been excluded from the total. Conversely, statistical data provided for several other less populated rural SAPS, which do not correspond exactly with parish areas, have been included as a 'balance' to excluded areas. Therefore, for the purposes of this Plan, the catchment area referred to in relation to published CSO data includes only those SAPS areas where the greater portion of the population are deemed to live in the traditional townlands associated with the CADRA area (Census mapping images for the area are included at Appendix II) .

## Population

### Total Population, Census 2016

The overall population of the area, as defined by specific SAPS boundaries, is 4,456 persons, as depicted in the chart below. Though not exact due to inclusion of some rural areas, it can be stated that approximately 23% of Sligo City's 2016 population of 19,199 live in the CADRA catchment area.




The 2011 Census reported a total population of 4,428 persons for the same area, representing an increase in population of 1%. It should be noted that between 2011 and 2016, of the 17 reviewed SAPS areas, one

[1] All demographic statistics are sourced from the CSO's Census 2016 Small Area Population Statistics (SAPS)

representing part of Cornageeha townland experienced an increase of 14% and another, covering Carrickhenry and parts of Tullynagracken South and Cuilbeg townlands, experienced a decrease of 16%.

*County Sligo has a total population of 65,357, which represents a 0.2% increase on the population recorded in 2011. In comparison, regionally, i.e. the North and West planning area, the percentage increase in population was 1%, while it was 4% nationally.*

## Age profile of population, Census 2016

The population of the CADRA area is predominantly, almost two-thirds, between 19 and 64 years of age, though with sizeable numbers of dependents (26%) 18 years of age and younger and 12% older than 65 years. The Department of Education and Skills[2] reports a current enrolment of 319 students (158 boys/ 161 girls) for Carraroe National School.

## Percentage of population between 0-18 years of age, Census 2016

| Age profile | 0 to 4 years | 5 to 9 years | 10 to 14 years | 15 to 18 years | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Boys** | 180 | 173 | 149 | 133 | 635 |
| **Girls** | 146 | 168 | 116 | 99 | 529 |
| **Total** | 326 | 341 | 265 | 232 | 1,164 |
| **% of Total Population** | 7% | 8% | 6% | 5% | 26% |

| Years | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Boys** | 34 | 27 | 37 | 45 | 37 | 32 | 44 | 26 | 33 | 38 | 27 | 31 | 28 | 26 | 37 | 26 | 33 | 43 | 31 | 635 |
| **Girls** | 23 | 35 | 34 | 28 | 26 | 39 | 36 | 32 | 36 | 25 | 22 | 26 | 32 | 19 | 17 | 22 | 20 | 24 | 33 | 529 |
| **Total** | 57 | 62 | 71 | 73 | 63 | 71 | 80 | 58 | 69 | 63 | 49 | 57 | 60 | 45 | 54 | 48 | 53 | 67 | 64 | 1,164 |
| **% Pop.** | 1% | 1% | 2% | 2% | 1% | 2% | 2% | 1% | 2% | 1% | 1% | 1% | 1% | 1% | 1% | 1% | 1% | 2% | 1% | 26% |

## Percentage of population over 60 years of age, Census 2016

| Age profile | 60-64 years | 65-69 years | 70-74 years | 75-80 years | 80-84 years | 85+ years | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Male** | 106 | 108 | 82 | 49 | 31 | 14 | 390 |
| **Female** | 151 | 123 | 76 | 68 | 34 | 29 | 481 |
| **Total** | 257 | 231 | 158 | 117 | 65 | 43 | 871 |
| **% of Total Population** | 6% | 5% | 4% | 3% | 1% | 1% | 20% |

[2] www.education.ie/en/find-a-school/School-Detail/?roll=14636B

## Size of households, Census 2016

| Size of households | 1 person | 2 person | 3 person | 4 person | 5 person | 6 person | 7 person | 8+ person | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Number of households** | 402 | 521 | 336 | 269 | 113 | 29 | 13 | 6 | 1,689 |
| **Number of people** | 402 | 1,042 | 1,008 | 1,076 | 565 | 174 | 91 | 58 | 4,416 |
| **% of total people** | 9% | 24% | 23% | 24% | 13% | 4% | 2% | 1% | 100% |

The total number of people recorded above is very slightly different to the total number living in the area – this is likely due to the number of people who may not have stated the size of the household above.

## One parent families

243 families were recorded as living in one-parent households in the area in 2016. This represented 20% of total families in the area.

## Family Cycle, Census 2016

The Family Cycle measures the number of families, categorised according to separate criteria based upon the different stages of families, e.g. pre-family, pre-school, empty nest, etc. Areas with a high number of families in the pre-school families would generally require the greatest level of supports regarding childcare services.

| Family cycle | Pre-family | Empty nest | Retired | Pre-school | Early school | Pre-adolescent | Adolescent | Adult | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Number of families** | 106 | 154 | 118 | 132 | 147 | 137 | 155 | 261 | 1,210 |
| **Number of people** | 212 | 308 | 236 | 411 | 544 | 508 | 598 | 884 | 3,701 |
| **% of families** | 9% | 13% | 10% | 11% | 12% | 11% | 13% | 22% | 100% |

The average percentage of families in a pre-school cycle in the CADRA area is similar to that of the overall County.

## Disability, Census 2016

14% of persons in the area described themselves are “persons with a disability.” This is similar to the national rate of 13.5%.

| | Male | Female | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Persons with a Disability** | 286 | 338 | 624 |
| **% of Total Population** | 6% | 8% | 14% |

## General Health, Census 2016

In line with national statistics, 58% of persons in the area described their health as being "very good."

| | Very good | Good | Fair | Bad | Very bad | Not stated | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Population by general health** | 2,564 | 1,353 | 370 | 59 | 14 | 96 | 4,456 |
| **Percentage of households** | 58% | 30% | 8% | 1% | 0.3% | 2% | 100% |

## Number of carers, Census 2016

| Carers | Male | Female | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| **No. of carers** | 82 | 153 | 235 |
| **% of Total Population** | 2% | 3% | 5% |

## Traveller Population, Census 2011

The number of members of the Traveller community living in the identified SAPS was recorded as being 18 persons in 2016. However, this total does not include the total number of residents of the Ballyfree halting site (58 persons, Census 2016) as it is included in a larger SAPS incorporating other areas further to the west of Carraroe. (In 2016, the Traveller population in Sligo was 386, 1.25% of the National total, 30,987).

## Means of travel to work, school or college, Census 2016

| Means of travel | On foot | Bike | Bus or coach | Train, DART or LUAS | Motorbike / scooter | Car driver | Car pass. | Van | Other | Work at home | N/A | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Work** | 225 | 31 | 24 | 6 | 5 | 1,244 | 117 | 103 | 15 | 34 | 50 | 1,854 |
| **School or college** | 156 | 6 | 94 | 4 | 0 | 65 | 603 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 27 | 961 |
| **Total** | 381 | 37 | 118 | 10 | 5 | 1,309 | 720 | 106 | 16 | 36 | 77 | 2,815 |

## Travel time to work, school or college, Census 2016

| Time | Under 15 mins | 1/4 hour - under 1/2 hour | 1/2 hour - under 3/4 hour | 3/4 hour - under 1 hour | 1 hour - under 1 1/2 hours | 1 1/2 hours and over | Not stated | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Journey time** | 1,361 | 906 | 206 | 42 | 50 | 35 | 179 | 2,779 |

## Employment by sector

| Sector | Agriculture, forestry and fishing | Building & construction | Manufacturing industries | Commerce and trade | Transport and communic. | Public admin. | Profess. services | Other | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Male** | 23 | 55 | 182 | 200 | 79 | 72 | 169 | 179 | 959 |
| **Female** | 1 | 5 | 80 | 165 | 20 | 94 | 386 | 190 | 941 |
| **Total** | 24 | 60 | 262 | 365 | 99 | 166 | 555 | 369 | 1,900 |

## Access to internet

| Access | Broadband | Other | No | Not stated | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Households with internet** | 1,322 | 79 | 252 | 35 | 1,688 |
| **Percentage of Households** | 78% | 5% | 15% | 2% | 100% |

# DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

## POPULATION

The CADRA area has a population of 4,456 persons, approximately 23% of Sligo City

Highest growth since 2011 was in parts of Cornageeha, representing an increase of 14%

## 0-18 YEARS

In 2016, 26% of the population, 1,164, was aged between 0-18

## DISABILITY

14% of the population were recorded as having a disability in 2016

## GENERAL HEALTH

58% of the population in CADRA described their health as being very good

## FAMILY CYCLE

11% of families, 132, in 2016 were in a pre-school cycle

20% of families, 243, described themselves as one parent households

## 60+ YEARS

In 2016, 19.5%, 871 persons, of the population in CADRA were 60+ years of age

## OTHER STATS

49% of persons in the area spend less than 15 minutes travelling to work, school or college. 82% spend less than 30 minutes travelling to work, school or college

83% gave their nationality as "Irish

83% of households have access to the internet.

# 3. Attractions and Amenities

Given the dispersed nature of rural areas and the proximity of Sligo City, the CADRA area does not have a recognised, defined 'village' core other than the focal point formed by the church, school, and community centre. However, the area does possess a significant number of attractions and local amenities important to communities. Vital services not available in the immediate Carraroe area are likely to be located in and around Sligo's urban core, which is easily accessible from most parts of the CADRA catchment area.

## Amenities

Amenities and key services currently available within the CADRA catchment area are wide and varied and a summary of some of these is provided below.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| • Pharmacies (x2) | • Alzheimer's Day Care Centre | • Community Centre |
| • GP Family Practice | • Roman Catholic church | • Veterinary clinic |
| • Childcare services (x2) | • National Primary School | • Petrol stations (x3) |
| • Halting site | • Community park playing pitches | • ATM (x3) |
| • NCT Testing Centre | • Convenience shops (x3) | • Retail park |
| • Accommodation (hotel/B&Bs) | • Hospitality (food and beverage) | • Vehicle repairs & sales |
| • Bus Eireann scheduled service | • Local Link rural bus service | • Garden centres |

It should also be noted that planning permission[3] granted in 2012 for a three-storey private hospital of approximately 12,742m$^2$ at Carraroe roundabout was extended a further five years, to December 2022.

Other basic services and amenities that can be found within Sligo City and environs, i.e. 5km/ 10-minute drive of Carraroe church, include:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| • Banks | • Dentists | • Retail shops |
| • Post Office | • Private Hospital | • Library |
| • Acute General Hospital | • Secondary schools (x5) | • Hospice |
| • Social Services | • Third Level Education (x2) | • Nursing Home (x2) |
| • Family Resource Centre | • Recycling Centre and Bring Banks | • Cultural facilities |
| • Supermarkets | • Local Authority offices | • Train service |
| • Composting facility | • Local and national bus services | |

[3] Sligo County Council Planning Registration Number PL 09/586 (www.eplanning.ie/SligoCC/AppFileRefDetails/09586/0)

Recreational amenities adjacent or near to the CADRA area are centred primarily at Cleveragh and include the Local Authority's Regional Sports Centre and Doorly Park/ Cleveragh Regional Park. Facilities found at this location include the following:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| • Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) | • Park/ playing pitches | • Seating and tables |
| • Outdoor gym | • Walking trails | • Playground/ play area |
| • 25m indoor pool | • Jacuzzi | • Steam room |
| • Sports hall | • Astra turf pitch | • Equipped gymnasium |
| • Disabled facilities | • Parking | • Changing rooms |

The Cleveragh facilities can be easily accessed by car and on foot using footpaths along adjacent streets as well as from the Carns Hill forest walk, which links to Sligo City centre via the Doorly Park nature trail along the banks of the Garavogue River and the riverside Sli Na Slainte route. Other recreational facilities in the adjacent area include Sligo Racecourse and Markievicz Park GAA stadium.

## Attractions

As noted, the Coolera peninsula is rich in archaeological heritage, some of international importance, and several significant built and natural heritage sites can be found in the immediate Carraroe area including the following (distance from the church area given in brackets):

| Name | Description |
|---|---|
| **Carns Hill (4km)** | Large Neolithic period passage tomb cairns, each located on top of a flat summit with views of the surrounding region. Coillte Carns Hill forest walk, a 1.3km looped trail with pedestrian link to Doorly Park. |
| **Tobernalt Holy Well (2.3km)** | One Sligo's more interesting cultural heritage sites, the well is a natural spring associated with the pagan festival of Lughnasa and, later, a Penal Law era mass site. Associated with St. Patrick, the well remains a popular site for prayer and reflection. |
| **Dooney Rock (3.4km)** | Made famous by Yeats' poem 'The Fiddler of Dooney', the 1.2km Coillte nature trail leads to Dooney Rock, an elevated area that provides views across Lough Gill. |
| **Sligo Way/ Slish Wood (6km)** | The 78km Sligo Way walking route traverses the County from Lough Talt to Dromahair, passing through Aghamore Far and into Slish Wood. A 3km long Coillte amenity walk along the shores of Lough Gill, Slish Wood is an important biodiversity site and is associated with Yeats' poem 'The Stolen Child'. |

## Lough Gill

Approximately 7km long and 2.5km wide, Lough Gill is a major natural feature and asset of the CADRA area. In addition to being frequented by users of the forest walks noted above, the lake and its shoreline is also popular with anglers fishing for salmon and brown trout, kayakers, rowers, stand-up paddleboarders, swimmers, and sailors. There are almost two dozen islands on the lake including the Lake Isle of Innisfree (15km) immortalised by Yeats in his poem, and possibly the most famous location in Irish literature.

There are several public access points to the lake, two of which are located in the CADRA catchment area. One, at Aughamore Bay, provides for boat launching whereas the second near the Holy Well does not. Further facilities, to include a floating pontoon, can be found at Doorly Park. In addition, there are numerous private landing and mooring areas along the lakeshore.

