

Borris-In-Ossory Community Plan 2018-2022



Borris-in-Ossory Community Development Association

June 2018



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1. Introduction and Background

Borris in Ossory (Irish: *Buiríos Mór Osraí*, meaning "Burgage of Osraige") is located on the old N7 Dublin- Limerick road, now the R445, and adjacent to junction 21 of the M7 motorway. Borris in Ossory is located 5 kms from Ballybrophy Train Station which provides mainline rail services between Cork, Limerick and Dublin and to smaller settlements such as Roscrea. The village is also a long-established stopping point for inter-urban bus links. Geographically, Borris in Ossory is located in west Laois, close to the Tipperary border between the towns of Mountrath and Roscrea. It has an area of 20.8km² / 5,151.6 acres / 8.0 square miles

The village centre comprises of the Main Street which accommodates the main retail, commercial, institutional, educational and residential functions of the village. There are a number of protected structures in this part of the village. Although the village centre is compact and the architectural quality of the village is strong, Borris in Ossory suffers from dereliction and poor maintenance of some buildings and would benefit from enhancement of the public realm. Architectural focal points include the Church of Ireland and former courthouse. During 2014 and 2015, works were carried out to conserve the delicate decorative stonework at the courthouse and to restore the historic railings and gates round the building.

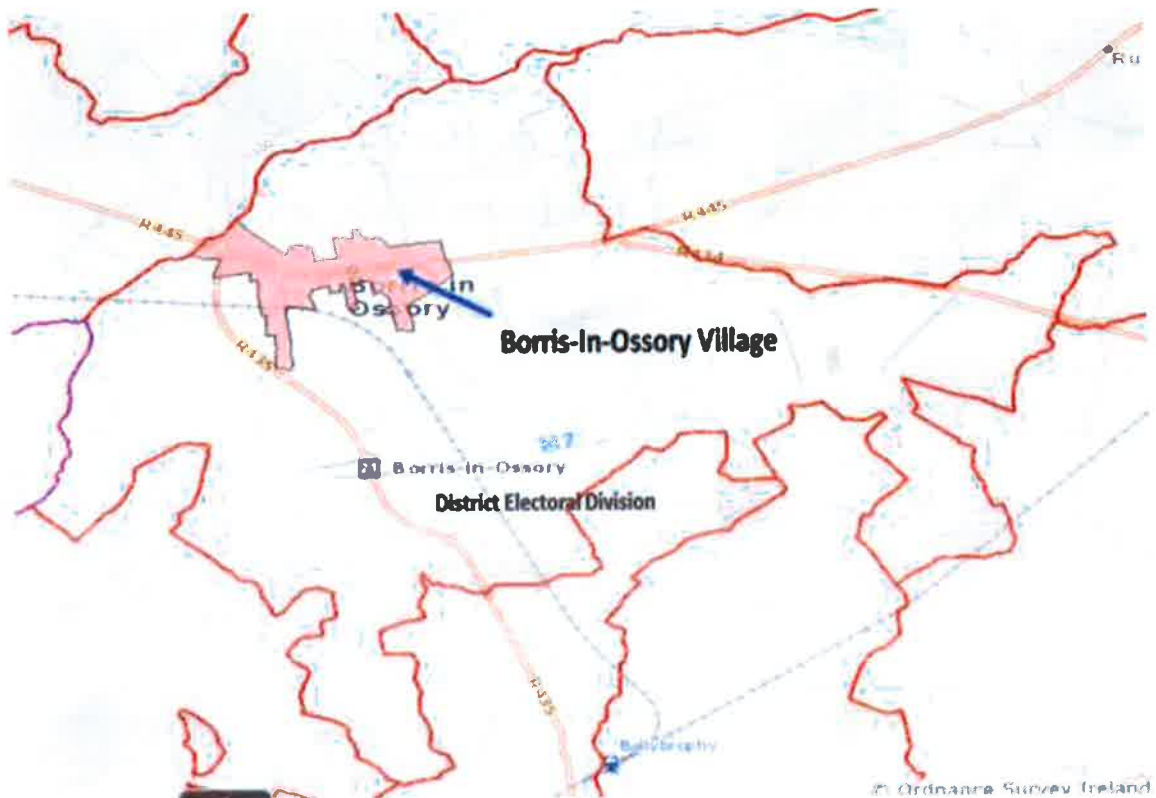


Fig. 1.1 Village Location in DED

Recreational space in Borris in Ossory is found at the Gaelic playing fields located 1.5km to the east of the village. The amenities include a playing pitch, dressing and meeting rooms.



While, the existing community facilities at Borris in Ossory are limited, an extensive range of community groups are present in the village. O'Brien Hall has an important communal and recreational role within the local community. The Council will encourage the more active use of the hall.

Regarding childcare facilities, the village has a play school, crèche, after school club and school collection services. A new primary school opened in 2012. The present public water scheme in Borris in Ossory is sourced at Donaghmore borehole. Borris in Ossory has its own wastewater treatment plant. In terms of transport, it is served by inter urban bus links to Dublin and Limerick. A town link service connects nearby towns and villages. Ballybrophy railway station is located approximately 5km south of the village.

The village of Borris-In-Ossory is situated within it's the electoral division of the same name. For the purpose of this analysis, the electoral division of Borris-In-Ossory is selected as the optimal demographic area, as it encompasses the entire village and the surrounding rural environs that are likely users of the community groups. This area is 20.71 square kilometres. This socio-economic and demographic profile of Borris-In-Ossory outlines patterns observed and compares trends in the area with those across the County of Laois. For the purposes of this study the primary area researched consists of the district electoral division areas of Borris-In-Ossory (ED 08080) with comparisons to Laois county, the Midlands Region, the State and the village of Borris-In-Ossory. The profile contains a comprehensive assessment of the population of the area, including age, families, education levels, housing, labour force, disabilities, socio-economic, Computer, car and internet access and other relevant data appropriate for the promoters and is drawn from the 2016 Census of population and Pobal Maps.

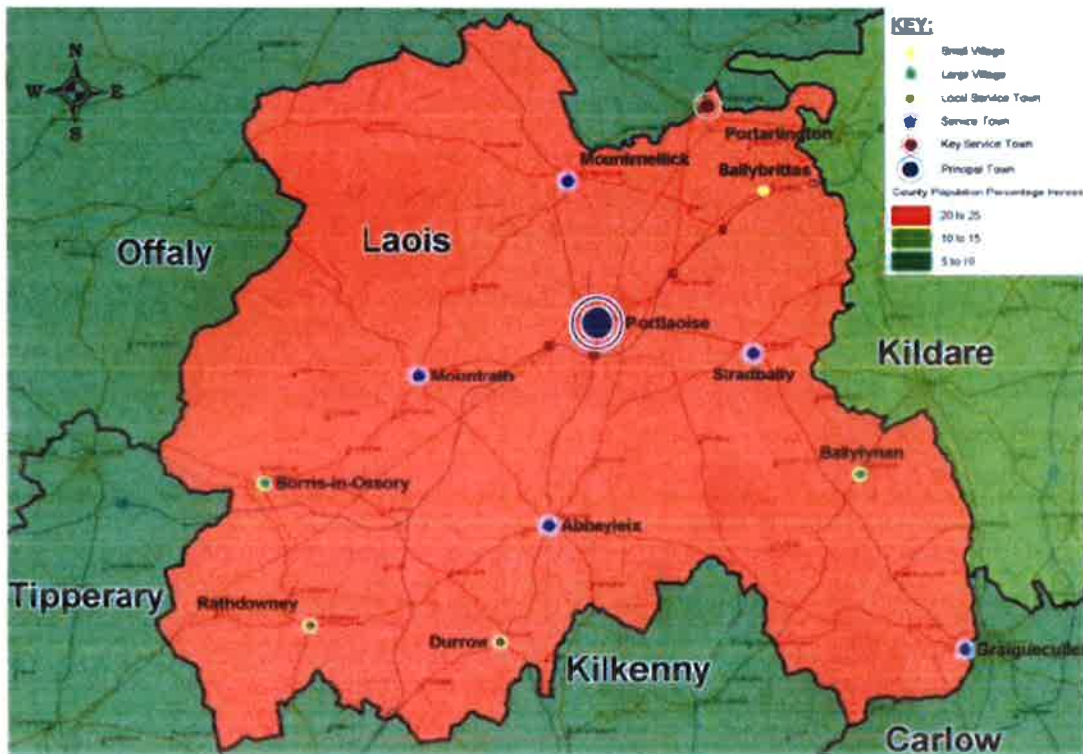


Fig. 1.2 Village Geographic Location within County Laois



2. Scope and Methodology

2.1 Rationale and Scope of this plan

This plan has been commissioned by Borris in Ossory Development Association with financial support from Laois Partnership to provide clear direction and a roadmap for the development of the social, economic and environmental development of the greater Borris in Ossory area.

