

# Geashill 2022-2026 Community Plan



*'A very good place to live'*

Developed & Supported by  
Local Community Groups in Geashill  
Facilitated by Offaly Local Development Company



Offaly Local  
Development Company

# SUPPORT

Offaly Local Development Company has over 30 years of experience working directly with communities across County Offaly in supporting local needs community-based responses. Experience has shown us that once a community comes together and decides collectively that they want to do something it generally comes to pass. Now more than ever it is crucial that communities get strategic and plan! Community planning is a proactive response to the considerable change that is taking place around us, it is also a pragmatic response to the demands of community funding programmes that increasingly require communities to be strategic and have a plan.

The Geashill 5-year plan is a testimony to the hard work and commitment of the local community. It is a comprehensive, realistic and informed response to change. The plan is a starting point for action that will, no doubt, evolve as the wider community engages with it. Offaly Local Development Company, looks forward to accompanying the community of Geashill on this journey.

*Brendan O' Loughlin, CEO Offaly Local Development Company*

# FOREWORD

Geashill Development Group includes members of the community, Ard Riadha Residents Association, Church of Ireland Hall Committee, Raheen GAA Club, Playground Committee, Senior Citizens Group, St Oliver's Estate, Geashill Tidy Village and Wednesday Club.

The above groups met on several occasions in late and early 2022 to consider the development of Geashill in the 2022-2026 period and to develop a framework for the community to be more inclusive, to improve and enhance community spaces, walking routes and recreational activities. It also sought to include the proposals identified by the groups and households in the area and to implement appropriate community led responses to climate change and other issues that may be identified in the 5 year planning period.

The basis for the 5-year plan was firstly to gather evidence on the development needs and priorities in Geashill via a community survey and determine how funding and resources might be delivered within the timeframe. Secondly, this plan establishes clear actions through which the community can be activated to support these needs and priorities. The plan also provides a mechanism for developing larger scale projects and sourcing funding for the Geashill area over the next five years.

We would like to thank all of the contributors to the 5 year plan for Geashill

Geashill 5 year planning group  
March 2022

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## INTRODUCTION

Geashill, Co. Offaly is a picturesque village located roughly equidistant between Tullamore and Portarlinton. In 2016 the village itself had a population of 395 with 198 further individuals in its immediate surroundings. The nearest village of Ballinagar and the nearest town of Daingean lie a short distance away to the north with Clonygowan & Walsh Island also nearby.

Historically the nearby area had been called Brí Dam and had been the place of death of the King of Uisnech in 600AD. An Anglo-Norman settlement in the area began in 1185 with a motte and bailey timber castle. Its stone replacement in the 1600s is partially standing still. The Geashill we know today was largely developed as an estate village by the Digby family between 1856 and 1881. The Village Green predates this but was incorporated into the redevelopment of the village by William Stuart Trench under the 9th Baron Digby.

"In 2017 Ballycommon, Ballinagar and Geashill signed an official twinning agreement with the town of Jaux in Northern France. Since that time both communities have visited each other in person to celebrate Irish and French traditions. The connection between the communities remains strong with schools in both regions celebrating St Patrick's Day online in March 2022. We are delighted to be one of three communities that are a part of this great initiative".

The traditional dates for fairs in Geashill were May 1st, October 6th and St Stephen's Day although monthly pig fairs were held in the distant past. A revival of this tradition came in 2011 with the village green hosting the Geashill Muc Fair.



*Left: Geashill's historic green & site of pig weighing scale for Geashill Pig Fair re-discovered in 2015*

The core centre of the village is part of an Architectural Conservation Area. The old school house, village green, mature trees, two pubs from the 19th century, the old estate office, former estate worker's cottages and Geashill Castle all contribute to the distinctive character of the village. A former blacksmith's forge, an old hunting lodge and two thatched cottages lie on the outskirts or environs of the village.

The village takes great pride in its Tidy Towns entries, winning top prize for Offaly for the last 11 years and Ireland's Tidiest Village in 2021. Biodiversity and sustainability have become a big part of the village's efforts, winning a National Pollinator Award in 2017 and 2019.