Other attractions nearby and easily accessible from the Carraroe area include:

- Union Wood Coillte forest amenity area (4km) – 4 and 5.5km looped walking routes through woodland providing access to Union Rock a site associated with the 1798 Battle of Collooney.

- Abbeyquarter North Megalithic passage tomb (3.8km)

Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery (4km) – Ireland's largest and oldest megalithic cemetery with more than 60 tombs, of which 30 are visible. Clustered on a small site with a looped walking trail, Carrowmore is an OPW-operated facility with a visitor centre on a site.

- Knockarea (8km) - The limestone mountain of Knocknarea is one of the most visible and dominating of the County's landmarks with a significant cairn (c.3400BC) associated with Queen Maeve crowning its accessible summit.

The following map indicates in red the number of recorded archaeolgical sites of the CADRA/Coolera peninsula area, along with National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) sites shown in blue.[4]

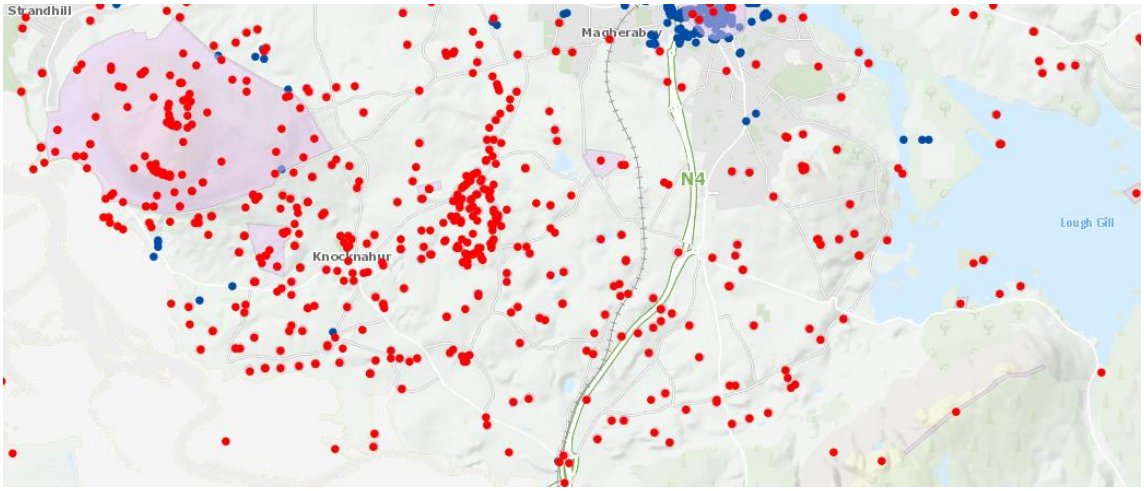



Figure 1 Map of recorded archaeological sites of the wider CADRA area (GeoHive, Ordnance Survey Ireland)

The only Natural heritage site[5] in the immediate vicinity of CADRA areas is the designated Lough Gill Special Area of Conservation (SAC, Site Code No. 001976), and important for four habitats listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive including two with priority status. It is also noted for the high number of rare or scarce animal and plant species found on and in the vicinity of the lake.

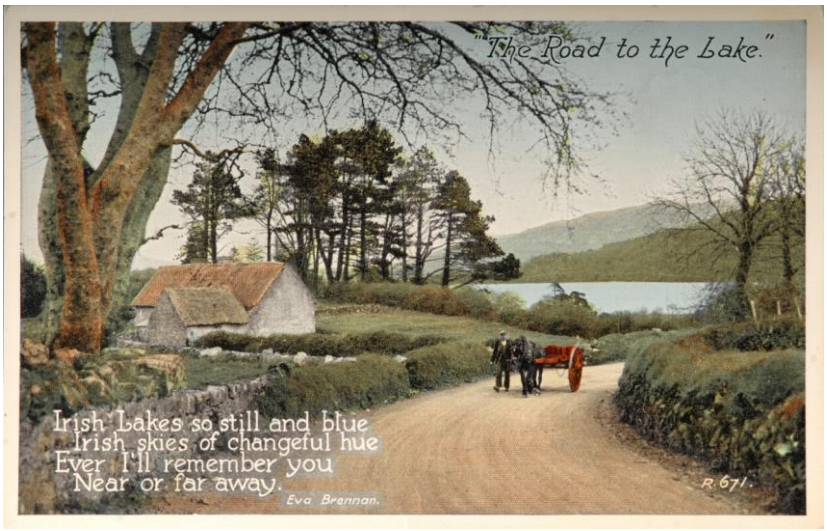
The Sligo Record of Protected Structures (RPS)[6] included in the County Development Plan identifies three built heritage features of the Carraroe area, as follows:

| RPS No. | Name/ Description | Address | Image |
|---|---|---|---|
| 287 | Single railway arch | Ballyfree/ Carrowkeel Td. | |
| 297 | Cast iron water pump | Tullnagracken South Td. | |
| 298 | St. John's Roman Catholic church (c. 1893) | Tullnagracken South Td. | |

[4] http://webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/
[5] http://map.geohive.ie/mapviewer.html
[6] www.sligococo.ie/media/SligoCountyCouncil2015/Services/Planning/Downloads/SEDP2010-2016/SEDPRecordofProtectedStructures.pdf)

The group has also identified the extent of drystone walling found throughout the CADRA area and the need to conserve this important and much threatened heritage feature of the countryside. Towards this end, CADRA recently undertook the rebuilding of sections of stonewalls in the Carraroe area, as shown at right.

Other heritage features identified by the group include the remains of an ice house at Carraroe roundabout and nearby Tonafortes house, and two former National Schools, one the present community centre (c. 1891) and, two, Lakeview schoolhouse, now in private use.




**View of Lough Gill from Lakeview School[7]**

## Recent Project Funding

The immediate Carraroe area has benefited from €70,400 in Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2017 funding for local village enhancement works, improving recreational access to Carns Hill, and 'greenway' infrastructure linking to existing Sligo City cycle and walking facilities. In addition, a further €64,000 in Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure 2017 funding has been granted for the extending of 'greenway' infrastructure from the Molly Fulton's restaurant area south towards Ballisodare. Further funding is to be sought for completion of the 'greenway' link to Ballisodare and the footpath to the Community Park.

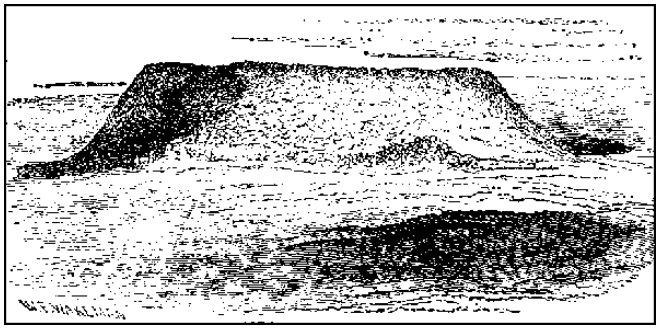
As previously noted, Sligo County Council recently received Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure funding of €38,400 for the development of a Blueway project on the Garavogue River and Lough Gill. The proposed

[7] http://www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/claremuseum/acquisitions/postcard_rd2lake1.htm

Lough Gill Blueway will guide waterborne visitors, e.g. kayakers, rowers, stand-up paddleboarders, etc., from a trailhead adjacent to the Riverside Hotel eastward along the Garavogue River and on to Lough Gill. Discovery points will be developed at eight locations along the route where landing facilities currently exist. Each of the eight points will be signposted to interpret the cultural and, or natural heritage importance of the area. Lock-up, storage, and toilets facilities will be located at the trailhead. The project will complement existing land-based amenities along its route including the Doorly Park/ Cleveragh Regional Park complex which includes cycling trails, running and walking tracks, playing pitches, a playground, toilet facilities and car parking and toilet facilities, as well as walking trails at Hazelwood, Slish Wood Dooney Rock, etc.

The Blueway route will draw attention to and inform visitors about Sligo City's close connection with the lough, river, and the sea. It will further inform and enhance visitors' Sligo experience by linking the cultural, natural and built heritage of this section of the County, e.g. Carns Hill, Tobernalt Holy Well, Hazelwood, Dooney Rock, etc., all of which are easily accessible from Sligo City. As part of the project, a dedicated Lough Gill Blueway website will be developed, along with an app for mobile phones and printed promotional material, e.g. maps, etc.

In 2018, Failte Ireland announced €200,000 funding under its Grants Scheme for Large Tourism Projects 2020 for the development of a new 27m floating pontoon jetty, signage, and sheltered seating, etc., at Riverside Quay Wall – total project cost €270,000. The project, when completed, will complement existing boating facilities along the Garavogue and the planned Lough Gill Blueway. It will also facilitate landing of the Rose of Innisfree (www.roseofinnisfree.com) a 72-seat motor vessel operating tours of Lough Gill from Parkes Castle and Doorly Park (summer season only).



**Carns Hill**[8]

[8] Illustration from 'A Reading Book in Irish History', P. W. Joyce (1900)

# 4. Policies

Current Plans and Policies of relevance to the wider Carraroe area are presented in summary form in the following sections.

## County Sligo Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2016-2021

The purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to establish the objectives and actions, in partnership with other local stakeholders, in relation to the economic and community development of the County. The County Sligo LECP identifies as a County-wide necessity '*a need to improve the physical fabric and appearance' of 'towns and villages for residents, businesses and visitors'*. It also aims to involve people and communities in creating healthier environments and improving wellbeing, which are *'linked to local policies designed to promote sustainable development, design of housing and streetscapes, facilitate access to towns and villages, address climate change…etc.'*

The LECP also identifies as a Strength the County's '*Strong capacity in relation to culture and heritage-based tourism'* as well as its 'Yeats family legacy'. However, it notes as Challenges for the County the '*under developed' potential of its tourism assets and the 'need for improved accessibility and interpretation in relation to tourism attractions'*. There is the need to 'improve access and interpretation of heritage sites' and, specifically, to '*make Sligo's rich literary and cultural history, in particular the Yeats' family legacy, central to the county's international tourism product*'.

*References in the LECP relevant to the Carraroe area, and this Plan, include the following:*

*Objective 1.4 - To support job creation and sustainable economic development in communities throughout County Sligo*

*1.4.3 Enhance the physical appearance of rural towns and villages making them more attractive for residents, shoppers and visitors and support community initiatives through investment and support for community initiatives*

*Objective 3.5 - Plan for a healthy and sustainable environment that caters for different needs and abilities*

*3.5.2 Ensure sustainable development through the provision of facilities to support more sustainable forms of transport such as cycling and walking infrastructure, public transport infrastructure including intermodal linkage with more proactive measures to involve people with disabilities and vulnerable road users in the design process*

*3.5.3 Improve the 'walkability' of communities as a means of improving health and wellbeing and reducing car dependency*

*Objective 5.2 - Enact policies that position Sligo as a leader in sustainable tourism while safeguarding our unique environmental infrastructure, landscape and built and natural heritage.*

*5.2.3 'Maximise the tourism opportunities arising out of Sligo's significant marine, river and inland waterways assets subject to Habitats Directive Assessment and EIA as required to include:*

- *Support access to and use of Sligo's lakes and rivers for sport, recreational and tourism opportunities including measures to avoid any negative environmental impact*

*5.2.4 Conservation, management, access and interpretation of Sligo's archaeological landscapes at Carrowmore/Knocknarea/Cairns Hill and Carrowkeel subject to Habitats Directive Assessment and EIA as required*

## Sligo County Development Plan (CDP) 2017-2023

The CDP is the 'over-arching strategic framework document for sustainable development in spatial, economic, social and environmental terms' for County Sligo. The Plan states that *'Sligo County Council seeks to ensure that the County's towns and villages are developed in a manner which retains and enhances their identity and character. It is expected that the creation of pleasant and attractive places will encourage people not just to work and socialise in urban areas, but also to live there as an alternative to building single houses in rural areas'*

The Plan also acknowledges that '*Sligo's natural environment lends itself to a large variety of outdoor pursuits, including walking, hill-walking, mountaineering, rock-climbing, cycling, mountain biking, and all types of water sports including swimming, surfing, kite surfing, sailing, kayaking, rowing, and supping'* and that these '*are all recognised as growing leisure activities that can largely be facilitated with a minimum of supporting infrastructure. Sligo County Council will facilitate the development of appropriate support infrastructure to enable improved access to such activities…Coastal zones, uplands, lake and river banks as well as forests are among the most attractive areas for outdoor pursuits. Access to such areas is essential for both local residents and tourists*.'

The CDP recognises that '*The lakes of Sligo give the County a special identity. Lough Gill and the Garavogue River…are a major resource for sailing, boating, fishing and lakeshore walks. They also have strong wildlife, literary, archaeological, and historical significance, although infrastructural services need to be developed to fully exploit their potential in a sustainable manner*.'