The aim of the plan is to build on the positive aspects of the village's natural setting and topography, its links to the wider landscape and environs, its natural and built heritage and its diversity and mix of uses, in order to make it a more attractive place to live, work and visit.

The main objectives are to;

- To establish a "shared vision" for the future of Borris in Ossory;
- To set out policies, projects and practical guidance on the management and enhancement of the Public Realm in Borris in Ossory;
- To develop a pipeline of practical and deliverable projects that can be undertaken by the local community in partnership with the local authority and statutory bodies over the next 5 years.
- To identify practical measures to maximise quality of life for residents and to enhance the town's economic potential in terms of development;

Borris in Ossory has suffered for many years from serious traffic congestion. This situation has recently changed significantly, with the opening of the M7 motorway, which bypasses the town. Significant volumes of heavy goods traffic still use the Main Street to avoid the toll bridge, however. While the by-passing of Borris in Ossory has resulted in considerable challenges to local businesses, the community can see this also represents an opportunity for the village to reinvent itself. Laois County Council is committed to working closely with the community to progress these projects and the proposed plan will complement and help to consolidate these initiatives.

This plan will help to prioritise actions and as a platform for the community to pursue its wider aim of developing a vibrant village, with particular focus on community engagement. As such the plan will bring together a wide range of existing projects that the community has sought to initiate to date, such as walking and cycling routes, together with detailed recommendations for improving the public realm and the re-use of heritage buildings that will help to revitalise the town centre and its economy, and the Main Street in particular. It is the community's expectation that the plan will act as a spring-board for a wider range of community driven initiatives.

This plan will play an important role in shaping places to make the area a better place to



both live and work and improve quality of life. It seeks to do this by:

- Agreeing a vision and securing consensus about what the place should be like;
- Improving community physical infrastructure.
- Enhancing character and culture including built and natural heritage;
- Identifying gaps in service provision
- Cherishing both the young and the old in their community and making adequate provision for services for all age categories.

These aims will be achieved with an understanding that in the changing face of rural Ireland all service can no exist in every location, due to viability and demand, however this plan is an opportunity to address rural decline and start a new chapter in the life of Borris in Ossory a village on the Western frontier of County Laois.

2.2 Methodology

This plan culminates a number of months of work by the local community which was initiated in early 2017.

A comprehensive community consultation exercise was undertaken in local volunteers who were trained in community survey techniques. The surveys results were presented at public meetings and needs identified were democratically prioritised. Section 4 of this report provides a summary of the key findings of this exercise which was completed by summer 2017. See appendix 1 for a full copy of the Community Needs Assessment. All houses in the village were called to as part of this exercise.

The consultation which was comprehensive an far reaching was undertaken and needs assessed using the following headings; Demographics, Community Infrastructure, Youth, Existing groups and organisations, Community Security and community safety and training and development needs.

The services of Allen McAdam of MCA Consulting were contracted to facilitate the development of a community plan. Subsequently in 2018 meetings were held with organisations and groups in the area on a one to one basis to identify organisational needs. Meetings with groups and community representatives in the catchment areas which include Killasmeestia and Knockarue were undertaken to ascertain needs of those areas.

Consultation meetings were also undertaken with staff and elected members of Laois County Council, and Laois partnership.

A scoping exercise was then undertaken to examine sites and locations around the village both suitable and potentially available for development of community infrastructure. This exercise involved looking at three interlinked categories of sites those that were in a state of dereliction and required attention, opportunity led sites and demand led sites.



3. Profile and Socio Demographic Analysis of the Area

3.1 Population of County Laois and Borris-In-Ossory

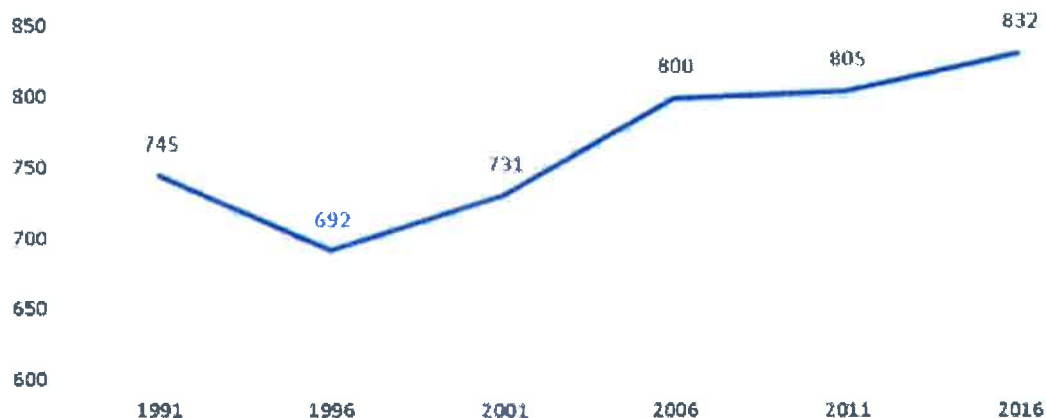
In April 2016 Co. Laois had a population of 84,697, consisting of 42,811 males and 41,886 females. Ireland has experienced a population growth of 30.1% over the past 20 years, and the Midlands Region has grown at an even higher rate (39.1%). Co. Laois has grown by an extraordinary 54.0% over the same period, which is the second highest growth rate experienced by any local authority area throughout the 20-year-period.

Even since the economic decline, Ireland's population has continued to grow by 12.3% between 2006 and 2016. Co. Laois' population has grown by 26.3% over the past ten years. The fastest growing ED is Clondarrig, which has grown by 185.7%, almost tripling its population, although this relates to a comparatively small population base. Borris (72.4%) and Ballybrittas (56.9%) also have experienced population growth with is very high by national comparison. Borris-In-Ossory Electoral Division has increased by 3.35% in the past 5 years and 11.68% since 1991.

TABLE 3.1 - Population of Borris-In-Ossory 1991 – 2016

Area	1991	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016	%Change 11-16	%Change 1991-
Borris-In-Ossory Electoral Division	745	692	731	800	805	832	3.35%	11.68%
Borris-In-Ossory Village	332	282	379	488	475	508	6.95%	53.01%
County Laois	52,314	52,945	58,774	67,059	80,559	84,697	5.14%	61.90%

**Fig. 3.2 Population of Borris-In-Ossory Electoral Division
1991 - 2016**



The population in the area declined significantly in the mid-1990s and recovered by 2006 with a net increase. The population has increased modestly since, with a rise in the rate of change from 2011. The village population has expanded substantially over the past 25 years with an overall increase of 53% despite a sharp decrease in the early 1990s. This compares with an increase of 61.9% of an increase in County Laois during the same period. In the 5 years to 2011, Laois recorded the largest population gain in the country with 20%. In contrast, the electoral district of Borris-In-Ossory increased by just 11.68% in 25 years. The National average population gain during this time is 35%.

Age Structure

The age structures in this population analysis is categorised into 6 profile ages; 0 to 19 years of age; 20 to 29; 30 to 44; 45 to 64; 65 to 79 and 80 plus. Table illustrates the Borris-In-Ossory Electoral Division’s age structure with Fig . County Laois has a higher 0 to 19 age percentage of 31% compared to the State (27.5%) and Borris-In-Ossory (26.6%).

Table 3.3 – Population by Age Structure 2011 - 2016

Year	Aged 0 to 19	Aged 20 to 29	Aged 30 to 44	Aged 45 to 64	Aged 65 to 79	Aged 80 Plus	Total
2011	231	91	165	204	89	25	805
2016	221	88	177	205	110	31	832
Change	-10	-3	12	1	21	6	27
Change	-4.33%	-3.30%	7.27%	0.49%	23.60%	24.00%	3.35%