There is a short but welcoming trail, The Glebe Walk and a walking/cycling track to the GAA grounds but greater provision of safe, walking routes locally has been a key identified need both during this recent planning process and in the public realm study carried out in 2012.

Amenities in the village include a local shop, petrol station, pubs, two community meeting facilities, a recently opened playground, Glebe woodland, a picnic area currently being reimagined as a Wetlands and Sculpture Park on the Portarlington approach road, a primary school and churches. There are numerous enterprises operating or living in the area and in 2010 there were 67 farms within the Electoral District. At the time of writing, the community in Geashill is responding to the appeal for accommodation for Ukrainian refugees.

A bus services the village travelling to Tullamore, Clonygowan, Portarlington and Portlaoise.

## VISION

Geashill 5 year planning Group came together in 2021 to develop a plan for the area for the next five years. Each group participating in the plan has played a significant role in the development of projects across a wide range of themes over the last 10 years. These include sport and recreation, environment and infrastructure, social and learning activities and community facilities in the village. Building on this work, the group adopted a holistic approach to planning that proposes a strategy for action, focused on a number of key thematic goals. The goals developed by the group and in response to needs identified by the community as follows:

- services and infrastructure that make Geashill an attractive place to live
- recreational activities that harness natural assets and promote wellbeing
- enterprise support and development
- social and learning opportunities to enhance quality of life
- history and heritage
- sustainable change and Just Transition to zero carbon economy
- Energy efficiency and environmental projects
- village enhancement
- marketing of Geashill
- Continuing to work together for a better Geashill.

It is the vision of the Geashill 5 year planning group that the actions arising from the Goals will be implemented over a five year period with partners identified through the development of this plan.

# CONTEXT

The people of Geashill have much to be proud of, their community spirit, their public realm features, architecture, heritage and overall village improvements. However, it has also faced many of the same challenges that any rural settlement has had to face recently such as a reduction in local services (e.g. Garda station and post office), limited local employment, building dereliction, traffic speeding through area, individuals leading busier lives, increases to cost of living and particularly for a rural county like Offaly, the transition to more energy-efficient methods of heating and lighting and the closure of peat production facilities and Just Transition.

This plan is the first 5 year plan for Geashill, it encompasses the views of active groups and businesses in the area and household surveys which inform the plan. The community is an active partner in the process. This community plan has been developed as a response to local issues and priorities, cognisant of the relevant over-arching set of county, region and national development policies and programmes.

## County-Level Policies and Plans Affecting Geashill

Beginning at the county level, Geashill is devoted to preservation of its architectural village core with 30 protected structures listed. The overall policy is to protect and conserve the character and setting of the **Geashill Architectural Conservation Area**. Offaly County Council seeks to ensure that future development proposals will respect and complement the unique character of Geashill Village, including the setting of protected structures, and also to comply with development standards.

There are 14 strategic objectives in Offaly County Council's **Geashill Village Plan** section of the **County Development Plan 2021-2027**.

### *Housing and Sustainable Communities Objectives*

- To ensure that future growth is balanced and sustainable and is appropriate to the scale, size and character of the existing village. New development in the village shall take its cue from both the architecture and the urban design of Geashill.
- To make provision for the sustainable growth of the village which will support existing services and encourage the further expansion of the service base, whilst retaining its distinctive character.
- To support the re-use of vacant and derelict buildings; the development of infill sites; and the completion of the unfinished housing estate in the village to achieve a vibrant, compact village.
- To preserve and protect the ACA<sup>1</sup> in the village and to ensure that any new development within or contiguous to the ACA is sympathetic to the special character of the ACA and that the design is appropriate in terms of scale, height, plot density, layout, materials and finishes.

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<sup>1</sup> An architectural conservation area (ACA) is a place, area, group of structures or townscape, taking account of building lines and heights, that is of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest or that contributes to the appreciation of a protected  
[http://www.dlrcoco.ie/sites/default/files/atoms/files/heritage\\_conservation3.pdf](http://www.dlrcoco.ie/sites/default/files/atoms/files/heritage_conservation3.pdf)

*Economic Development and Regeneration Objectives*

- To encourage the further development of retail and commercial services in the village.
- To promote Geashill as a destination on the proposed 'Landscapes of Power' cycling route contained in Figure 6.14 of Volume 1 of this County Development Plan and to encourage uses and development that achieve this objective.