*<u>Tourism development policies</u>*

*It is the policy of Sligo County Council to:*

*P-TOU-1 Promote the development of tourism in a sustainable manner and encourage the provision of a comprehensive range of tourism facilities, subject to location, siting and design criteria, the*

*protection of environmentally sensitive areas and other planning considerations. Development that might be detrimental to scenic and heritage assets, in cSACs, SPAs, proposed NHAs, designated Sensitive Rural Landscapes and Visually Vulnerable Areas, and along designated Scenic Routes will be strictly controlled.*

*P-TOU-4 Provide signposting, interpretative signs, information boards and improve roads, existing amenity and viewing areas, and provide for car parking, public facilities and access in scenic areas (refer also to Chapter 6, Section 6.7 Outdoor recreation).*

*P-TOU-5 In recognising the special amenity value of mountains, moorlands and forests, valleys and lakes, it is the Council's policy to facilitate the use of these areas for activities such as touring, sightseeing, mountaineering, and hill-walking. This will be done in co-operation with state agencies, local community groups and other interested bodies and. In this regard, the Council will seek to improve access and create public rights of way, within the available financial resources.*

*P-TOU-6 Promote walking, rambling and cycling as tourism activities within the Plan area.*

*P-TOU-7 Explore the provision of sustainable medium- and long-distance walking routes, in co-operation with adjoining local authorities.*

*P-TOU-8 Support and promote, with the co-operation of private landowners, public access to heritage sites and features of natural heritage, geological and archaeological interest, coastal areas, islands, mountains, rivers, lakes and other natural amenities.*

*<u>Outdoor recreation policies</u>*

*'Outdoor recreational spaces and facilities are essential for the health and wellbeing of people living in County Sligo. The natural amenities available in Sligo, such as the Atlantic beaches, lakes, rivers, mountains, forests and trails, make the county an ideal location for outdoor sport and recreation, both active and passive. These natural amenities need to be augmented by parks, playing fields, playgrounds, green networks for walking and cycling, which should be easily accessible to all the county's communities, urban or rural.'*

*It is the policy of Sligo County Council to:*

*P-OR-1 Protect and enhance public open spaces and established recreational green areas.*

*P-OR-2 Support the provision of a variety of accessible, multifunctional, high-quality open spaces and facilities for active and passive recreation, which meet the needs of residents and visitors to County Sligo, are fit for purpose and are economically and environmentally sustainable. Parks and open spaces*

*P-OR-4 Extend the range of recreational facilities provided within parks and other types of open spaces, as budgets allow.*

*P-OR-5 Develop and improve physical linkages and connections between the network of parks and public open spaces in the County.*

*P-OR-6 Where feasible, develop walkways and cycleways between green spaces or green corridors in built-up areas and recreational areas located outside settlements, including coastal, upland, lakeland and forestry sites and subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.*

*P-OR-7 Support the provision of playgrounds in a variety of land-use zoning categories, from residential areas and community facilities to areas zoned for sports and recreation or green belts, where appropriate. Sports facilities*

*P-ORS-11 Facilitate shared use of sports and recreation facilities, particularly school facilities.*

*P-OR-17 Protect existing known rights of way and seek the establishment of additional rights of way, by agreement with landowners, to extend existing walking trails or create new ones and subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.*

*P-OR-20 Protect existing local greenways and consider designating them as public rights of way.*

*P-OR-21 As part of the preparation or review of local area plans and village mini-plans, identify corridors suitable for the creation of urban greenways and seek to connect and integrate* them with local and long-*distance greenways in the adjoining rural areas and subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.*

*P-OR-23 Protect access to forestry and woodlands – in co-operation with Coillte and private owners or operators – for walking routes (including long distance and looped walks), mountain trails, nature trails etc. for the benefit of local people and tourists.*

*<u>Greenways</u>*

*Greenways are routes shared by non-motorised users, such as walkers, cyclists, roller skaters, and sometimes horse riders, which can be used for recreation, tourism and even daily journeys…Greenways provide a framework for community-based initiatives and projects related to nature conservation, cultural heritage preservation, sustainable tourism and mobility. They are usually managed by local people in order to encourage sustainable development and healthy lifestyle. The routes predominantly utilise established green spaces, but can also cross and link to public roads…There are three major types of greenways: long-distance (connecting countries, regions and major settlements), local greenways and urban greenways. The main purpose of long-distance greenways is sustainable tourism (typically cycle tourism)…Local greenways are usually shorter paths developed in rural areas for recreation, heritage interpretation and week-end tourism. Urban greenways are shared-use trails built along rivers, abandoned railways or natural corridors in urban areas. In addition to the recreational uses, they also provide safe mobility for daily trips.*

*Cycling and walking policies*

*'Providing for the needs of cyclists and pedestrians is an important element of an integrated transport system for County Sligo…Cycling and walking play minor roles as modes of transport in County Sligo for long trip distances. For short trips, they are cost-effective, non-polluting and highly flexible modes of transport that foster improved health and wellbeing. The provision of designated cycle routes, greenways, walking trails/pathways and improved road surfaces also supports tourism by facilitating cycling and walking holidays and enhancing the local tourism product.'*

*It is the policy of Sligo County Council to:*

- *P-CW-1 Promote walking and cycling as sustainable transport modes and healthy recreational activities.*
- *P-CW-9 Provide, improve and extend cycle and pedestrian routes on existing roads, proposed roads, roads being upgraded and green corridors (including river corridors)*

The Plan acknowledges that '*Sligo's natural environment lends itself to a large variety of outdoor pursuits, including walking, hill-walking, mountaineering, rock-climbing, cycling, mountain biking, and all types of water sports including swimming, surfing, kite surfing, sailing, kayaking, rowing, and supping'* and that these '*are all recognised as growing leisure activities that can largely be facilitated with a minimum of supporting infrastructure. Sligo County Council will facilitate the development of appropriate support infrastructure to enable improved access to such activities, including…a pontoon at Riverside in Sligo City. Coastal zones, uplands, lake and river banks as well as forests are among the most attractive areas for outdoor pursuits. Access to such areas is essential for both local residents and tourists*.'

## Sligo and Environs Development Plan 2010-2016

A new Plan for Sligo City and its environs is currently being developed, however the previous Plan, for the period 2010-2016, includes numerous references and, or matters of relevance to the Carraroe (Carrowroe) area, key aspects of which are summarised in the following sections.

*Landscape setting*

*Sligo is located at the mouth of the Garavogue River, between Sligo Harbour and Lough Gill, where the river originates. The city is surrounded by a mountainous skyline…These mountains, visible from many locations throughout the city, give Sligo a special sense of enclosure, interrupted only by the openings towards the sea to the west and the picturesque Lough Gill to the east. The topography is varied within the city and environs. The most notable heights are Cairns Hill and the Green Fort, both containing archaeological remains and offering exquisite views over the city.*

*Urban shape*

*Within the boundary of Sligo Borough, development has mainly taken place to the south, west and north. Noticeable tracts of land have been left unused to the south-west, north-east and east. The Garavogue River and estuary, Lough Gill and the significant woodlands at Hazelwood and Cleveragh have constrained the town to grow predominantly southwards towards Carrowroe and westwards along Strandhill Road.*

*Intra-urban roads objectives*

*It is an objective of Sligo Borough and County Councils to:*

*T2.9* *A north-south link road from R287 (Carrowroe to Aghamore), north to connect with Road Objective T2.11 at Tullynagracken North.*

*T2.19* *R287 from Carrowroe Roundabout north to Retail Park Roundabout – upgrade to a four-lane carriageway with central median.*

*Tourism Objectives*

The Plan recognised the potential of the Garavogue River and Lough Gill to '*become another important tourist attractor, due to the significant natural amenity (they provide*)'. It called for '*Environmentally-friendly tourist developments' and for amenity access 'especially for local, and panoramic viewing areas along walking trails (which) should be promoted*.' The plan identified the following Tourism Policies for Sligo City and its environs:

*P-TOU-5* *Improve the signposting of scenic routes, walks, riverside trails, historic and archaeological heritage features in an attractive and well-designed manner, in order to promote the walking and cycling tourism product. of private landowners, public access to heritage sites and features of archaeological interest.*

*P-TOU-6* *Facilitate the sustainable development of ecotourism and other leisure activities in the environs of Sligo, outside the urban edge (development limit), such as equestrian centres, outdoor recreational centres, bird-watching, boat clubs and canoe rental.*

*P-TOU-7* *Support and promote, with the co-operation of private landowners, public access to heritage sites and features of archaeological interest.*

*Community Facilities*

*It is an objective of Sligo County Council to:*

*O-CF-1* *Reserve a site at Carrowroe for the construction of a private hospital, respite home, GP unit, consultants' suites and ancillary facilities.*

*Existing land use*

*The existing land use map shows that the city has developed predominantly towards the west (along Strandhill Road) and to the south (towards Carrowroe). Significant development opportunities remain in the south-western quarter (Caltragh-Carrowroe)…New, realigned and upgraded roads and bridges are planned to facilitate the development of these areas and the compact growth of the city from the centre outwards.*

*Local Area Plans within the SEDP area*

*It is the objective of Sligo Borough and County Councils to:*

*LAP-O-5 In the longer term, prepare a Local Area Plan, including a masterplan, for Caltragh-Carrowroe and adjoining areas in the south-western quarter of Sligo and Environs*

(Note: the area of review for the proposed LAP is the southwest section of Sligo City and Environs, primarily centred on Oakfield Road, the route of the planned Western Distributor Road, and lands opened up for development as a result of the new access road: *The Western Distributor Road is intended to provide direct access from Carrowroe/Caltragh to the west of the city and facilitate the development of greenfield lands in the south-western quadrant of Sligo and Environs).*

*Housing*

*The Outer City The vast majority of greenfield sites zoned for residential development are found in the outer city areas, which vary significantly in terms of available infrastructure and environmental sensitivity. …Higher-density areas Lands that are well served by existing/planned infrastructure (particularly transport infrastructure) and are close to employment areas and local services are considered suitable for higher-density residential development. In Sligo, such lands can generally be identified as stretching from Carrowroe, along either side of the Inner Relief Road and railway line, to Caltragh and further to Finisklin. Accordingly, the majority of lands zoned for medium- and higher-density residential development are located in this area…The outer city also contains areas which are more sensitive in ecological, environmental and visual terms. It is important that such areas provide an appropriate transition between the built-up continuum and the countryside. For example, at locations such as Carns Hill, Tonaphubble …elevated topography imposes visual constraints, while lands in the vicinity of the Garavogue River and Lough Gill present a combination of visual, environmental and ecological constraints. In order to minimise environmental and visual impacts, most residential lands in these areas are zoned for low- and medium-density development.*

*Retail Strategy*

*Retail warehousing Retail warehousing is characterised by large, single-level stores specialising in the sale of bulky goods such as furniture and DIY items. Due to their size and parking requirements, retail warehouses*

*are not appropriate in a city centre and as such need to be considered separately from standard retailing, in terms of location…Retail warehouses depend heavily on good access to the national road network, and also benefit from being clustered on single sites so as to minimise the number of trips by car. Retail warehouses can play a positive role in the retail hierarchy. If they are of appropriate scale and are restricted to bulky comparison goods…Retail warehousing in Sligo is focused on the existing Sligo Retail Park at Carrowroe, Cleveragh Retail Park and (*other smaller clusters*)…The Carrowroe and North Fringe Retail Parks will ensure a north-south balance in the provision of retail warehousing and may help reduce the amount of retail warehousing scattered around the Docklands, thereby assisting in a more comprehensive development of those lands. Piecemeal development of retail warehousing in the city, at locations other than those specifically designated on the zoning map, will be discouraged.*

*Neighbourhood Centres*

*Neighbourhood centres provide a valuable service and cater for the daily needs of nearby residents, particularly the elderly, the less mobile, families with children and those without access to a car. Typically these should be located so that all residents are within reasonable walking distance (about 500 metres) of the facilities, which should also have good road access.*

In relation to '*General retail planning policies…It is the policy of Sligo Borough and County Councils to:*

*P-RP-10 Facilitate a network of neighbourhood centres outside the city centre, accommodating a range of retail floor spaces*

And, to:

*NC-1 Promote and facilitate new neighbourhood centres with a maximum net retail floor space of 1,500 sq.m. at the following locations: Caltragh*

*NC-2 Promote the development of suburban, larger neighbourhood centres with a maximum net retail floor space of 2,750 sq.m. of which up to 1,750 sq.m. net floor space can be dedicated to convenience retail units, to allow for small supermarket provision at the following locations: Carrowroe*

In relation to Neighbourhood Centres, '*It is an objective of Sligo Borough and County Councils to:*

*O-NEC-1 Facilitate the regeneration of the neighbourhood centres at Cartron and Crozon by encouraging a variety of new uses, including small-scale business and enterprise units or starter units, in addition to community and neighbourhood uses.*

*O-NEC-2 Promote and facilitate new neighbourhood centres at the following locations: Caltragh*

*O-NEC-3 Reinforce and encourage consolidation of development in the following areas, where characteristics of neighbourhood centres are existent or emerging: Crozon…Carrowroe'*

*Open space objectives*

*It is the objective of the Borough and County Councils to develop nine principal areas as part of the open space strategy:*

*O-OS-1 South-east: Cleveragh–Doorly Park–Cairns Hill*

*A range of parkland amenities will be developed at Cleveragh Estate and Doorly Park, comprising four key recreational zones:*

*Zone 1 Cleveragh Parkland opposite Sligo Regional Sports Centre*

*Zone 2 Doorly Park, Riverside Gardens, Cleveragh Water Park*

*Zone 3 Cleveragh Outdoor Activity Centre, Leisure Trails*

*Zone 4 Cleveragh Regional Sports Centre and Environs*

*The proposal envisages a multi-functional network of linked spaces within the four distinct recreation zones. Each zone will have a variety of landscapes, recreational opportunities and functions. An ecological approach to landscape design will be the basis for all new development. Proposed amenities will include playing pitches, children's playgrounds, wetland wildlife areas, car parks and roadways, cycle ways, pedestrian walkways, landscaping, and water sports facilities. It is envisaged that Cleveragh Leisure Trail will be developed eastwards from the city centre to Cleveragh across the Garavogue and back along the northern river banks at Hazelwood-Ballinode to the Mall. The local authorities will continue to acquire lands for the development of Cleveragh Regional Park and continue the programme of planting and woodland rehabilitation within the park. Hard-surface activities (i.e. buildings, basketball courts etc.) will be grouped together, separate from the natural areas.* ***A short distance south of the proposed Regional Park at Cleveragh is Cairns Hill. It is proposed to further develop this area to incorporate the visually prominent and sensitive lands in the area into the open space network***

*O-OS-8 South: Tullynagracken–Carrowroe*

*An extensive area of land has been zoned for the provision of open space at Tullynagracken and to the east of the proposed neighbourhood centre and lands zoned for residential use at Carrowroe. A local park is proposed at this location. The park should be provided in tandem with the development of the lands zoned for residential use in the vicinity.*