Fig 3.4 - 2016 Percentage Breakdown of Population Age Structure

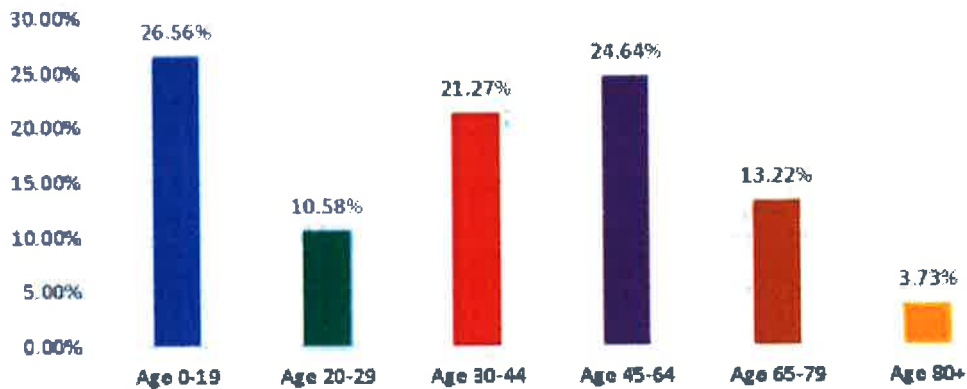
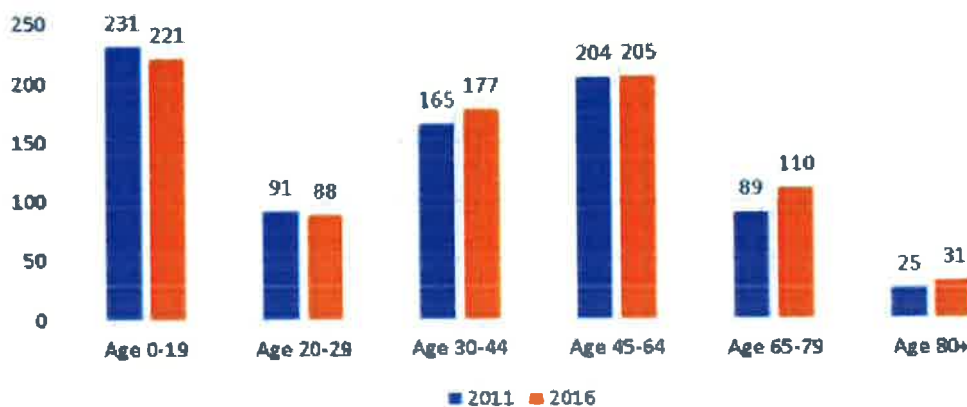


Fig 3.5 - 2011 v 2016 Breakdown of Population Age Structure



In the 5 years to 2016 in Borris-In-Ossory, the only age group to decline in numbers is the 29 and younger category. The 20 to 29 age group fell by 3.3% while the 19 and under age group fell by 4.33%. Emigration may be a mitigating factor for the 20-29 age group along with movements to urban centres throughout the island. Senior citizen numbers increased substantially by 23.7%, while there was a significant increase in the 30-44 age group. The 45 to 64 age group was stagnant, but remained the 2nd largest group with 205 individuals.

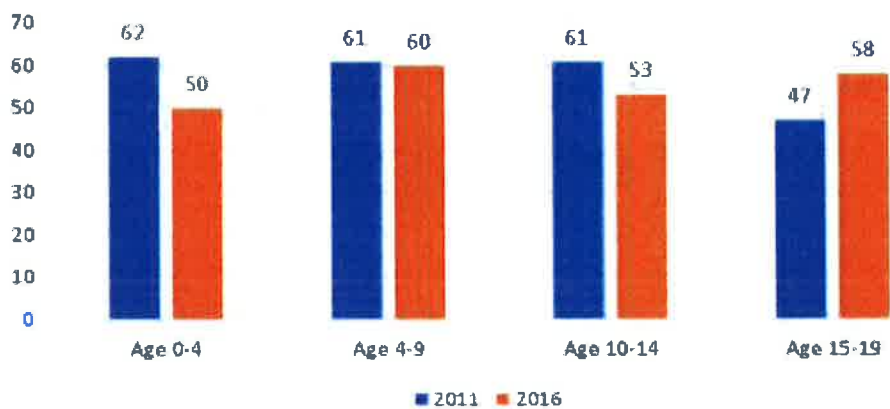
The 19 and younger category contrasts with the total for the county which is at 30.86% of the total and growing (26.56% for Borris), while the 65 and over category for County Laois represents 11.34% of the population (16.95% for Borris). The State average for the 65 and over category in 13.4%. Borris-In-Ossory has a significantly higher senior citizen proportion in its population than the State average.

Table 3.6 – Population of Aged 19 and Under by Age Structure 2011 – 2016



Year	Aged 0 to 4	Aged 5 to 9	Aged 10 to 14	Aged 15 to 19	Total
2011	62	61	61	47	231
2016	50	60	53	58	221
Change	-12	-1	-8	11	-10
Change	-19.35%	-1.64%	-13.11%	23.40%	-4.33%

Fig 3.7- 2011 v 2016 Breakdown of Aged 19 and under Population Age Structure



A further breakdown of the under 19 age group provides an insight into its decline. There is a significant decline in the under 4 category indicative of a declining birth rate and / or emigration / outflow of young families. The fall in age 10-14 numbers indicate an outflow of young families, which is down from its corresponding 4-9 age group in 2011. There is a substantial gain of 23.4% in the 15-19 age category.