*Healthy Place Making and Infrastructure Objectives*

- To support the implementation of the 'Geashill Public Realm Study 2012'.
- To preserve and protect existing mature trees and stone walls which contribute to the distinctive character of the village.
- To support the provision of an amenity area / playground in the western part of the village and points of interest along the Glebe Walk.
- To continue to promote pollination in the village in the interests of climate adaption.
- To investigate the feasibility of providing a bypass for Geashill, taking into account environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the policies and objectives of this County Development Plan relating to sustainable mobility.
- To protect the carrying capacity, efficiency and road safety of the R420 (Restricted Regional Route) through Geashill.
- To seek the consolidation, improvement and expansion of the existing public lighting and footpath network.
- To protect groundwater resources within the Source Protection Zone.



*New areas for residential zoning with Alternative B having slightly less environmental impact. Source: SEA Environmental Development Report*

The **SEA Environmental Development Report** has also identified Geashill in several areas including:

The appearance of 3 areas of high amenity leading out of the village, 1 of which runs from the village through the countryside to Raheen Lough. Another leads from Geashill and follows natural features north-west from the village ending in forestry in the Anna Harvey area.



2 areas with potential for new residential zoning in the village (with the second named area north of R420 being more favourable from an environmental standpoint).

Under Sustainable Transport Strategy Policy SMAP-18 it is Council policy to support the reopening of Geashill Train Station. There is also mention again of R420 bypass provision.

**Tourism and Recreational Development** in the **County Development Plan** (itself drawing on 13 recent policies and strategies) shows a feasibility study of cycle routes in Offaly including a route called The Landscapes of Power with Geashill as a potential destination.

*“The towns and villages of the county are important attractions in themselves and can increase visitor dwell time and expenditure in local businesses and communities. They act as focal points / service zones for nearby attractions. Investing in making the public realm attractive encourages further investment and increased visitor numbers.”* (6.5.9 p.193)

**The Offaly Economic Development Strategy & Action Plan 2022-2027** has not been released at time of writing (it will be completed by September 2022) but it will focus on the following key areas:

- Climate Change and Sustainability
- Future of Work, Skills and Distribution of Employment
- Healthy Place-making, Culture and Community
- Sectoral, Infrastructural & Geographic Strengths
- Current Deficits/Barriers to Offaly realising its economic potential

### **Regional Level Plans of Significance to Geashill**

The **Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) 2019 – 2031** is produced by the Eastern and Midland Regional Authority and is a planning framework for the entire region. 16 objectives are listed in 3 principle areas of which 9 have some significance in the current community plan for Geashill.

- **Rural Communities** Support sustainable rural development and strengthen rural networks, economies and communities. Manage urban generated growth in areas under strong urban influence and encourage sustainable growth in areas that have experienced decline or stagnation. (NSO 1, 3)
- **Healthy Communities** Protect and enhance the quality of our built and natural environment to support active lifestyles including walking and cycling, ensure clean air and water for all and quality healthcare and services that support human health. (NSO 10)
- **Creative Places** Enhance, integrate and protect our arts, culture and heritage assets to promote creative places and heritage-led regeneration. (NSO 5, 7)
- **Integrated Transport and Land Use** Promote best use of Transport Infrastructure, existing and planned, and promote sustainable and active modes of travel to ensure the proper integration of transportation and land use planning. (NSO 2, 6, 8,9)
- **Support the Transition to Low Carbon and Clean Energy** Pursue climate mitigation in line with global and national targets and harness the potential for a more distributed renewables-focussed energy system to support the transition to a low carbon economy by 2050. (NSO 8, 9)