*O-OS-9 Far South: Carrowroe–Belladrihid*

*The spatial strategy reserved an area for land-extensive uses, such as vehicle sales, logistics and warehousing along the wedge of land that lies between Carrowroe and Belladrihid, defined by the N4 to the west and the Old Dublin Road to the east. The N4 is the most important approach route to Sligo and, in order to ensure that a positive image of the city is presented, it is proposed to develop a landscape buffer to screen uses along the eastern edge of the national road. The open space areas will also act as a wildlife corridor and an area of visual amenity.*

*Green corridor objectives*

*An integrated trail and greenway system for walking, cycling and jogging will be created as part of the development of the city's park and open space network. In association with Sligo Sports and Recreation Partnership, programmes related to wellness and fitness will be explored, to encourage increased use of the green corridor network. It is an objective of Sligo Borough and County Councils to develop a linked green network including the following corridors:*

*O-OS-10 Cairns Hill to Carrowroe*

*O-OS-14 Oakfield to Carraroe*

*O-OS-11 Doorly Park to Holy Well*

*Tall buildings*

*On the approaches to the city, a number of strategic sites – "gateways" to the city area – have been identified, where taller buildings may also be appropriate. These sites are highly visible and as such, it is essential that any building on these sites is designed to the highest standards. Such developments would announce the presence of the built-up area, would "set the tone" for the city and influence the public perception of Sligo as a modern urban centre. These sites are: G. The Southern Gateway: Carrowroe Roundabout – two sites*

*Wastewater Services*

*The proposed Carrowroe Main Drainage System has a catchment area of 417 acres, of which only a small portion (i.e. Phase 1) is targeted for development over the lifetime of this Plan. The foul sewage from this scheme (along with the other schemes mentioned above) will be pumped into the Sligo Main Drainage system. Phase 1 (involving the installation of a foul sewage collection system including pumping stations and rising mains) will be completed in 2009, and will serve the lands zoned as WILT in the Carrowroe–Belladrihid area. Phase 2 of the Carrowroe Scheme (involving some lands between Carrowroe and the Aughamore area) will be completed at a later date.*

*Wastewater objectives*

*It is the policy of Sligo Borough and County Councils to:*

*O-WW-8 Reserve lands for a pumping station at Tonafortes, to the west of the Carrowroe Roundabout, to facilitate the servicing and development of zoned lands at this location.*

*Tourism Objectives:*

*It is the policy of Sligo Borough and County Councils to:*

*O-TOU-2 Explore the possible provision of a heritage trail in the city and environs that might include such features as the St. John's Cathedral, the Courthouse, City Hall, Old Market Street, the Abbey, Forthill, the Model Niland, the County Museum, the Famine Graveyard and the archaeological features of Carrowroe and its vicinity.*

*Cultural development objectives*

*It is an objective of Sligo Borough and County Councils to:*

*O-CD-2 Provide a pedestrian trail along the north and south banks of the Garavogue and Lough Gill as part of an overall linear park system.*

*Archaeological heritage objectives*

*It is an objective of Sligo Borough and County Councils to:*

*O-AH-6 Identify and protect internationally important archaeological landscapes such as the megalithic cemetery of Carrowmore and its associated monuments at Knocknarea and Cairns Hill, in co-operation with the appropriate Government agency.*

*O-AH-7 Identify appropriate archaeological sites in the Plan area to which public access could be provided and work to secure public access, where appropriate, in consultation with the land owners.*

*Cuil Irra peninsula – Carrowmore, Knocknarea and Cairns Hill*

*To the east of Cuil Irra and again overlooking Carrowmore are two large cairns on the summit of Cairns Hill. The cairns are comparable in size to Maeve's Cairn on the summit of Knocknarea. Sligo Local Authorities recognise the significance of the unique and internationally-important archaeological landscape of the Cuil Irra Peninsula and are fully committed to ensuring that this special archaeological landscape is protected and preserved in situ. Sligo local authorities will seek to develop a Management Plan for the Cuil Irra Peninsula to include Knocknarea, Carrowmore and Cairns Hill and will work with the relevant agencies to achieve that objective within the timeframe of this Plan. In this regard, the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government has appointed a steering group to oversee the preparation of a Conservation Study of Archaeological Features at Knocknarea, Carrowmore and Cairns Hill, Sligo.*

*Archaeological heritage objectives for the Cuil Irra peninsula*

*It is the objective of Sligo Borough and County Councils to:*

*O-AH-8 Establish a co-ordinated signage programme for Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery, Knocknarea and Cairns Hill with the relevant agencies.*

*Archaeological heritage policies for the Cuil Irra peninsula*

It is the policy of Sligo Borough and County Councils to:

*P-AH-12 Have regard to the recommendations and guidelines which will be established in the document A Conservation Study of the Passage Tomb Group and Associated Archaeological Features and Other Monuments of Knocknarea, Carrowmore and Cairns Hill, Co. Sligo, commissioned by the DoEHLG in partnership with relevant stakeholders.*

*P-AH-13* *Protect groups of important National Monuments in the Cuil Irra Peninsula, inclusive of their contextual setting and interpretation through careful management of development in the area.*

*P-AH-14* *Protect the vulnerable archaeological and cultural landscape and to protect views within and adjacent to Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery, Knocknarea and Cairns Hill.*

*P-AH-15* *Protect the context, amenity and integrity of archaeological heritage and the landscape at Cairns Hill, including the direct intervisibility between cairns on Cairns Hill, the direct views between Cairns Hill and Knocknarea and Carrowmore and the direct views between Cairns Hill and other relevant locations within the wider Cuil Irra passage tombs complex.*

## Environmental Report of the Sligo and Environs Development Plan 2010-2016

The Environmental Report identifies and assesses 'the likely environmental consequences of decisions regarding the future accommodation of development in Sligo and Environs.'

*Strategic Environmental Assessment*

*The Garavogue River runs east to west to through the heart of Sligo interacting with both the natural and built heritage to give a unique and distinct character. The Garavogue River flows from Lough Gill into Sligo Harbour and subsequently Sligo Bay which is a candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) and a proposed National Heritage Area (pNHA). Large areas of mixed and natural woodland are situated on the banks of the Garvogue at Hazelwood Demesne, Cleveragh Demesne, Tobernalt Bay and Aghamore, to the south of Aghamore Bay.*

*Directly to the north of the Town the topography rises sharply to incorporate the Green Fort. There is also an area of significant high ground to the south east of the Town near Cairns and Tonaphubble; this area is clearly visible from the Town, with significant views over Lough Gill, Hazelwood Demesne and the Town itself. Cleveragh Drive forms a scenic route along the west of Lough Gill, with viewing points along this road and also along The Green Road. Aghamore Bay is another important viewing point for Lough Gill.*

*Cultural Heritage*

*The context, amenity and integrity of archaeological heritage and the landscape at Carns Hill [including the direct intervisibility between cairns on Carns Hill, the direct views between Carns Hill and Knocknarea and Carrowmore and the direct views between Carns Hill and other relevant locations within the wider Cuil Irra passage tombs complex] shall be protected. Integrated through Policy P-AH-15.*

## County Sligo Local Development Strategy (LDS)

The LDS identifies the following objectives for future development of the County, and which are relevant to CADRA areas:

- *Strategic Action 1: Support the improvement of the physical appearance and attractiveness of small towns*
- *Support community groups to carry out physical improvement works*
- *Programme of supports to refurbish or change the use of existing community spaces to encourage additional or new use*
- *Programme of Supports to refurbish or change the use of derelict or void spaces to encourage new use*
- *Support initiatives in rural towns which future proof the age friendliness of the town.*

## County Sligo Heritage Plan 2016-2020

The aim of the County Sligo Heritage Forum, publishers of the Heritage Plan, is: 'To inspire our community to know, value and care for Sligo's unique heritage and to increase awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of our heritage for all.' Strategic themes identified in the plan are:

- *Raise awareness of Sligo's heritage*
- *Promote the conservation and management of Sligo's heritage*
- *Increase understanding of the value of Sligo's heritage*
- *Promote community participation in heritage plans and projects*

Specific actions under these themes include:

- *Liaise with relevant sectors in the development of greenways/ walking/cycling routes to ensure that such projects are developed in a sustainable manner and that every opportunity is taken to promote the natural and built heritage along such routes.*
- *Research and develop county heritage trails/themed heritage trails, with a focus on publicly accessible heritage sites and attractions in co-operation with other organisations, communities and landowners.*

Theme 2.0 Promote the conservation and management of Sligo's heritage

- *Liaise with the Office of Public Works and key stakeholders to address the conservation, management and presentation of Carrowmore/Knocknarea/Carns Hill*
- *Commission a study which engages local communities in examining the potential of a future application for UNESCO World Heritage Site Status for Sligo's Neolithic centres of Cuil Irra (centred at Carrowmore) and Lough Arrow (centred at Carrowkeel).*

## Sligo Rural Recreation Office

A 2013 report on the County's Rural Recreation Sector, prepared for the Sligo Rural Recreation Office, identified as a strategic goal for the organisation the need for *'Improved access to recreation amenities throughout the County Improved user/ visitor experience, matching actual experience with user expectation Expanding potential for existing and new activities within the recreation sector Strengthening of overall rural recreation.'*

## Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership Strategic Plan 2013-2016

One of the Partnership's objectives in supporting the development of recreation spaces is to '*encourage the use of existing outdoor recreation facilities through activities including walking, cycling, orienteering and water sports*,' and it calls for additional trails for walking, water sports and cycling to facilitate these activities.

## Sligo East City, Cranmore and Environs Regeneration Masterplan 2016

identifies as an Objective the development of '*new and existing local facilities, amenities, clubs, and school links to provide adequate infrastructure for sports and recreation in the area*'. Specific Actions under this objective include '*Improve the quality and range of local outdoor recreation facilities including further development of recreational opportunities at Cleveragh Park, Doorly Park and Garavogue River*.

## Sligo Local Authorities Walking & Cycling Strategy 2012 – 2016 For Sligo Town & Environs & Satellite Villages

The Strategy identifies a need for providing cycling infrastructure throughout the urban core and linking with adjacent areas. It identifies the main residential parts of the City and its environs as being:

- Strandhill Road to Maugheraboy Area to the West
- Cartron, Avondale & Rathbraughan Areas to the North (Ballytivnan)
- Bellanode to the North East and
- Caltragh, Cairns Road and the Cranmore/Carraroe areas to the South and South East

These areas, according to the Strategy, need to be linked to businesses and employment centres, schools, amenities, and the city centre via a 'Spine Route'. The following four routes have been identified for the city, as shown on the adjacent map.

1. Strandhill Road
2. Ballytivnan Road/Ash Lane
3. Ballinode Road (Hazelwood Rd)/ The Mall
4. Pearse Road

Three 'Commuter Routes' linking to a Spine Route from an outlying 'Satellite' villages are identified in the Strategy. These include the following, as depicted in the map below:

- *Strandhill – Sligo Town: This Commuter Route follows the R292 from Strandhill village to Sligo Town, its latter part forming the Strandhill Road Spine Route into the Town Centre. The Strandhill to Sligo Commuter Route was provided successfully under Smarter Travel in 2011.*
- *Rosses Point – Sligo Town: This Commuter Route follows the R291 from Rosses Point village, via Ballincar, towards Sligo Town. It links with the Ballytivnan Road / Ash lane Spine Route.*
- *Collooney / Ballisodare – Sligo Town: This Commuter Route is a combination of on and off road cycle track broadly following the line of the old N4 towards Sligo, linking to the Pearse Road Spine Route at Carraroe.*

## Sligo Retail Strategy 2010 -2017

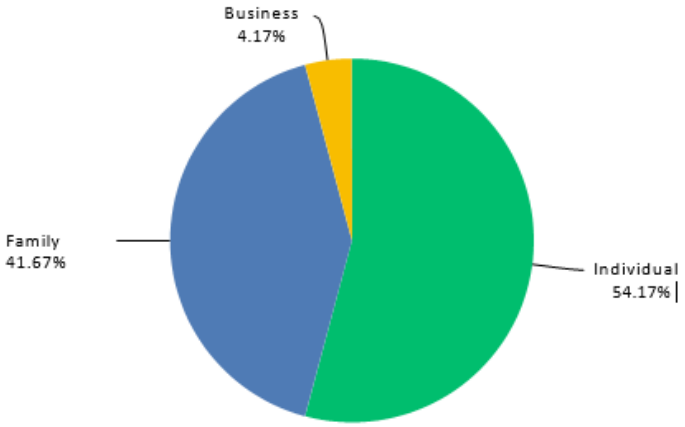
The Strategy states the local Planning Authority's policies for land use and development control in the Sligo area. In relation to Carraroe and District, the Strategy refers specifically to Sligo Retail Park, the region's first major out-of-town shopping development which opened in 2004. The Park provides single level retail store and warehouse space for businesses selling non-food, bulky household goods, substantial parking, and adjacent retail food units, e.g. McDonalds. Bulky household goods refer to items not generally sold in convenience or similar units such as furniture, carpets, DIY, and electrical goods, etc.

At the time of its writing, lands located to the south-west of the retail park the '*subject of increasing interest from retail developers and operators…Tesco, Argos and others* (interested) *in developing in out of town locations.* The Strategy also notes that the Planning Authority refused a number of applications to extend the range of retailing allowable at the Park, such as supermarkets, etc. However, it also states that the '*relative merits of retail development in this and other locations needs to be considered in the context of future requirements i.e. the distribution of the Gateway population as it grows and the extent to which proposed development is appropriate to the needs of the surrounding area*.'