Fig 3.8 2016 Population Pyramid of Borris-In-Ossory DED

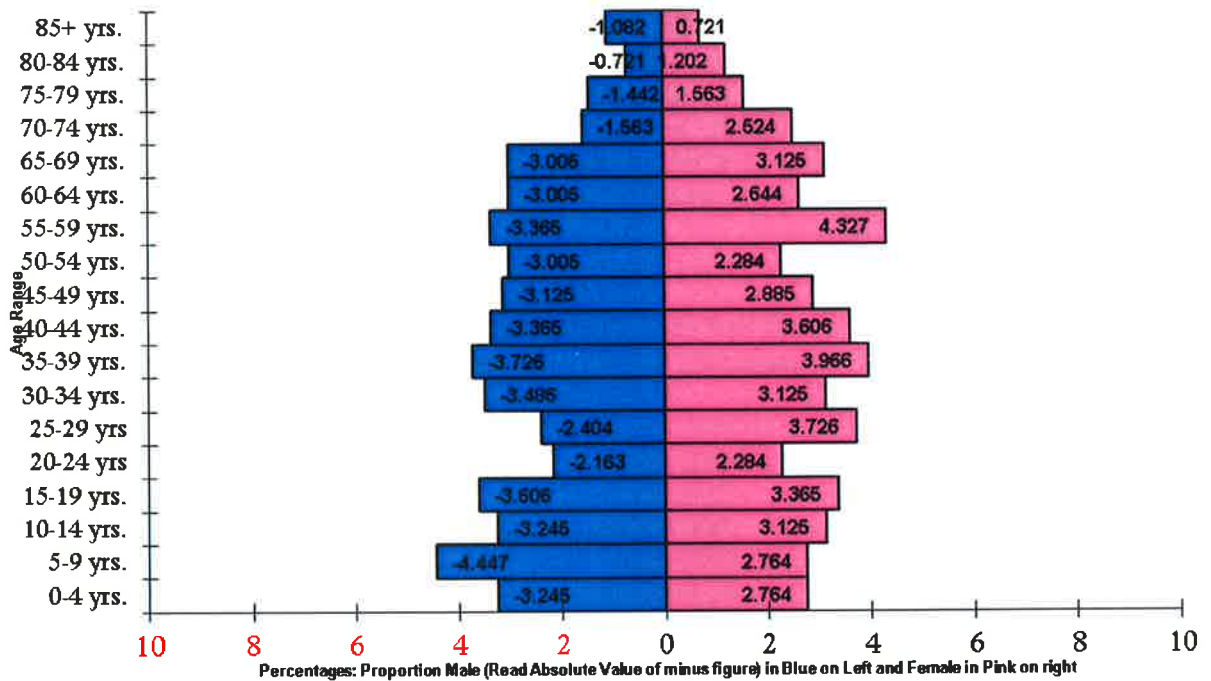
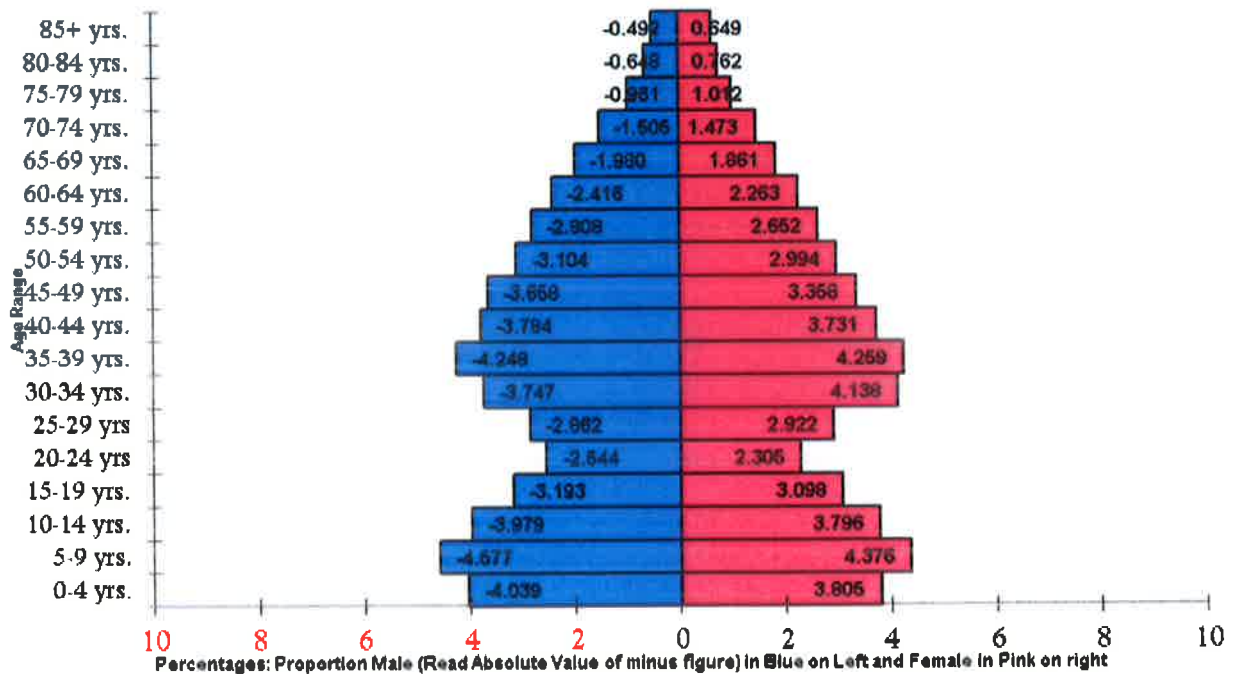
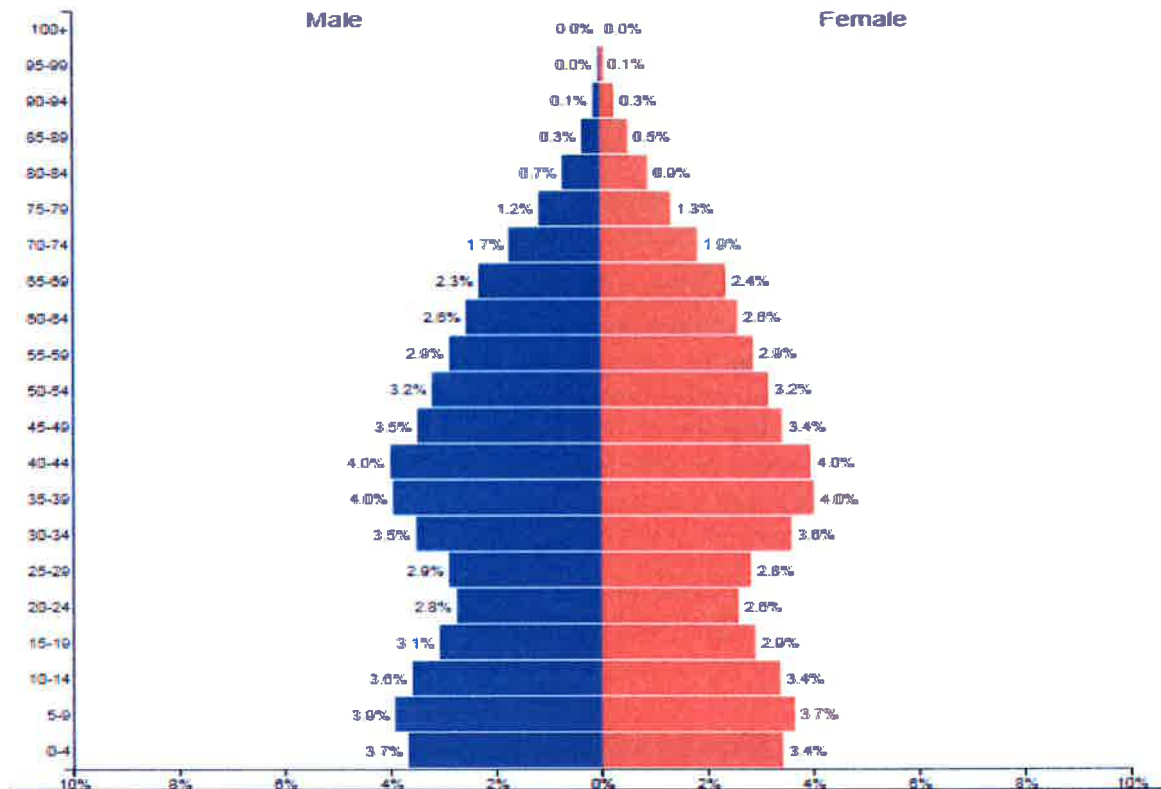


Fig 3.9 2016 Population Pyramid of County Laois



Ireland ▼
2017

Population: **4,749,153**



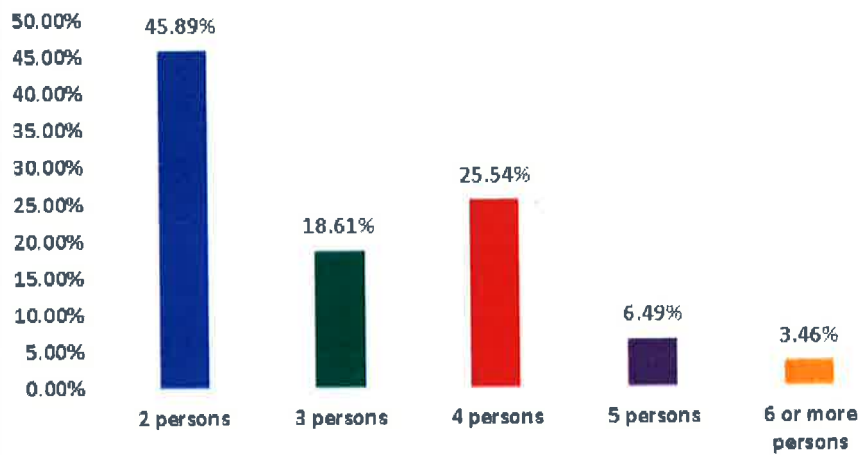
3.2 Youth and Elderly dependency

Dependents can be defined as those outside of the 15 – 64 year age brackets. As indicated in the following table County Laois and Borris-In-Ossory has a higher percentage of its population within the age dependency groups than most in the region and the state. Such population statistics are highly relevant for the provision of services such as schools, crèches, playschools, playgrounds etc for younger people and nursing homes, accessible community facilities and age friendly policies for older people. Figs..... of the population pyramid illustrate a modest divergence, particularly in older groups, in age structures considering the small sample of population in comparison to the county and state. The electoral district has a notable large percentage of 65+ year residents giving a dependency ratio of 26.7% in comparison of 17.7% for Laois county and 20.4% for the State. This infers that provision for services for the elderly should be a priority in the area.

Table 3.10 Youth and Elderly Dependency



Fig. 3.11 Families by Size Percentages



Family units with children, by size and age of children

Number of children	All children under 15	All children 15 or over	Children both under and over 15	Total
No children	0	0	0	82
1 child	23	34	0	57
2 children	28	21	14	63
3 children	7	5	8	20
4 children	3	0	3	6
5 or more children	1	1	1	3
Total	62	61	26	231

Family units with children, by type of family and age of children			
Age of children	Couples with children	Mothers with children	Fathers with children
Number of families			
All children under 15	46	13	3
All children 15 and over	43	16	2
Children both under and over 15	19	6	1
Total	108	35	6
Number of children			
All children under 15	91	21	5
All children 15 and over	75	18	3
Children both under and over 15	50	16	3
Total	216	55	11

There are 231 families in the area representing 84.5% of the population and 282 children in total (including sons and daughters of all ages). A remarkable higher than average of families have just 2 members (45.9%, compared to the State (39.5%) and Laois (35.8%)). Consequently, there are much fewer large families than average with less than 10% with 5 members or more. This is reflected in Borris-In-Ossory's lower than average youth dependency ratio. 35.5% of families have no children, compared to 26.1% in Laois and 29.2% for the State.