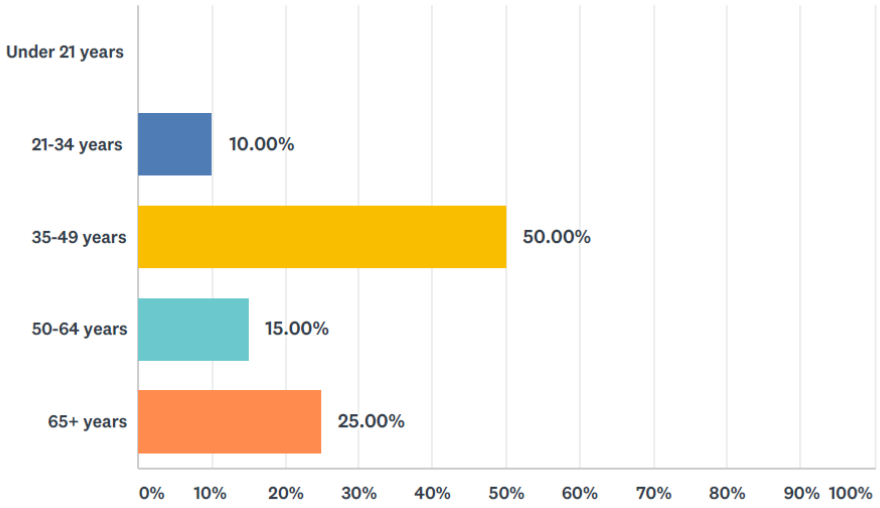
An earlier 2004 Retail Strategy identified the Pearse Road (*Carrowroe*) area as having potential for the development of up to 19,000m$^2$ of retail space restricted to bulky goods as a response to piecemeal in the area.

# 5. Community Survey

As part of the planning process, CADRA undertook a survey of the local community in order to establish the potential for, and interest in the future development of the Carraroe and District area. The survey was carried out primarily on-line from May to August 2018, however printed survey forms were also utilised. Two-thirds of those responding to the survey were female and slightly more than half of responses received were completed on behalf of 'individuals' as opposed to families or businesses, as shown in the chart below.




The following graph represents the age profile of those responding to the survey.



The following sections provide a summary of the most common responses to respective survey questions.

**What do you like best about living or working in the Carraroe and District area?**

- **Location** – accessibility, convenience to city centre, nature, road network, etc, '*best of both worlds*'
- **Natural environment** – scenery, rural setting, countryside, forests, lake, and mountains, outdoor recreation areas
- **Facilities** – school, church, GAA pitch, Cleveragh/Doorly Park, GP practice, pharmacy, walks, etc.
- **Community –** attractive, safe, caring, and welcoming community, friendliness, great neighbours, etc., '*Great place to raise a family*'

**What do you think makes the Carraroe and District area unique and/ or distinctive in Co. Sligo?**

- **Scenic setting** – natural landscape, Lough Gill, Knocknarea, Dooney Rock, local heritage, etc.
- **Central location** – proximity to town, amenities, transport links, services, etc.
- **Community Spirit** – sense of community, pride, active and visible Tidy Towns efforts, etc., '*feels like a small rural village*'
- **Neighbourhoods** – good mix of older and younger people living locally, nice residents, friendly neighbours
- **Parish** – school and church, '*our own parish and community centre*'
- **Quiet** – nice quiet area, not overdeveloped

**What are the most important features in the Carraroe and Distract area for you, your family and/ or your organisation?**

- **Countryside** – proximity to and accessibility of natural environment, forest walks, heritage sites, peaceful, rural setting
- **Central location** – proximity to town, recreational amenities, transport links, 2nd and 3rd level education, services, etc.
- **Sense of Community** – nice community, safe, people willing to help, commitment of residents to support young people, neighbours close-by, community spirit
- **Parish** – school, community centre, and church (*'need a play area for kids')*

**What do you think would be the most important projects to carry out in the next 5 years to benefit the local community in the Carraroe and District area?**

- **Park/playground –** play areas and amenities for children, seating and picnic areas, safe walking track/ paths, etc.
- **Traffic management** – safer junctions, traffic calming/management at school and church, road markings, speed reduction, designated disabled spaces in school area, parking at school, etc.

- **Footpaths** – safe walking infrastructure throughout area, pedestrian links between school area and Cuilbeg, Holy Well, etc.
- **Attractions** – improved access to and interpretation of the cairns, enhancement of forest walk, scenic areas at Holy Well, etc.
- **Greenway** – dedicated cycling infrastructure throughout area, linking with school and other cycling routes, safer Ballisodare route
- **Lough Gill** – develop angling and boating amenities, new jetty, etc., improved access/ walks around the lake, scenic viewing points, etc.
- **Transport** – better local bus services to city centre and throughout area
- **Community Garden** –allotments, green spaces
- **Senior Citizens** – establish a 'friendly phone' service and support group for seniors living locally, develop supported housing and better infrastructure for older residents

**In terms of tourism, what do you think would be the most important projects to carry out in the next 5 years to attract visitors to the Carraroe and district Area?**

- **Signage** – improve directional and information/interpretation signage in relation to heritage sites and scenic areas, etc.
- **Park/playground –** play areas and amenities for children, seating and picnic facilities, etc.
- **Touring route** – develop (and signpost) a looped walking/cycling/ touring route incorporating local sites, e.g. cairns, Holy Well, Green Road viewing point, Lough Gill, etc.
- **Walks** – develop walking infrastructure linking heritage sites and amenities, e.g. Doorly Park and Holy Well, Carns Hill, etc.
- **Enhancements** – improve physical appearance of the area, e.g. more landscaping, shrubs, flowers, etc., especially at Carraroe and Holy Well areas, conservation of stone walls, etc.
- **Carns Hill** – improve access to and interpretation of the cairns, linkages with other sites, improve forest trails
- **Greenway** – improve and extend cycling/walking links with adjoining regions, e.g. Ballisodare, Coolaney Mountain Bike Centre, Carrowmore, etc.

**What other comments, suggestions or feedback would you like to provide regarding the future of the Carraroe and District area?**

- *'That is does NOT become industrialised'*
- *More Garda Presence*
- *'…ensure development is in keeping with the natural environment'*
- *'Keep up the good work!'*
- *'Improve road safety for* all'
- 'Keep up the great work.'

## Priorities and themes

The review of responses to the survey highlights a number of common themes raised by residents in relation to the CADRA area, as follows:

- **Importance of location and setting, i.e. close to both the city and rural areas**
- **Sense of community**
- **Range natural and built heritage amenities locally**

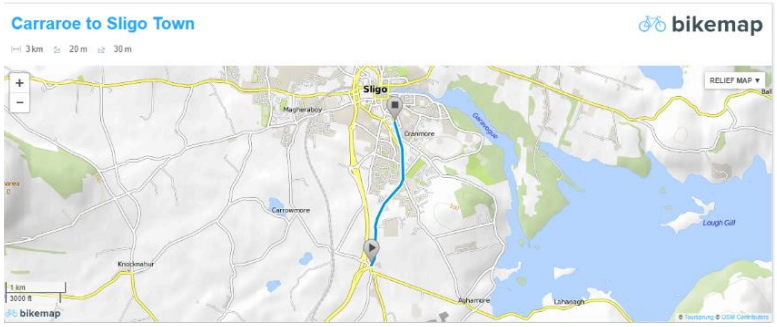
Priorities for residents of the CADRA area, as emphasised in their survey responses and also appropriate to published plans and policies for the region and local demographics, can be summarised as follows:

- To improve cycling and walking infrastructure linking with local amenities and adjoining areas, for safety, recreational, tourism, and environmental reasons
- To provide additional new recreational facilities to meet the needs of a growing local population, young and old
- To strengthen and build upon the idea of a Carraroe District community, and the appearance of the region, to enhance the experience and general wellbeing of local residents
- To improve the experience of visitors to the area and their (and residents') enjoyment of local amenities and attractions by improving access, interpretation, and conservation of heritage features

# 6. Proposals

A number development and improvement projects have been identified that offer the potential to enhance the profile and amenity value of Carraroe and environs, the quality of life of local residents, and the economic vitality of the wider area. A number of these projects are presented in the following sections.

## Carraroe Cycling Hub




Carraroe is strategically positioned as the southern gateway to Sligo City, from which Lough Gill and the Coolera Peninsula are both easily accessible. Presently, 2.75km of cycle lanes, part of Urban Cycle Sligo's[9] Route 002 (http://sligoactivetravel.ie), connect Carraroe with the city centre. Completed and planned 'greenway' infrastructure in the Carraroe area will see the extending of cycling/walking facilities 1km further along the Old Dublin/ Ballisodare road. The eventual linking of these facilities with the existing Ballisodare to Collooney 'greenway' is planned.

The Lough Gill Cycle Loop (www.outdoorfitnesssligo.com/lough-gill-cycle-route.html) is a 40km on-road route around Lough Gill, which comes within 2.3km of Carraroe church and passes Dooney Rock, the Holy Well, and Carns Hill before returning to the city centre. The Loop aligns with the North West Cycle Trail (www.irishtrails.ie/Trail/The-North-West-Trail-Cycling/1203/), a 326km on-road cross-border trail running through Counties Leitrim, Sligo, Donegal, Tyrone, and Fermanagh.

Planning is currently underway for the Sligo elements of EuroVelo 1, an 8,186km long-distance cycling route running from Norway to Portugal and encompassing certified and developing sections along coastal areas of Ireland, from Donegal to Wexford (www.eurovelo.com/en/eurovelos/eurovelo-1). The route proposed for EuroVelo 1 will likely follow the Garavogue River and Lough Gill before heading south at Aghamore Near towards Drumiskabole. Plans envisage it continuing on to Coolaney where it will link with the re-aligned Sligo Way, the developing mountain biking centre, and the planned Sligo Greenway.

[9] Urban Cycle Sligo is a Sligo County Council project delivered in partnership with the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, and the Active Travel Towns initiative.

The converging of all of these existing, developing, and planned projects, i.e. Urban Cycle Sligo, Lough Gill Cycle Loop, Carraroe to Ballisodare 'greenway', EuroVelo 1, etc., at Carraroe, and the strategic position of the village, provides an opportunity for the establishing of the area as a cycling or greenway 'hub' for visitors and recreational cyclists. Furthermore, there is potential for developing additional designated looped cycling trails to, for example, Ballygawley and Union Woods, Carrowmore, Knocknarea, etc.

A 'hub' would provide basic facilities for cyclists such as local information, secure storage and parking, bike rental, simple bike repair equipment, e.g. electric or manual tyre pump, tools, repair kits, etc, as well as route and local services/ attractions information, seating, public lockers, vending machines, litter bins, etc., which would also cater to non-cyclist visitor needs. In addition to serving as a facility for recreational and touring cyclists, such facilities may also support commuters cycling to work from outlying areas including those using personal automobiles for part of their journey, i.e. park and (bike) ride.

Ideally, a cycling hub at Carraroe would be part of a multi-faceted community or commercially-based project providing a critical mass of activity in the area. This might include, for example, a community café similar to Café Fia in Coolaney (www.facebook.com/fiacafe) or a local producer market such as community-operated country markets operating in Cliffoney (www.facebook.com/cliffoneycountrymarket) and Beltra (www.facebook.com/beltracountrymarket as well as a visitor centre that would contribute to the viability and sustainability of the project. While the staffing of such a facility would likely be undertaken on a voluntary basis, as with the two examples mentioned, and, or with supported employment scheme (e.g. CE, Tus) support, there may also be potential for creating new part/full-time paid employment positions.

The cost of developing such facilities would have to be determined, in consultation with stakeholders, and funding could potentially be applied for under, for example, the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS), Town & Village Enhancement Scheme, and the Rural Development Programme (RDP)/ LEADER.

## Cycling Tourism

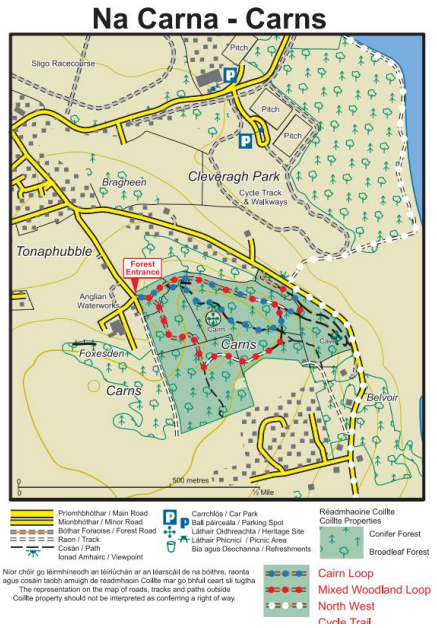
According to Failte Ireland, cycling tourism offers considerable potential for the national economy as the 175,000 Overseas visitors who engaged in cycling while in Ireland in 2011 spent an estimated €200 million.[10] Furthermore, 399,000 of a total 8,742,000 Overseas Visitors in 2016 engaged in cycling[11] and, according to Failte Ireland,[12] approximately 8% (390,880 persons) of an estimated 4,886,000 domestic holidaymakers engaged in cycling activities in 2017.

[10] www.failteireland.ie/Research-Insights/Activities/Archive/Cycling-tourism-in-Ireland-2011-pdf-117kb.aspx
[11] TOURISM FACTS 2016 Revised March 2018
[12] TOURISM FACTS 2017 Preliminary May 2018

Census 2016 reported that more than 82,000 people use bicycles as their primary means of transport, of which 56,837 people cycled to work, an increase of 43% since 2011. The remainder using bicycles to commute to school or college. Cycling to work, according to the CSO, represented the largest percentage increase of all transport means amounting to 17,000 extra workers cycling compared to 2011 figures.

Cycling Ireland, the governing body for cycling in Ireland, represents the interests of approximately 23,000 registered members, and almost 400 clubs including track, road and mountain biking. The organisation oversees the running of almost 800 cycling events annually and manages the national cycling team. There are almost 50 Cycling Ireland affiliated clubs in the Connacht region, seven of which are based in Sligo.

## Carns Hill Amenity Area




The large passage tomb cairns located at Carns Hill, dating to c. 4000BC, are two of the Coolera Peninsula's most important and least known features. Located on Coillte-owned forestry land, the eastern cairn is accessible via two looped walking trails (www.coillte.ie/site/carns/). These are linked to the city centre town via Doorly Park and Cleveragh Regional Park walking trails, and from the Tonnaphubble Road area using footpaths. The second, western cairn, is located on commonage land and presently not accessible. CADRA is currently liaising with commonage shareholders and others to secure permissive access to the cairn and, also, is re-establishing carpark facilities at Carns Hill with Town & Village Scheme 2017 funding.

Presently, neither Carns Hill forest walk, nor the two cairns, are mentioned on the www.Sligotourism.ie website, which has other local attractions listed under various headings to include 'walking' and 'archaeology'. While not listed as a designated walk, Carns Hill is mentioned briefly on one page of the www.sligowalks.ie website. As previously noted, however, the walk is promoted on the Coillte and, also, on the Outdoor Fitness Sligo website (www.outdoorfitnessligo.com/carns-hill-forest-walk.html). In 2017, CADRA organised a successful public outing to both cairns as part of local Heritage Week activities.

Given the international significance of the Coolera Peninsula as one of the most important cultural and ritual centres of Neolithic period Ireland, the prominence of the cairns at Carns Hill, and their proximity and accessibility to the city centre – and nearby passage tomb at Abbeyquarter North – there is considerable potential to enhance the profile and public awareness of the site.

In the first instance, improved directional and interpretive signage should be developed for Carns Hill to replace, augment, or complement any existing signage. The primary purpose of this is raise public awareness of the significance of the site and, secondly, to inform visitors of its history and folklore. This should only be done in collaboration with the County Heritage Office, Office of Public Works, Coillte, Sligo County Council, and landowners to ensure the veracity and appropriateness of information provided. Ideally, any new signage should also be compatible and linked with existing examples found at similar locations within the County, such as at Knocknarea and Innisfree (images adjacent), or else CADRA 'branded'.

In relation to improving access to the cairns themselves, this should also be undertaken in close collaboration with the key stakeholders. However, as accessibility and presentation issues differ between the two cairn sites, the ability of the group to affect change in the short-term may be limited. For example, there is likely some scope for improving the setting of the eastern cairn by selective thinning of new tree growth, especially in the immediate area of and on the cairn itself. This may open up new vistas for visitors to the site as well as protect the cairn from the disruptive effects of vegetative growth. Community lobbying and support for such measures will likely be important to ensuring they are undertaken by the respective stakeholders in the short-term.

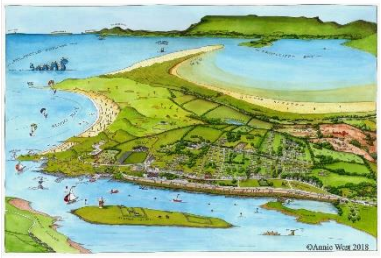
As noted, the group has made significant inroads into securing landowner support for improving access to the western cairn. This will need to be completed prior to the making of any funding application to facilitate works to allow access, which can only be done when the Office of Public Works and other stakeholders have approved such works. The securing of State support for the group's efforts in this regard will likely require more formal assessment, e.g. environmental impact and appropriate assessment reports, etc., and, therefore, their objectives may not be achievable given the significance and sensitivity of the site. Ideally, such interventions should be considered in the context of the wider Coolera heritage region and a collaborative approach undertaken with adjacent communities, e.g. Ransboro, Strandhill, etc.

As with the development of a cycling hub, above, the cost of carrying out works would have to be determined in consultation with stakeholders. Some works may be funded by key stakeholders, whereas other proposed works may require local fundraising and grant applications to, for example, the Heritage Council, ORIS, Town & Village Enhancement Scheme, and RDP/ LEADER.

## Promotion

While Carrowroe is a recognisable and signposted geographic area, the wider CADRA catchment area is not as easily identifiable or familiar as a defined area at present. The proximity of Sligo City's urban core and the lack of a traditional village centre within the CADRA area poses challenges in how residents, and others, view Carrowroe and District and whether they perceive it as a defined area. The association is working to change this through its activities and projects throughout the catchment area, its representations and submissions, social media, and newsletters, local notes, etc.

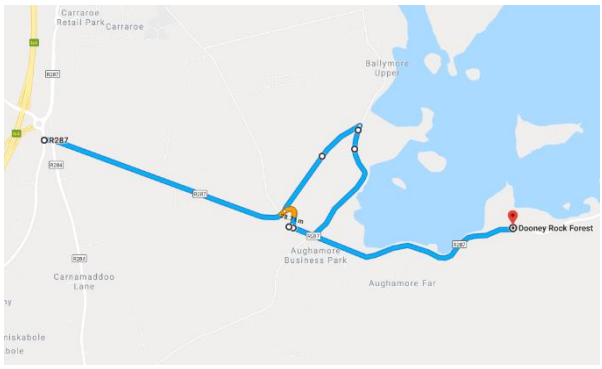
To reinforce the idea of a CADRA 'community' and region, the association should continue its current activities and initiatives while ensuring that their name, logo, and areas of interest are emphasised (i.e. 'branded'). Consideration should be given to establishing a website for the community and the local area linked closely to the existing Facebook page and including a virtual or on-line noticeboard. Physical community noticeboards erected in prominent and visited local locations might also be considered.




Several Sligo communities are undertaking to promote their respective, amenities, and attractions using a mix of traditional and digital tools, e.g. printed material and social media, etc. Following in the footsteps of Sligo County Council's SligoWalks.ie use of artwork illustrations in promoting walking trails, several communities have commissioned similar artwork for marketing purposes. A recent example is Rosses Point Development Association's promotional flyer providing local history notes, a listing of area businesses, and an illustrated map of the peninsula created by Annie West, as shown at right. Printing costs for similar promotional material will depend upon specification and quantities ordered, etc., and original artwork in the region of €2,500. To promote the Rosses Point area, its history, attractions, and businesses, the community also recently launched a dedicated www.rossespoint.ie website which provides essential information for residents as well as visitors to the area. A specially designed logo was also commissioned to support the building of the Rosses Point brand.

Funding for such projects and initiatives could be raised from local businesses and through applications to the County Council's small grants schemes, RDP/ LEADER, etc.

## Touring Route




Given the extent of attractions located in Carraroe and its environs, a touring route for walkers, cyclists, and car users should be designed and mapped for easy use. This could offer a range of looped routes incorporating points of interest, scenic views, forest trails, etc. For example, an approximately 6km long 'Holy Well Touring Loop' from Carraroe might include the church, holy well, the adjacent Lough Gill landing point, Dooney Rock, and the old schoolhouse. Similarly, a 7km 'Carrowmore Loop' could incorporate the Megalithic cemetery visitor centre and the monument 'littered' landscape it would pass through out and back. Such a resource would support the development of Carraroe as a cycling hub, should this be undertaken, as well as the 'branding' of the area as a defined space.

As a future initiative to increase the amenity value of local tourism assets, the group could explore the potential for erecting branded scenic tourism frames (pictured right) and, or commissioned artwork at designated areas along touring routes, to include the Green Road where a viewpoint might be created and the area adjacent to the Holy Well where a sculpture could be located.

Illustrated maps, as noted earlier, could be created for the local area to indicate the range of driving, cycling, and walking routes available to visitors as well as nearby attractions and amenities. This information should be available online, ideally via a dedicated CADRA website, and as has been done for other walks in the County, e.g. Sligowalks.ie routes, in printed form.

### Walking Tourism

According to Failte Ireland, more than seven million overseas visitors came to Ireland in 2014 spending €3.6 billion (almost €6.6 billion when Northern Irish (1.7 million visitors) and domestic visitors (7.3 million) are included). Of the seven million overseas visitors, approximately 1.2 million took part in hiking or cross country walking activities, whereas 22% of domestic visitors took part in hiking/ cross country walking and 18% visited national parks. In its Tourism Facts 2014, Failte Ireland identified daily spend rates for Overseas visitors (€64), Overseas holidaymakers (€83), Domestic overnight trips (€69), and Domestic day trips (€40). Additional Employment based on Total Visitor Expenditure - based upon Fáilte Ireland, Tourism Facts 2012, October 2013, each additional €1 million expenditure by tourists supports 34 jobs.

The costs associated with these proposed initiatives and projects would need to be determined and may range from a few thousand euros for the design and printing of touring maps, to several thousand for

infrastructural works such as erecting a 'tourism frame'. Funding, as with other projects, will likely include a mix of locally raised monies combined with grants received under the Town & Village Enhancement Scheme and RDP/ LEADER, and from Sligo County Council and possibly Failte Ireland.

## Lough Gill

Lough Gill, as previously noted, is a major feature of the CADRA region and is publicly accessible from two specific sites locally, adjacent to the Holy Well and at Aghamore Far. In its efforts to increase the tourism amenity of the area, and to encourage enterprise development, the group should actively collaborate with Sligo County Council, Fisheries Ireland, and any other stakeholders, in exploring opportunities for the lake. Specifically, CADRA should liaise with the Council in their developing the route, infrastructure, and promoting of the Lough Gill Blueway to ensure the maximising of the potential of this initiative to deliver an improved visitor and outdoor recreation experience. For example, the group should ensure that any touring routes, maps, online information, signage, etc., notes the existence of (when completed) and is effectively linked to the Blueway, as well as other facilities, e.g. EuroVelo 1, the Sligo Way, etc.

Furthermore, there may be opportunities to create and, or support water-based enterprise such as sailing courses, kayak rental, etc., and activities to include annual swims, boating races, etc. To this end, there may be a need for improvement of existing infrastructure such as boat ramps, parking facilities, storage units, toilets, etc., at the lakeshore. The cost of such facilities would have to be determined, in consultation with stakeholders, and funding could potentially be applied for under, for example, the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS), Town & Village Enhancement Scheme, Fisheries Ireland, and the Rural Development Programme (RDP)/ LEADER.

## Signage

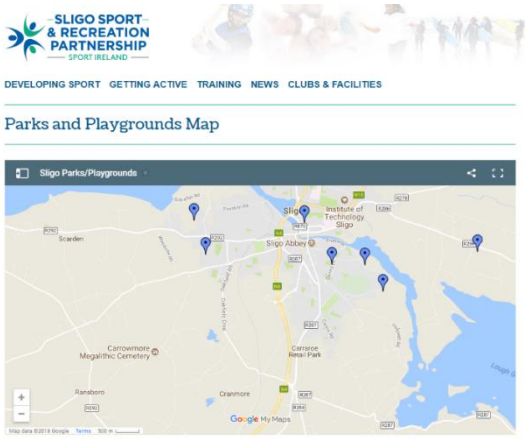
As noted in the Carns Hill section above, and identified in survey responses, there is a need for improved directional and interpretive signage throughout the CADRA area to include any new touring and walking routes. The purpose of this would be to inform visitors as to directions and distances between designated sites and signage should seek to link with other routes and amenities in the area, e.g. Lough Gill Blueway, Doorly Park nature trail, Sli Na Slainte route, etc. Such directional signage, an example of which is shown at right, offers the advantages of being relatively unobtrusive, attractive, and low cost (e.g. hundreds vs. thousands of euros). The disadvantages are that they are smaller and therefore potentially less noticeable than traditional road traffic signage and may contribute to local 'sign pollution'. Similarly, there is also a need for improving townland signage, or placenaming, to emphasise the individual areas that constitute Carraroe and District.

All signage should be attractive, neat, and appropriate to the setting where they are to be located. The inclusion of a CADRA logo or branded image on signs would result in a more distinctive look further emphasising the character of local area. Interpretive signs must be well researched and designed in accordance with best practice, e.g. correct image, narrative, and blank space ratio, etc., and signage should be manufactured to the highest standard using quality/ sustainable materials. A recent example of branded distance markers are the unique hand carved limestone markers designated for the Sligo Way, which were created for Sligo County Council by Riverstown-based sculptor Martha Quinn.

## Local Amenities

The survey and feedback from consultees identified a number of initiatives that should be continued or considered for the local area, which are summarised in the following section.

## Community Playground




As stated in the CDP, *'Outdoor recreational spaces and facilities are essential for the health and wellbeing of people living in County Sligo…*(the County's) *natural amenities need to be augmented by parks, playing fields, playgrounds, green networks for walking and cycling, which should be easily accessible to all the county's communities, urban or rural.'* The review of local recreational amenities carried out as part of the group's planning process, as well as survey responses, identified a lack of playground facilities within the immediate CADRA area, the closest being located at Doorly Park as shown on the Sligo playgrounds map above.

As previously reported, there are approximately 1,200 persons under the age of 18 living in the catchment area, more than twice the number of young persons living in Tubbercurry (545, 2016 Census) which has one public playground and Enniscrone, with a total population of 1,156 persons (2016 Census), has two playgrounds. Given the significant number of youth living in the wider Carraroe area, there is an argument to be made by CADRA for the provision of additional playground facilities. Furthermore, the CDP also states that the Council '*recognises the importance of play in childhood and the need to maximise opportunities for play… The development of a primary and secondary network of playgrounds, based on size of catchment, will continue to be progressed in Sligo City and Environs, as funding becomes available.'*

The cost of developing a playground will vary depending upon the site and any required groundworks, lighting, fencing, etc., as well as the nature and range of play equipment to be provided. An example of a recently constructed community playground at Keash, County Sligo, is shown in the image at right. The community secured RDP/LEADER funding for the construction of the facility, which was estimated to cost in the region of €110,000.

## Footpaths

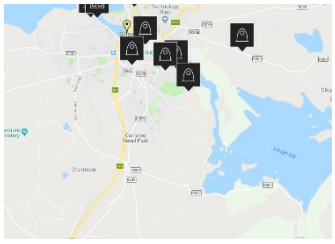
The group has promoted the construction of footpaths in the CADRA area, specifically along the R287 between the church and Carraroe Community Park. This is an important pedestrian link from the school to the GAA and soccer pitches. In partnership with the County Council, landowner permission for the constructing of new footpath along this route has been secured as has funding for these works under the 2017 Town & Village Scheme. Further funding will be required to complete the entire route and CADRA should continue its partnering efforts with the Council to ensure the timely delivery of this project. Consideration should also be given to the provision of shared surfaces along this route, i.e. cycling and walking facilities, as well as along the Ballygawley road.