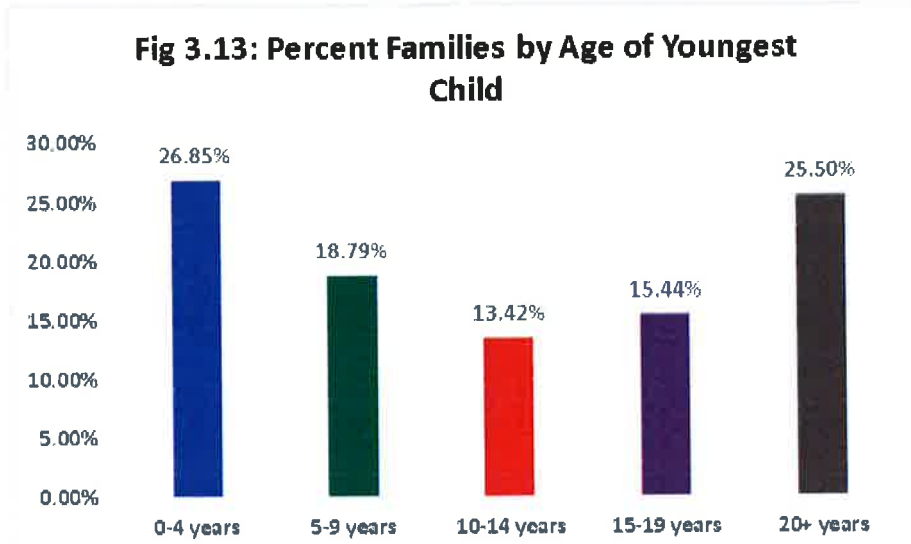
There are 41 lone parents with 66 children of lone parents. This represents 27.5% of families with children and is slightly greater than the national average and the Laois average, but has declined from 30% in 2011. All but 9 families have 3 children or less with 82 families childless. 80 of the households in Borris-In-Ossory electoral district are single occupancy, with 51 of them resident in the village.

TABLE 3.12 – FAMILIES BY AGE OF YOUNGEST CHILD

Families by age of youngest child	No. of Families	No. of Members
0-4 years	40	146
5-9 years	28	115
10-14 years	20	78
15-19 years	23	80
20+ years	38	120



Total	149	539
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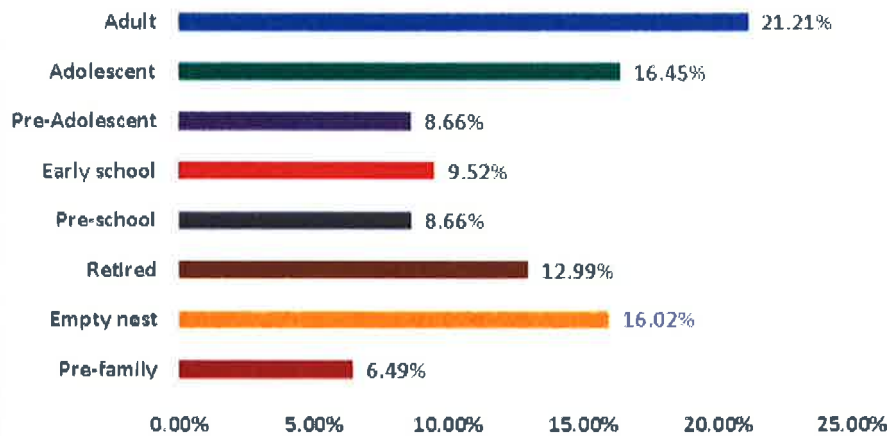


Those proportions of children in the lower age categories are below the county and national average. 31% of County families with children have children under the age of 4 as their youngest.

TABLE 3.14 - FAMILIES BY LIFE CYCLE

Family cycle	No of families	No of members
Pre-family	15	30
Empty nest	37	74
Retired	30	60
Pre-school	20	57
Early school	22	83
Pre-Adolescent	20	85
Adolescent	38	144
Adult	49	170
Total	231	703

Fig 3.15 - Percent of Families by Family Cycle



35.5% of families have no children at home, categorised as pre-family (female is under 45, 6.49%), empty nest (female is between 45 and 64 years, 16.02%) and retired (65 and over, 12.99%). This figure has surged from 28.6% in 2011. This compares to the National average of families with no children at home of 29% and 26% in County Laois in 2016. The largest variances here is in the empty nest and retired categories, a reflection on the higher proportions of older people in Borris-In-Ossory. 21.21% of families have an eldest over the age of 20, while the rest (43.29%) have the eldest child at various stages of childhood development. 76.5% of women over 20 years of age have had children.

Females aged 20 years or over by number of children born

Number of children born	Number of females
0	71
1	41
2	78
3	39
4 or more	73
Total	302

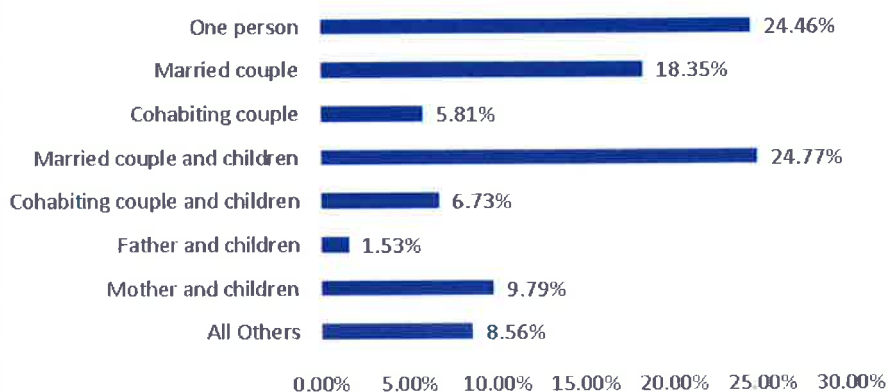
Table 3.16 Private households by type

Type of Household	Households	Persons
One person	80	80
Married couple	60	120
Cohabiting couple	19	38



Married couple and children	81	325
Cohabiting couple and children	22	85
Father and children	5	15
Mother and children	32	83
Couple and others	2	7
Couple children and others	5	27
Father children and others	1	3
Mother children and others	2	7
Two or more family units	1	4
Non-family households and relations	7	14
Two or more non-related persons	10	33
Total	327	841

Fig 3.17 Private Household by Family Type



24.5% of householders are living alone. This is similar to the National Average and County Laois. 24.2% of households have couples who live together who do not have children which is significantly higher than the National average (19%) and County Laois (18%). This is up from 20% in 2011.

Table 3.18 Private households by size

Size of household	Households	Persons
1 person	80	80
2 persons	114	228
3 persons	44	132
4 persons	63	252
5 persons	15	75
6 persons	6	36
7 persons	3	21
8 or more persons	2	17
Total	327	841



35% of households in Borris-In-Ossory have 2 people residing, significantly higher than the National average of 28.6% and County Laois (26.4%). This correlates to the high numbers of childless couples in Borris-In-Ossory.

Table 3.19 Private households by type of accommodation

Type of accommodation	Households	Persons
House/Bungalow	320	828
Flat/Apartment	4	4
Bed-sit	0	0
Caravan/Mobile Home	2	4
Not stated	1	5
Total	327	841

There are 327 households in Borris-In-Ossory electoral district, 206 of those are in the village. 320 for the households are houses or bungalows and all of the other type of accommodation is situated in the village. There are 2 caravan / mobile homes with 4 people. Only 11 households have more than 5 people.

Permanent private households by year built		
Period Built	Households	Persons
Pre 1919	40	91
1919 - 1945	27	65
1946 - 1960	13	28
1961 - 1970	18	38
1971 - 1980	36	67
1981 - 1990	28	67
1991 - 2000	37	108
2001 - 2010	97	291
2011 or later	5	10
Not stated	24	72
Total	325	837

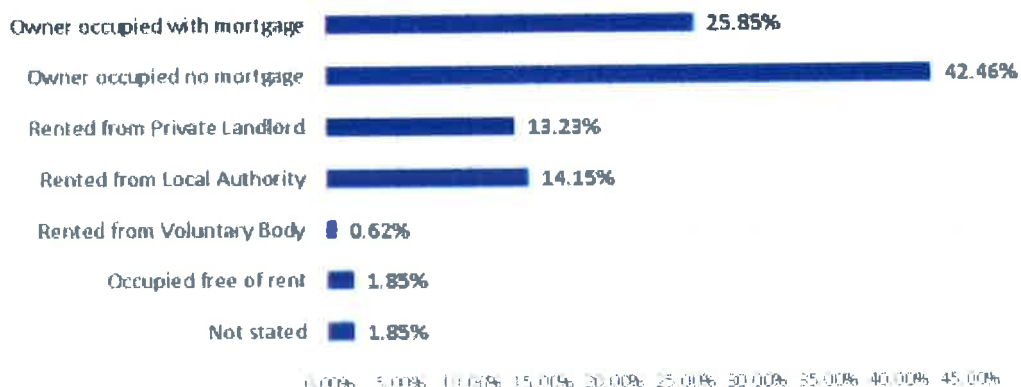
42.77% of the households have been built since 1991



Table 3.20 Permanent private households by type of occupancy

Type of occupancy	Households	Persons
Owner occupied with mortgage	84	278
Owner occupied no mortgage	138	294
Rented from Private Landlord	43	106
Rented from Local Authority	46	120
Rented from Voluntary Body	2	6
Occupied free of rent	6	9
Not stated	6	24
Total	325	837

Fig 3.21 : Percentage of Households by Type of Occupancy



84 households in the electoral district have a mortgage. This represents 25.85% of the occupied properties. 28% of households are rented and 42.46% of households are owner occupied with no mortgage. This compares with 36% of the households in the state being owner occupied with no mortgage and 31.6% with a mortgage. 14.15% of households are rented from the Local Authority. This compares to 8.43% State average and 8.97% for County Laois.