## Landscaping

The group, as part of its Tidy Towns activities and general enhancing of the CADRA region, has delivered considerable landscaping projects in recent years, especially in the Carraroe area. There is further scope for enhancing of this and other areas that should be undertaken as funding allows. A priority list for investment should be drawn up in consultation with residents, the Local Authority, businesses, and professional landscapers to ensure the maximum impact, and financial and environmental sustainability of any and all future landscaping projects. Again, opportunities for emphasising the unique character and geographic boundaries of the CADRA area through use of materials, plantings, etc., should be considered.

## Recycling Facilities

There are approximately 40 Bring Bank facilities located across County Sligo for the collection of domestic glass material, e.g. bottles, jars, and cans, etc., for recycling. As with playgrounds, there is a shortage of recycling facilities in the CADRA area which at the group should consider addressing. The Council, on its website[13], states that it welcomes applications from communities wishing to host Bring Banks in their local areas.



[13] www.sligococo.ie/Environment/Waste/Recycling/BringBanks

## Conclusion

In summary, the proposed projects outlined in this section address many of the strategic objectives and goals for the CADRA area, as indicated by the documents referenced in earlier sections as well as the expressed views of local residents and survey respondents. Furthermore, these projects provide opportunities to deliver desired strategic outcomes aligned with many of the identified aims and objectives for the region:

- **Tourism Experience** – enhance the experience of visitors to Sligo City and its environs, a WAW 'Urban Gateway', through the provision of quality recreational and related tourism infrastructure, e.g. facilitating access to the natural environment, e.g. lake and countryside, interpreting Sligo's heritage to inform visitors, raising Sligo's profile as a family-friendly tourism destination and giving them reasons to stay longer in the area.
- **Outdoor Recreation** – enhancing Sligo's reputation as a, 'Adventure Hub' for outdoor recreational activity, strengthening and expanding existing infrastructure to provide more family-friendly recreational opportunities, promote healthy lifestyles, and foster recreational usage of local resources in a way that will not negatively impact upon the environment.
- **Increase Awareness of Natural, Built and Cultural Heritage** – promoting greater awareness and understanding of the natural environment surrounding Sligo City and its environs and the need to preserve and maintain this landscape for future generations while also providing for sustainable and environment-friendly recreational activity, also to inform about the built and cultural heritage of the region.
- **Regional Development** – reinforce and enhance the image of Sligo City and its environs as a regional gateway to the Wild Atlantic Way's North West, facilitate sustainable economic opportunities and growth thereby maximizing the potential of the area and its attractions to draw visitors and visitor spending to the region.

## Benefits to the Community

The range of projects and initiatives outlined in preceding sections offer a range of potential benefits to the local economy, environment, and CADRA community, as summarised below.

**Economic Benefits -** Failte Ireland defines a sightseer and culture seeker (S&CS) as being someone who's primary motivation for visiting a location is to learn more about and to engage with local history and culture. In general, these visitors:

- Stay longer
- Spend more
- Are interested in learning while on holiday
- Look for themed and authentic experiences

The ability to attract these categories of visitors to the Carraroe area, and to prolong their stay, will directly benefit the local economy through increased spend in local shops, hotels, B&Bs, tourism enterprises, etc. Improving outdoor recreation and tourism amenities will likely result in short-term employment opportunities through construction, landscaping, website development, etc., which will likely lead to additional spend in the region.

**Environmental Benefits -** Investment in appropriate and sustainable outdoor recreation infrastructure and environment-friendly landscaping schemes will minimise any negative impact upon the local environment and biodiversity, and if done with professional guidance actually benefit the region's biodiversity and natural heritage.

**Community Benefits -** The enhancement of existing and development of new amenities and services in the CADRA area will greatly benefit the quality of life of local residents and their general wellbeing, one of three 'High-Level Goals' of the LECP: '*ensure community wellbeing by making Sligo a healthier place to live, grow, work and play.'*

Tobernalt Holy Well by William Wakeman (1882)

# 7. Action Plan

The following Action Plan is provided as a summary of the types of actions that will need to be accomplished by the promoters in the short to medium-term, i.e. 1-3 years, if the proposed priority projects and initiatives are to be delivered.

| Item | Description |
|---|---|
| 1. | Continue collaboration with Sligo County Council to identify opportunities for improving and extending cycling and walking infrastructure, prepare and submit funding applications individually and in partnership with the Local Authority and others. |
| 2. | Identify a suitable and accessible location for a community park incorporating play areas, e.g. playground, seating and picnic facilities, and associated amenities, fundraise and prepare grant applications to meet design and build costs. |
| 3. | Carryout an audit of existing signage to identify opportunities for improving and enhancing directional, informational, and interpretive signs throughout the CADRA area, assess and review the needs of the area with the Local Authority, Heritage Office, and others to determine appropriate responses, carryout research for informational and interpretive signage, identify appropriate sources of funding for the design and manufacture of signage. |
| 4. | Continue ongoing efforts to improve accessibility and interpretive signage at Carns Hill, lobby Coillte, the OPW, and the Council in relation to the thinning of trees to afford new vistas from the hill and to conserve the cairn, liaise with landowners and others in the region, e.g. archaeologists, neighbouring communities, etc., to progress appropriate responses to improving public access and enjoyment of local heritage assets, e.g. the cairns. |
| 5. | Explore with the parish and local community opportunities to enhance the range of activities and services available at the community centre, identify levels of interest in, for example, hosting a local market, café, cycling and visitor amenities, etc. |
| 6. | With Council, tourism, and heritage representatives, identify the potential for designing visitor touring routes linking to existing designated routes and local amenities and attractions, identify required signage and marketing/promotional needs, e.g. digital and printed maps, signage, etc., and seek local business sponsorship and grant aid to deliver proposed actions. |

| |
|---|
| 7. Design a distinctive and attractive logo for the area and incorporate this into future projects and marketing initiatives, develop a dedicated website to promote the area as a destination for visiting, as well as a place to live and work, strengthen the idea of a Carraroe community. |
| 8. Liaise with Sligo County Council in their developing of a Lough Gill Blueway to identify opportunities to increase public access to and enjoyment of the lake, survey lake users, e.g. boaters, anglers, etc., to identify specific infrastructural needs as well as opportunities for new water-borne enterprise and activities, seek opportunities to apply for funding to deliver projects. |
| 9. Identify suitable location(s) for a community Bring Bank, contact Sligo County Council's Environment Section to develop recycling facilities in the area, signpost, landscape, monitor, and maintain Bring Bank. |
| 10. Continue stone wall conservation and area landscaping efforts, apply for grant aid to support ongoing efforts, draw greater attention to and deliver such initiatives in a manner that further emphasises the uniqueness of the Carraroe area, e.g. coordinated planting, branded project signage, etc. |

# 8. S.W.O.T. Analysis

## Strengths

- Sense of community
- Welcoming, friendly neighbours
- Easily accessible services
- Convenient to transport links
- Quiet, semi-rural setting
- Range of heritage and natural amenities
- Recreational opportunities
- Active Tidy Towns and community groups
- 'Own' church, school and community centre

## Weaknesses

- Not a traditionally defined village community
- Limited pedestrian/ cycling infrastructure
- Lack of play facilities
- Traffic management concerns
- Limited public transport
- Threat of over 'industrialisation' of the area
- Poor accessibility, promotion, and interpretation of cairns
- Underutilisation and awareness of local amenities

## Opportunities

- Improving cycling and walking infrastructure
- Developing play and recreational areas
- Branding and promoting of CADRA and the local area
- Improving access to heritage
- Promoting awareness of natural and built assets
- Enhancing the appearance of the area

## Threats

- Loss of local identity
- Increasing development/ commercialisation of the area
- Restricting access to heritage
- Loss of locally available services
- Reduced public transport
- Lack of project funding
- Lack of community spirit and volunteerism
- Environmental challenges

## Appendix I

# Tidy Towns Plan

# Carraroe and District Regeneration Association

## Action Plan 2018

# 1

## Background

This Action Plan has been prepared by Carraroe and District Regeneration Association (CADRA) for the period 2018-2022.

The purpose of this plan is to inform and guide the work of the Committee and the wider community of Carraroe and District in their combined efforts to enhance their environs, and to improve the quality of life of local residents and the experience of visitors to the area.

The Plan will also serve as a means of communicating to a wider audience the agreed aims and objectives of the community in undertaking enhancement projects and activities.

*The methodology used by CADRA in the preparation, and implementation, of this plan is illustrated below.*

Photo 1 View towards Lough Gill (c.1900)

Photo 2 Lough Gill (c. 1930)

Audit/Review → Consult → Plan → Implement

# 2

# Background

Carraroe and District is a dispersed, part-rural, part-suburban area to the south and southeast of Sligo town. It encompasses 17 townlands located to the west of Lough Gill and includes the village of Carraroe which is classified as a Category 'B' community (population of 201-1,000) in the national Tidy Towns Competition. Carraroe and District Regeneration Association (CADRA) is an umbrella group representing the many community-based initiatives working to enhance the Carraroe and District area.

# Aims and Objectives

CADRA is a community group dedicated:

> ***"To enhancing the appearance and attractiveness of the Carraroe area, and to improving the quality of life of local residents"***

The specific objective of the Committee in undertaking the preparation and implementation of this Action Plan is to:

- *Agree and inform future CADRA projects and initiatives*
- *Establish an agreed framework for delivering actions*
- *Provide guidance in using resources to achieve agreed aims*
- *Inform residents and the wider community of activities and planned actions*
- *Improve the standing of Carraroe in the national Tidy Towns Competition*

## Committee organisation

CADRA was formed in and has competed in the Tidy Towns Competition since 2015. A working Committee of , including representatives, meets regularly throughout the year to plan and implement local projects and initiatives. The Committee has the support of the wider community, businesses, and residents, as well as a core group of dedicated Tidy Towns workers.

**Photo 3 St. John's Church, Carraroe**

# 3

# Area Profile

Carraroe (urban pop. 1)

Map 1 Map of Carraroe Region

## Local Groups

In addition to CADRA, the Carraroe area is home to numerous organisations actively involved with community activities. Many of these groups engaged with the planning process including, for example, .

# 4

# Tidy Towns Achievements

After a gap of almost three decades, Carraroe recommenced its participation in the national Tidy Towns competition in 2015. The following is a summary of the marks awarded to the village in 2017.

| Category | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded | % of Max. Points |
|---|---|---|---|
| Community Involvement & Planning | 60 | 44 | 73% |
| Built Environment and Streetscape | 50 | 29 | 58% |
| Landscaping and Open Spaces | 50 | 30 | 60% |
| Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities | 50 | 19 | 38% |
| Sustainable Waste and Resource Management | 50 | 11 | 22% |
| Tidiness and Litter Control | 90 | 56 | 62% |
| Residential Streets & Housing Areas | 50 | 27 | 54% |
| Approach Roads, Streets and Lanes | 50 | 32 | 64% |
| **Total Mark** | **450** | **248** | **55%** |

Table 1 Summary of 2017 Adjudication Marks

The total marks awarded for 2017 represents an increase of 24 marks, 11%, since 2015.

The report provided the Adjudicator's positive observations of the area as well as noted areas for improvement. The following table provides a summary of key comments provided.

| Category | Highlights | Specific Areas for Improvement |
|---|---|---|
| Community Involvement & Planning | • Meticulous 5-Year Plan, 'no mere wish-list'<br>• Commendable relationships with bodies, etc.<br>• Mutually beneficial engagement with school | • Provide timescales in the Plan |
| Built Environment and Streetscape | • School & church areas 'maintained to high standard' | • 'Over emphasis on commercial signage' |
| Landscaping and Open Spaces | • 'Well thought out' planting, landscaping, etc. | • Club house needs 'freshening up' |
| Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities | • Continuing efforts in regard to Cairns Hill access, etc. | • Establish contact with Birdwatch, NPWS, etc. |
| Sustainable Waste and Resource Management | • School's green flag achievements<br>• Weekly litter pick<br>• Cooperation with local authorities | • Provide further information about Green Flag activities |
| Tidiness and Litter Control | • Well Kept Retail Park and main roads | • Rusty corrugated roof |
| Residential Streets & Housing Areas | • 'Well-tended front gardens'<br>• 'Exuberant shrubberies' | • Action is needed at halting site area |
| Approach Roads, Streets and Lanes | • Paving 'good throughout'<br>• Signposting 'very good'<br>• Carparks 'well kept' | • - |

# 5

# Action Planning

This Action Plan has been informed by the experiences of the local community, identified needs of the area, and through consultation with stakeholders. The Plan will guide the future activities of the group and its interaction with partner organisations.

# Physical Audit

An initial planning action was the conducting of a physical audit of the local area by CADRA representatives. The purpose of this audit was to assess the current state of the village, identify and discuss problem areas, and to inform potential enhancement initiatives. A built heritage audit was undertaken by members as was an audit of the areas' natural heritage. The information collected as part of these audits was considered as part of the planning process.

# Action Plan

A local area Action Plan was prepared by the committee for distribution and review by the wider community. A copy of the Action Plan, including key actions and specific outputs for each competition category, is included at Appendix I.

## Monitoring and Review

The monitoring and review of the implementation of this Action Plan will be an ongoing priority for the community each year. This process will inform the updating/ revising of the Plan to reflect the completion of actions and the changing needs of the community.

# Phasing of Work

The actions described in the Action Plan will be addressed during the period covered by this Plan, 2018-2023. Some of these actions will be recurring, i.e. annually activities, whereas others will be one-off projects. The following table indicates when the actions identified in the Action Plan are to be undertaken as *priorities* by the community.

# Action Plan

# Appendix I

# CADRA ACTION PLAN 2018

| Category | Action | Description | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Community Involvement and Planning (60 marks)** | 5 Year Plan | • Develop 5-Year Plan, prepare draft Plan and consult with community, publish Plan<br>• Review and update Plan annually | ✸<br>✸ | <br>✸ | <br>✸ | <br>✸ | <br>✸ |
| | Involvement | • Strengthen levels of CADRA area involvement in activities<br>o Create and publicise Webpage/link to social media sites<br>o Maintain website/social media interaction.<br>• Increase number of committee members/active supporters<br>• Increase and maintain contacts with County Council, local groups and other agencies, including the.<br>• Continue close liaison/partnership with schools, Green Flag committees, Sports Clubs<br>• Liaise and work in partnership with adjacent TT groups<br>• | ✸<br><br>✸<br>✸<br>✸<br>✸ | ✸<br><br>✸<br>✸<br>✸<br>✸ | ✸<br><br>✸<br>✸<br>✸<br>✸ | ✸<br><br>✸<br>✸<br>✸<br>✸ | ✸<br><br>✸<br>✸<br>✸<br>✸ |
| | Communication | • Use website, social media, email, texts, to communicate with members & wider community<br>• Continue to hold annual fundraising, church gate collections, and public information events<br>• Continue to update/maintain Facebook page and website. | | | | | |
| **Built Environment and Streetscape (50 marks)** | General Enhancement | • Seek funding for additional interpretive signage on historical and environmental aspects, erect at appropriate locations<br>• Liaise with Council, etc., to repave and improve footpaths, e.g. at presbytery, etc.<br>• Maintain community notice boards<br>• Improvement/ enhancement of stone walls throughout area<br>• Secure funding for vintage style public lighting in village area | | | | | |
| | Church and school houses | • Consult with owners regarding plans for these heritage structure<br>• Continue to highlight the need for maintenance and conservation of historical buildings<br>• Assist owners in safeguarding buildings to conserve and prevent deterioration<br>• | | | | | |
| | Heritage Trail | • Establish a working group to research local heritage to inform a visitor/heritage trail<br>• Liaise with local historians and experts to identify, research and map all built/natural features, e.g. holy well, cairns, churches, habitats, etc.<br>• Liaise with Sligo Heritage Office to plan interpretive signage, coordinate efforts to highlight the history of the area, trail development, etc.<br>• Publish results of research and secure funding for signage to include new information | | | | | |

# CADRA ACTION PLAN 2018

| Category | Action | Description | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Built Environment and Streetscape** (cont.) | Cairns | • Consult with all stakeholders, e.g. Council, Heritage Council and others in developing a conservation and interpretation plan for the area of the cairns<br>• Maintain area and erect interpretive signage | | | | | |
| | Greenway | • Liaise with Council in planning/ securing funding for greenway-type amenity linking village to Collooney | | | | | |
| **Landscaping and Open Spaces (50 marks)** | Tree/ shrub Planting | • Identify suitable areas, e.g. 'hard' paved areas, car parks, streetscapes, school grounds, waste ground, etc., suitable for shrub and tree planting<br>• Seek landowner(s) agreement for planting and identify appropriate species for site<br>• Source plants from suppliers, Coillte, and Council for annual tree/shrub planting activities (encourage youth to grow their own trees from locally sourced seeds)<br>• Conduct tree day/week planting with local youth, schools and wider community | | | | | |
| | Floral displays | • Audit planter locations and identify key sites requiring 'softening' that are not suitable for 'in ground' planting, and relocate planters to these areas<br>• Renew existing planters/floral displays using only peat-free compost and introducing wild-life friendly, e.g. nectar-producing, shrubs and perennial flower<br>• Maintain and improve flower beds annually, recruit residents to grow flowers<br>• Plant daffodils within green areas, approach road verges, etc., and allow to naturalise | | | | | |
| | General | • Decorative stone/ground cover for public areas, e.g. at community centre, etc.<br>• | | | | | |
| **Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities (50 Marks)** | Awareness raising/ education | • Share results of wildlife audit with community, on-line, in print, and presentations<br>• Support and assist schools with Green Flag and environmental initiatives<br>• Promote use of peat-free products only, provide information on peat to residents<br>• Commission and erect wildlife interpretive signage at lake, cairn, etc.<br>• Organise wildlife educational activities, e.g. bat walk, bird watching activities, etc. | | | | | |
| | Protect natural habitats/ biodiversity | • Consult with NPWS and others to inform habitat conservation<br>• Identify affected areas, seek advice and begin eradicating invasive plant species<br>• Recruit students/residents/scouts to build bug hotels, 'dead' hedges, feeding tables, etc.<br>• Implement wildlife-friendly grass cutting regimes on verges, etc.<br>• Support of school Tree Week and environmental activities<br>• Designate 'official' wildlife areas, e.g., area at retail park, etc.<br>• | | | | | |

# CADRA ACTION PLAN 2018

| Category | Action | Description | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities** (cont.) | Wildlife Trail | • Investigate potential for a wildlife/heritage nature trail and map proposed route<br>• Seek permission and support of landowners and other stakeholders, obtain costings<br>• Secure funding for materials and labour to carry out initial works<br>• Enhance trail with improvements, e.g. signage, accessibility, seating, etc. | | | | | |
| **Tidiness and Litter Control (90 marks)** | Spring Clean | • Sponsor Spring Clean/ anti-littering poster contest<br>• Coordinate and supervise annual community-wide Spring Clean activities<br>• Collect, segregate and record details of waste collected, report findings | | | | | |
| | Illegal dumping | • Identify and monitor problem areas in the village and adjacent areas and report findings of illegal dumping to Council<br>• Identify areas where 'No Littering' signs are needed, organise erecting with Council<br>• Coordinate removal of waste with Council | | | | | |
| | Litter Control | • Conduct a litter audit of the area, identify problem areas<br>• Develop and implement an area-wide Litter Control plan, monitor and report results<br>• Organise anti-litter activities in school environs with Green Flag committees<br>• Liaise with festival organisers, etc., for clean-ups prior to and after events<br>• Encourage and support the organising of estate/ residential area Litter Patrols | | | | | |
| | Tidiness | • Remove weeds, waste from roadsides, car parks, etc.<br>• Install a bring bank facility and compete for Bring Bank Award<br>• Organise annual road sweeping of village areas | | | | | |
| | Signage | • Carry out a survey on public and private signage, i.e. dirty, broken, excessive, illegal, etc., in village area and approach roads, businesses, etc.<br>• Work with Council, businesses, and residents to clean or replace signs, remove illegal, redundant or inappropriate signs, etc.<br>• Work with Council to erect directional signage, e.g. to church, sites of interest, etc. | | | | | |
| **Sustainable Waste and Resource Management (50 marks)** | Waste Audit/ Seminar | • Publish and present waste survey results as part of a waste management seminar, with support of Council's Environmental Officer, etc.<br>• Inform community of ongoing waste reduction efforts, i.e. recycling levels, etc.<br>• Liaise with Environmental Officer to address village waste management issues | | | | | |
| | Encourage Minimisation | • Promote home composting, conservation and general waste minimisation through information seminars, household information leaflets, flyers, etc.<br>• Segregate, for recycling, all litter waste collected locally | | | | | |

# CADRA ACTION PLAN 2018

| Category | Action | Description | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Sustainable Waste and Resource Management (cont.)** | Encourage Minimisation | • Organise annually, with County Council, local collections of recyclable waste material, e.g. paints, electric goods, etc.<br>• Support school book schemes, organise bring & buy events, use text/email, etc.<br>• Assist schools in establishing composting facilities, battery recycling, etc.<br>• Partner with Parents Association in running car boot & used book sales<br>• Use social media and the local press to publicise sustainability issues<br>• Link with Green Flag representatives in local schools. | | | | | |
| **Residential Streets and Housing Areas (50 marks)** | Enhance Residential Areas | • Encourage and support homeowners in enhancing properties and local environs<br>• Support homeowners in new hedge, tree and shrub plantings<br>• Encourage residents to form Residents Associations with a representative to the TT Committee<br>• Encourage residents in maintaining communal areas<br>• | | | | | |
| **Approach Roads, Streets and Lanes (50 marks)** | Enhance Approaches to village | • Liaise with stakeholder representatives and landowners to establish riverside walk<br>• Identify approaches to village and work to enhance settings of 'Carraroe' signs with shrub and flower plantings, etc., to create formal focal point 'gateways' to village<br>• Enhance Ballisodare road approach to village with plantings, planters, etc.<br>• Maintain grass verges along approach roads | | | | | |

## Appendix II

# Census Mapping

Standard Age Cohorts

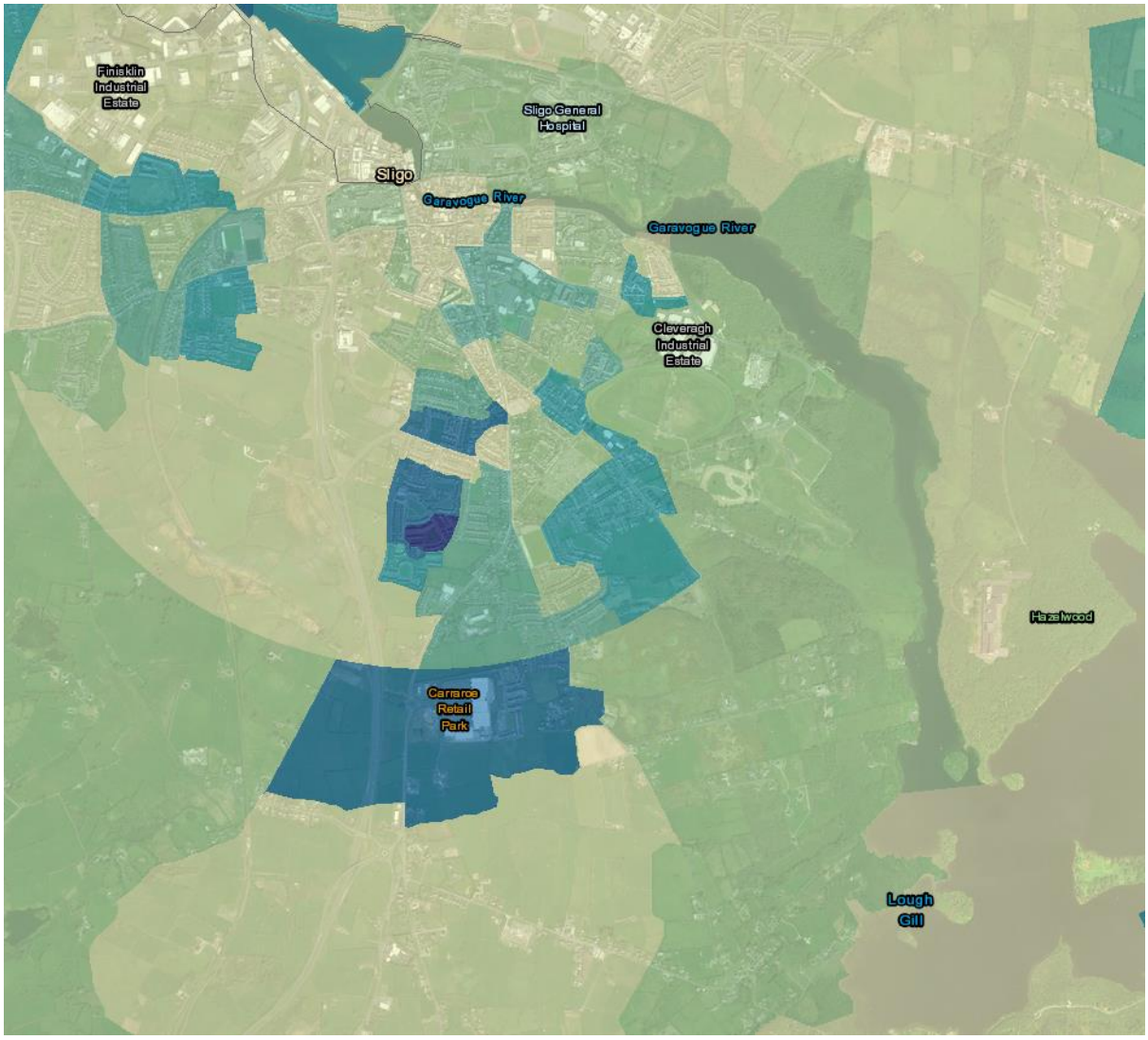
% Pop 0-14 Years Age Cohort, '16 SAs

- < 10%
- 10% <= 16%
- 16% <= 21%
- 21% <= 26%
- 26% <= 32%
- > 32%

Standard Age Cohorts

% Pop 65 Years Age and Over Cohort, '16 SAs

- < 6.5%
- 6.5% <= 13%
- 13% <= 18.5%
- 18.5% <= 25.5%
- 25.5% <= 36%
- > 36%




Young Age Population Cohorts

% Pop 0-4 Years Age Cohort, '16 SAs

- < 4%
- 4% <= 6%
- 6% <= 8%
- 8% <= 10.5%
- 10.5% <= 14%
- > 14%

Young Age Population Cohorts

% Pop 5-12 Years Age Cohort, '16 SAs

- < 5%
- 5% <= 9%
- 9% <= 12%
- 12% <= 15%
- 15% <= 19%
- > 19%

Young Age Population Cohorts

% Pop 13-17 Years Age Cohort, '16 SAs

- < 3%
- 3% <= 6%
- 6% <= 8%
- 8% <= 11%
- 11% <= 24%
- > 24%

Young Age Population Cohorts

% Pop Under 18 Years Cohort, '16 SAs

- < 11.5%
- 11.5% <= 18.5%
- 18.5% <= 24%
- 24% <= 29%
- 29% <= 35.5%
- > 35.5

Family Cycle Stage

% Families - Retired, '16 SAs

- < 4%
- 4% <= 9%
- 9% <= 14%
- 14% <= 20%
- 20% <= 29%
- > 29%

**Compiled by:**
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