Permanent private households by number of rooms

Number of rooms	Households	Persons
1 room	3	5
2 rooms	8	8
3 rooms	28	66
4 rooms	27	56
5 rooms	90	233
6 rooms	58	146
7 rooms	46	127
8 or more rooms	41	125
Not stated	24	71
Total	325	837

Permanent private households by central heating	
Central heating	Households
No central heating	5
Oil	166
Natural Gas	3
Electricity	5
Coal (incl. Anthracite)	17
Peat (incl. turf)	102
Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG)	3
Wood (incl. wood pellets)	16
Other	1
Not stated	7
Total	325

Only 3 households use Natural Gas ((less than 1%) compared to a third of households in the State. 31.4% use peat compared to the National average of 5.3%.

Occupancy status of permanent dwellings on Census night	
Occupancy Status	Permanent Dwellings
Occupied	326
Temporarily absent	0
Unoccupied holiday homes	5
Other vacant dwellings	66
Total	397

71 dwellings are unoccupied in Borris-In-Ossory. 66 of those are not for holiday purposes and can be considered "ghost" houses from the legacy of the 2000s housing construction



bubble. This represents 16.62% of the total number of dwellings and compares to 9.15% of the State average.

Permanent private households by water supply	
Type of water supply	Households
Public main	213
Group scheme with public source	16
Group scheme with private source	4
Other private source	85
None	0
Not stated	7
Total	325

66.46% of households use a public source of water supply with the vast majority using the public mains. 54.5% use a public sewage scheme.

Permanent private households by sewerage facility	
Type of sewerage facility	Households
Public scheme	177
Individual septic tank	134
Other individual treatment	6
Other	2
No sewerage facility	0
Not stated	6
Total	325

Table 3.22 Waste Facilities



3.4 Disadvantage, Affluence and Deprivation

The Midlands Region is the second most deprived region of Ireland, but Co. Laois is the second most affluent local authority area within the region. Like any other part of the country, Co. Laois has been affected by the economic downturn after 2007, reflected in the drop in the absolute deprivation score from -1.2 in 2006 to -9.3 in 2011, recovering to -6.2 in 2016.

This represented a drop of 8.1 in 2011, compared to a nationwide drop of 6.5. This also implies that the relative position of Co. Laois has significantly worsened from the 17th to the 21st most affluent local authority area in Ireland. The county is not characterised by particular extremes, either with regard to affluence or deprivation, nor are there any strong spatial patterns with regard to the distribution of affluence and deprivation.

Of the 97 EDs in Co. Laois, the majority (57) are marginally below average while the remaining EDs are marginally above average (39) with just 1 affluent. There is a slightly higher occurrence of disadvantage in the more urban areas of the county, including Mountrath, Mountmellick, Portlaoise, Stradbally, Abbeyleix, Borris-in-Ossory and Rathdowny, but the whole county is situated in the middle field of the overall affluence to deprivation spectrum.

However at a local level, 4 EDs slipped into the Disadvantaged categories. These disadvantaged EDs are Dangans (-10.06), Rathdowney (-10.71), Doonane (-11.22) and Mountmellick (-11.54). In 2011 these were borderline between 'disadvantaged' and 'marginally disadvantaged'. The most affluent EDs in Co. Laois are Moyanna (12.02) (which made a remarkable increase into the affluent category from 2.79 in 2011, thanks to a 0% Male Unemployment rate in 2016), and Ballybrittas (7.86), Cullenagh (7.45) and Jamestown (7.24).

In 2016 there were 8 small areas with 2,093 individuals classified as very disadvantaged in Co. Laois (up from 1,219 people in 2011). The very disadvantaged areas were located within the EDs of Portlaoighise (Rural and Urban), Mountmellick, Rathdowney and Mountrath. In total, they constituted 2.47% of the total population (84,697). This is sharp rise from 1.51% in 2011.

In 2016 there were 10,768 individuals living in 42 small areas classified as disadvantaged in Co. Laois (up from 9,456 people in 2011). The disadvantaged

areas were located within the EDs of Abbeyleix, Ballinakill, Ballylynan, Borris, Borris-in-Ossory, Clonaslee, Clondarrig, Dangans, Doonane, Durrow, Graigue Rural, Mountmellick Urban, Mountrath, Portarlinton South, Portlaoighise Rural, Portlaoighise Urban, Rathdowney, and Stradbally.

In total, they constituted 12.71% of the total population (84,697), an increase from 11.73% in 2011. Thus, 15.2% of the population (12,861 individuals) in Co. Laois in 2016 were living in Small Areas that are Very Disadvantaged or Disadvantaged.

Table 3.23 Pobal Statistics Deprivation



The ED of Borris-In-Ossory has a deprivation score of -7.05. The relevant statistics that formulate the HP Deprivation scores are analysed through this Profile of area chapter. There are 5 small areas exclusively in the ED of Borris-In-Ossory. This is illustrated in Fig.... The Pobal statistics for these 5 small areas are outline in table.... All the small areas are either marginally disadvantaged or disadvantaged. 309 people live in the disadvantaged small areas. The South-East small area of Borris-In-Ossory has a particularly low score in the ED. This score was exacerbated by education, employment, disability, Local Authority housing and car ownership factors.

3.5 Ethnicity & Religion



Usually resident population by place of birth and nationality

Location	Birthplace	Nationality
Ireland	750	768
UK	36	19
Poland	21	21
Lithuania	0	0
Other EU 28	14	14
Rest of World	5	2
Not stated	0	2
Total	826	826

9.2% of the population were born outside of Ireland (compared with the State 17.28%), 47.37% of those were from the UK, 27.63% from Poland, 18.42% from other EU countries and 6.58% from the rest of the world. For the purposes of social inclusion in the community of Borris-In-Ossory, we analysed the ethnicity data from the CSO for the region. There are 7% of people in the electoral district who describe themselves as non-Irish and 10.5% who have religions other than Catholicism. The national average is 15% non-Irish and 15% other religions. There are 5 people in the ED that identify as White Irish Travellers, down from 11 in 2011.

Usually resident population by ethnic or cultural background

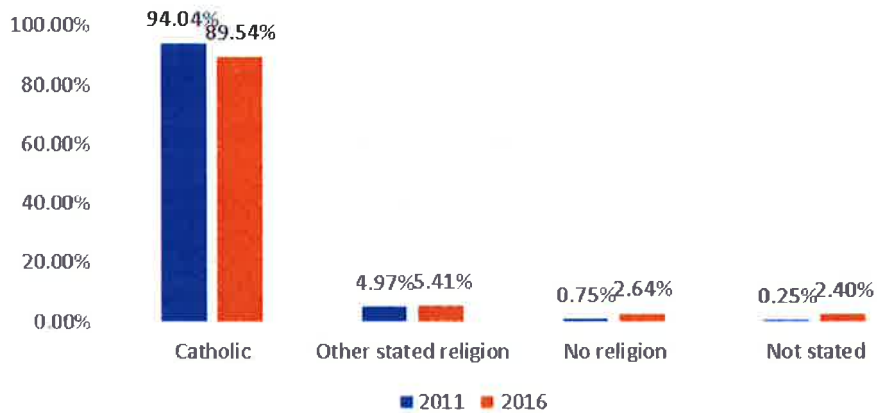
Ethnic or Cultural Background	Persons
White Irish	742
White Irish Traveller	5
Other White	56
Black or Black Irish	0
Asian or Asian Irish	0
Other	3
Not stated	20
Total	826



Population by religion	2011	2016
Catholic	757	745
Other stated religion	40	45
No religion	6	22
Not stated	2	20
Total	805	832

Table 3.24 Population by Religion

Fig 3.25: Percent Population by Religion 2011 v 2016



Speakers of foreign languages by language spoken

Language	Persons
Polish	24
French	4
Lithuanian	0
Other	23
Total	51

Speakers of foreign languages by ability to speak English	
Ability to speak English	Persons
Very well	30
Well	12
Not well	8
Not at all	1
Not stated	0
Total	51

9 People in the electoral district cannot speak English well.

3.6 Education

There has been a continuous improvement in the level of education amongst the adult population over the past 25 years throughout Ireland.

In 1991, 33.2% of the total population over 15 had primary education or no formal education only. This dropped to nearly half that level (18.0%) in 2006 and even further to 15.2% in 2011. In Census 2016 this figure was 12.5%. The rate for Co. Laois has fallen from 32.3% in 1996, to 19% in 2006, 15.4% in 2011 and 13.1% in 2016 thus closely reflecting the national trend.

In 2016, 63.7% attained a second level schooling, and 26.2% a third level education. Younger people were significantly better educated than older members of society. Laois residents have lower levels of educational attainment than the State average. The County has a slightly higher percentage of people with lower secondary school, technical/vocational qualification and advanced certificate/apprenticeship as their highest level of educational attainment. It has a lower percentage of people with bachelor's degrees or post-graduate qualifications as their highest level of education.

The age at which Laois residents cease their education tracks the national average, with one exception: over 5 percent fewer people in the County were found to be in education in the 21 years and over category when compared against the national figure.

Despite the considerable improvement at county level, there remain several rural EDs where still considerable parts of the adult population have primary education only. These are Nealstown (25%), Errill (23.5%), Caher, Arderin, Dunmore, Clonmore (23%).

The reverse applies with regard to third-level education, which has more than doubled over the past 25 years. In 1991, 13.0% of the national adult population had completed third-level education. This grew to 29.1% in 2006, but increased by only another 0.1 percentage point to 29.12% in 2011. In 2016 this figure grew significantly to 33.4%. The proportion of Laois' population with third-level education has grown from 9.2% in 1991, to 22.3% in 2006, 23% in



2011 and 26.2% in 2016. This 25-year growth is marginally below that which has occurred nationally (17.0 percentage points compared to 20.4 percentage points nationally). It also leaves the Laois trailing national trends by some seven percentage point with regard to higher education.

At ED level, and again mirroring the situation with regard to the higher incidences of low levels of education, there are low shares of population with third-level education in Rathdowney (15.6%), Cardtown (16.1%) and Tinnahinch (16.2%), but none of these is falling below the 15% level.

The educational attainment of Laois residents is likely influenced by the profile of available job opportunities. For employment reasons, many Laois born residents may choose to live elsewhere after completing their higher education. Educational attainment is greater in the eastern part of Laois that experiences a high level of out-of-county commuting and lower in western areas that are associated with in-county working.

Borris-In-Ossory Education

TABLE 3.26 - Population aged 15 years and over by Highest level of Education Completed

Education Level	Male	% Male	Female	% Female	Total	Percent
No Formal Education	7	2.46%	5	1.67%	12	2.06%
Primary Education	65	22.89%	35	11.71%	100	17.15%
Lower Secondary	57	20.07%	51	17.06%	108	18.52%
Upper Secondary	57	20.07%	62	20.74%	119	20.41%
Technical or Vocational qualification	28	9.86%	33	11.04%	61	10.46%
Advanced Certificate/Completed Apprenticeship	16	5.63%	12	4.01%	28	4.80%
Higher Certificate	13	4.58%	9	3.01%	22	3.77%
Ordinary Bachelor Degree or National Diploma	4	1.41%	19	6.35%	23	3.95%
Honours Bachelor Degree Professional qualification or both	12	4.23%	21	7.02%	33	5.66%
Postgraduate Diploma or Degree	11	3.87%	16	5.35%	27	4.63%
Doctorate(Ph.D) or higher	1	0.35%	2	0.67%	3	0.51%
Not stated	13	4.58%	34	11.37%	47	8.06%
TOTAL	284		299		583	

In 2016, 19.21% of the total population over 15 had primary education or no formal education in Borris-In-Ossory. This is substantially higher than the county and national average, but is down from 21% in 2011. 54.2% attained a second level schooling and 18.5% a third level education. These figures are 6 to 7 percentage points lower than the Laois average and over 12 percentage points lower than the national average.



Fig. 3.27 - Population aged 15 Years + by Highest Level of Education Completed

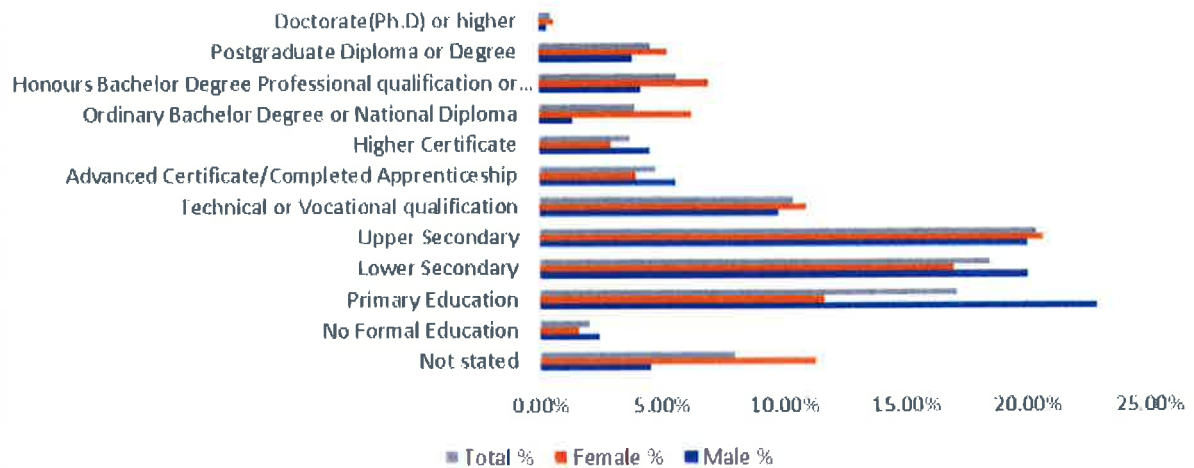
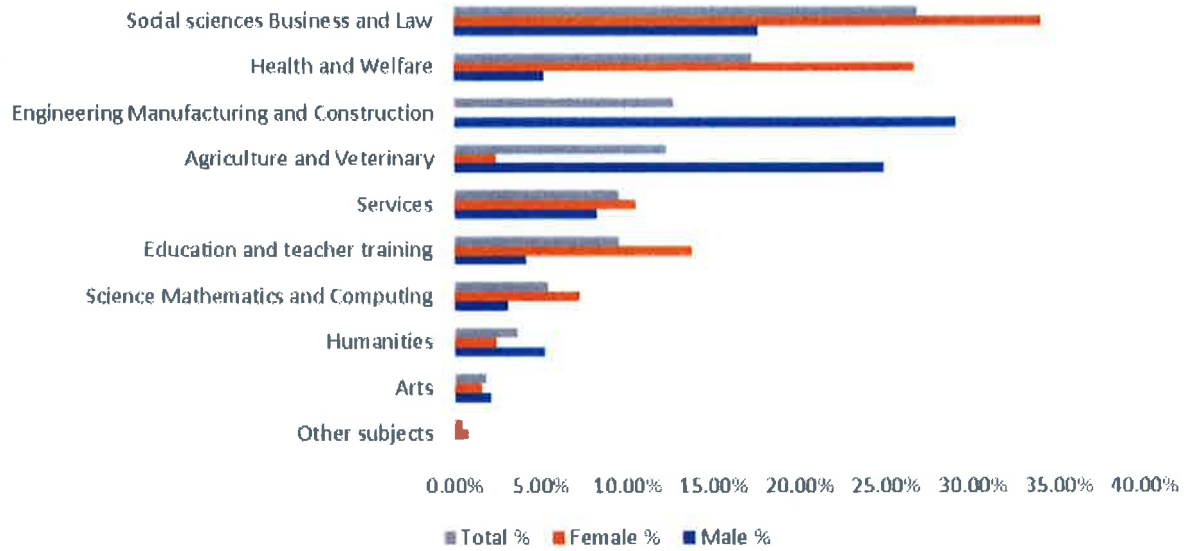


TABLE 3.28 - Population aged 15 years and over by Field of Study

Qualification	Male	% Male	Female	% Female	Total	Percent
Education and teacher training	4	1.41%	17	5.69%	21	3.60%
Arts	2	0.70%	2	0.67%	4	0.69%
Humanities	5	1.76%	3	1.00%	8	1.37%
Social sciences Business and Law	17	5.99%	42	14.05%	59	10.12%
Science Mathematics and Computing	3	1.06%	9	3.01%	12	2.06%
Engineering Manufacturing and Construction	28	9.86%	-	0.00%	28	4.80%
Agriculture and Veterinary	24	8.45%	3	1.00%	27	4.63%
Health and Welfare	5	1.76%	33	11.04%	38	6.52%
Services	8	2.82%	13	4.35%	21	3.60%
Other subjects	-	0.00%	1	0.33%	1	0.17%
Not Stated (including unknown)	188	66.20%	176	58.86%	364	62.44%
TOTAL	284		299		583	

Similar to the National average and County Laois, Social Sciences Business and law is the most popular field of study, albeit a lower proportion by 4 percentage points. Engineering is also a lower preference, with agricultural higher than the National average.

Fig. 3.29 - Population aged 15 years + by Field of Study



Population aged 15 years and over by age education ceased

Age	Males	Females	Total
Under 15 years	21	11	32
15	17	10	27
16	21	11	32
17	25	21	46
18	33	33	66
19	6	19	25
20	10	7	17
21 and over	26	48	74
Not stated	125	139	264
Total	284	299	583



The age at which Borris-In-Ossory residents cease their education tracks the County Laois and national average, with one exception: over 6 percent fewer people in the County (and almost 12 fewer than national average) were found to be in education in the 21 years and over category when compared to the Laois figure.

3.7 Pobal HP 2016 Deprivation

The following is a summary of the Pobal Deprivation scores for Borris in Ossory area. The area is designated as a significantly more deprived area than County Laois or indeed compared to the Country as a whole.

Fig. 3.30 Deprivation Areas Map



Table 3.31 Pobal deprivation scores

Small Area Name	Shanboe	Borris-In-Ossory (North)	Borris-In-Ossory (Centre)	Sentryhill / Derrin	Borris-In-Ossory (S-East)	Co Laois	Ireland
SA Refer. No.	107019001	107019002	107019003	107019004	107019005	(2016)	(2016)
Deprivation Score	-2.96	-10.59	-2.72	-4.96	-15.36	-2.53	0.24
Total population	184	161	151	188	148	84,697	4,761,865
Age Dependency Ratio	36.41%	36.65%	39.74%	37.23%	32.43%	36.07%	34.50%
Lone Parent Ratio	25.0%	19.0%	35.0%	19.0%	29.0%	18.42%	19.90%
Prop. Primary Ed. Only	22.0%	25.0%	9.0%	22.0%	22.0%	14.22%	13.00%
Prop. 3 rd level Ed	20.71%	17.86%	29.49%	21.6%	11.11%	27.78%	35.90%
Male unemployment rate	5.77%	16.67%	30.95%	10.64%	21.21%	15.92%	14.10%
Female unemployment rate	17.14%	21.21%	15.63%	10.53%	33.33%	15.34%	12.20%
Proportion in LA rented Accom	0%	7.04%	22.0%	0%	51.72%	9.00%	8.70%
Households without a car*	5.41%	21.92%	3.7%	4.41%	24.14%	10.95%	15.17%
Persons with a disability*	9.46%	17.81%	3.7%	5.88%	13.79%	13.45%	13.51%

4. SWOT Analysis

The SWOT Analysis was prepared through feedback from consultation process and through a planning workshop with the local committee.

SWOT ANALYSIS –Borris in Ossory Area	
STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ High Levels of Self-Employment; ➤ Strong Agricultural Base; ➤ Established Community Structures; ➤ Strong volunteerism tradition ➤ Strong Base of Work Skills and higher education. ➤ Strong community & voluntary sector ➤ Accessible Location ➤ Population Growth & Potential ➤ Good Local Committee ➤ Lots of Groups & Organisations – ➤ New School ➤ 2 Doctors – 3 days a week. ➤ Have local Link Bus Service ➤ Location adjacent to a regional traffic route ➤ Strong fundraising ability locally. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No community hub or all-encompassing focal point. ➤ No Garda Station ➤ Access to Motorway – Traffic & Crime ➤ Poor Community Physical Infrastructure – Lack of Community Hub ➤ Derelict Properties and Ghost Estates ➤ Periphery of County Boundaries ➤ Lack of Political Representation ➤ Lack of Services/Retail ➤ No Bus Eireann
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ New Rural Development Programme will bring an opportunity to realize some significant capital projects. ➤ To help ourselves and provide much need local services. ➤ Improve Quality of Life ➤ Tap into EU & Public Funding Schemes ➤ Develop Strategic partnerships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Commuter culture – people travel outside the area to work. ➤ Lack of Inward Investment; ➤ Economic downturn, improved economy not reflected locally. ➤ Costs of basic services ➤ Availability of adequate funding to realise plans. ➤ Losing More Business ➤ Losing Young People ➤ Decline in Population ➤ Visual Appearance continue to further deteriorate ➤ Crime ➤ Further Loss of Public Services ➤ Loss of Jobs & Economic Activity

5. Consultation Findings

A comprehensive community consultation was undertaken by the group in 2017 which involved door to door surveying of residents on their views in relation to the needs of the area and what project should be prioritised.

A number of common themes emerged from that needs assessment exercise which ultimately shape this strategy. Full detail of the needs assessment is available supporting document appendix 1. 'Community Needs Assessment – Borris in Ossory 2017'

They can be categorised across the following headings;

- Public Realm and Appearance of the village.
- Community Physical infrastructure
- Youth Facilities and Activities
- Services for Older people
- Economic Development

5.1 Public Realm and Appearance of the Village

The current image of the village suffers from the presence of a number of derelict properties on its main street. This is in particular evident on approach from the Mountrath direction the first large building you see is the derelict hotel. When approaching from Roscrea and the motorway the derelict courthouse is the first building you see.



Pic.1 Derelict Courthouse Building



Pic.2 Derelict Property on Main Street.



Pic. 3 Derelict Hotel on Main Street on approach from Mountrath

There are a number of other properties in a poor state of repair on the Main Street. The physical appearance of the village featured strongly in the consultations. There are also two ghost estates in the town which have suffered from vandalism leading to further deterioration of the physical appearance of the village.



Pic. 4 Ghost Estate to rear of Main Street



Pic. 5 Disused Convent Building adjacent to school and chapel

The village has a small green area on approach from the Roscrea road opposite the courthouse.



Pic. 6 Green area on approach from Roscrea.

A former tennis court site is no longer used and is local adjacent to the GAA pitches on the Mountrath Road. A process is currently being undertaken to update the trustees of this property.

The village lacks a village green or square and has no identifiable town core at present. It is also one of the few villages in the region that does not have a playground, a town park, public walking track or facilities for young people.

The consultation and needs assessment identified the need to develop the following;

- A public playground
- Carry out enhancement works on the approach to the village
- Create a public space for recreation and landscaped areas in the village.
- Improve public safety and security due to increased crime levels due in part to proximity to motorway.
- Street Lighting at Killasmeestia.
- Address the derelict state of the courthouse
- Enhance the physical appearance of the main street and tackle dereliction.

5.2 Community Physical Infrastructure

The community has 5 halls within its catchment area that are potentially available for community use. None of the halls are under the control of the development association.

Saint Canices old boys school is a small hall on the Main Street.

Saint Josephs School Hall is the assembly hall for the new school that has been constructed recently in Borris in Ossory and is off main street adjacent to the disused Convent building and Chapel.

The O'Brian Hall is a Billiards Hall that was built on parish land adjacent to the old boys school. There is a small meeting room in this building accessible by walking through the billiard hall.

Knockaroo Community Centre is location several kms from Borris in Ossory and is the site of an old school house. The building is structurally secure however in need of significant updating and is rarely used by any group or organisation due to its rural location and outdated interior.



Pic. 6 Knockaroo Community centre

Killasmeestia Community Centre is located several kms from the village of Borris in Ossory and adjacent to a thriving community childcare facility and school. Children travel from significant distances to attend both the school and childcare facilities. The hall is in a good state of repair and is well used by the school and also for social dancing. The building would benefit from a new kitchen facility. Laois County Council and the local Parish were approached to ascertain the potential to secure land to develop new community facilities such as a community centre and a playground. The Council had no property in the village other than the courthouse which is unsuitable and the parish

has kindly offered lands to the rear of the two halls in the Main street. This site needs to be surveyed to assess its suitability for development.



Pic. 7 Killasmeestia Community Centre



Pic. 8 Interior of Killasmeestia Parish Hall

The consultation and needs assessment identified a number of priorities that require attention;

- A new Community resource centre facility
- New kitchen at Killasmeestia Hall
- Knockaroo Hall refurbishment (should a use be found for the building.)
- Make use of the upper empty floor in new community Childcare facility at Killasmeestia.

5.3 Youth Facilities and Activities

A young club operates in the village of Borris in Ossory with in region of 25 regular members. Young people were actively targeted in undertaking the needs assessment exercise as were young leaders in the area. There are currently no dedicated facilities for young people in Borris in Ossory or its catchment area outside of the GAA club.

The following is a summary of the need identified for young people;

- St. Joseph's hall modified to make it more usable by young people for sports and other activities.
- Volley Ball and basketball facilities.
- Handball alley developed.
- And are that can be used for discos and dancing to take place.
- Exercise space and permanent tailored home for the youth club/youth café type facility.

There were also calls for more opportunities to occupy young people during summer holidays such as summer camps, work for young people locally and safe and supervised environment for social interaction.

5.4 Services for Older people

A men's shed group operate in village and are currently looking for a base from which to operate on a permanent basis.

The following needs were identified to meet the needs of older people in the community;

Improving footpaths to allow greater access around the village

- Develop a Men's shed space.
- Develop a Women's Shed project