- **Enhanced Green Infrastructure** Identify, protect and enhance Green Infrastructure and ecosystem services in the Region and promote the sustainable management of strategic natural assets such as our coastlines, farmlands, peatlands, uplands woodlands and wetlands. (NSO 8, 9)
- **Biodiversity and Natural Heritage** Promote co-ordinated spatial planning to conserve and enhance the biodiversity of our protected habitats and species including landscape and heritage protection. (NSO 7, 8)
- **A Strong Economy Supported by Enterprise and Innovation** To build a resilient economic base and promote innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystems that support smart specialisation, cluster development and sustained economic growth. (NSO 5,10)
- **Improve Education Skills and Social Inclusion** To improve education and develop the right skills to attract employers and retain talent and promote social inclusion to ensure opportunities for quality jobs across the Region. (NSO 5,10)

The **Midlands Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024** outlines under Action 3.2 : Expand the Midlands Network of Co-Working Facilities (MNCF) in partnership with existing network members, Chambers of Commerce and Local Authorities, to support and develop additional flexible office solutions throughout the region, including the exploration of and the development of vacant properties, through strategic partnerships and in co-operation with communities.

### **National Level Policies and Plans of Interest to Geashill**

Our **Rural Future – Rural Development Policy 2021-2025** envisions “Our towns and villages to be vibrant lived-in places which capitalise on their local strengths and assets” (pg. 18 Our Rural Future, 2021). This national policy seeks to deliver on a range of objectives, those that might become most relevant to Geashill relate to: remote working, the revitalisation of towns and villages, enhancing rural living through the promotion of services and supports, improving public transport, ensuring economic, social and environmental sustainability of the agri– food sector and transitioning to a climate neutral economy by developing the green economy, supporting community energy and sustainable energy communities.

One further element of this policy that is significant for a village like Geashill is the development of “an integrated place-based approach to rural development to maximise investment and meet the long term needs of individual parishes, villages and towns by supporting rural communities to develop long term cohesive Master Plans for their areas” (Supporting communities to create their own future, Our Rural Future, Key Deliverables, Pg. 14, Rural Development Policy 2021 -2025).

Support and promotion of remote working hubs (connectedhubs.ie) is another relevant element of this plan for Geashill.

**Project Ireland 2040** is the government’s long term strategy to make Ireland a better place which includes the specific objective of achieving “Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities” through developing the rural economy, tourism etc.

**The Programme for Government:** focuses on building resilient rural communities through: town centre development, rural transport, supporting outdoor tourism, developing the circular economy, transition to a climate neutral economy, broad band rollout.

**The Climate Action Plan** in particular the **Peatland Climate Action Scheme**. The climate action plan also proposes a comprehensive retro-fitting of 500,000 existing homes and the installation of zero emission heat pumps in 400,000 homes by 2030. Geashill's reliance on peat and oil for a large proportion of home heating and its proximity to both wind energy production and the retro-fitting upskilling programme in Mount Lucas means the community should be well placed to avail of opportunities.

### **Just Transition**

The process of Just Transition to climate neutrality focuses on supporting economic, social and environmental sectors and activities that promote growth and competitiveness. At present, the focus of 'Just Transition' is on the peatlands communities of the midlands region, as they move away from peat production to more sustainable forms of energy production. The National Just Transition Fund is one support that has been put in place to assist the midlands and will be augmented by an EU level Just Transition Territorial Plan which will see additional resources being provided to the region. Geashill is a community affected by the transition from peat production to wind farm development in the wider area. This plan includes the community's response to the process of transition. It illustrates how the community is a stakeholder in the process of change and has capacity to envisage a better future for Geashill and embrace change.

The five year plan demonstrates a place based approach to local needs and concerns and outlines actions that will seek to promote future development in local amenities and recreational facilities, actions that seek to enhance biodiversity, sustainable energy use and create opportunities for learning and work.

# THE COMMUNITY PLANNING PROCESS

Each local group in Geashill engaged with Offaly Local Development Company in the second half of 2021, including a scoping exercise identify group priorities and also to discuss the benefits of engaging in a multi-year community planning process. The use of a cohesive, integrated cross-community plan improves project outcomes and impacts. Smaller communities like Geashill can maximise the gain from idea-sharing, group networking and funding opportunities.

Groups working together at this time is very relevant in terms of funding opportunities for Geashill with the prospect of cohesive groups being able to leverage a larger amount of funding from national, county and local funders, including for example windfarms. It also paves the way for initiatives such as Energy Master Plans that work with the community to identify cost savings across the entire village.

In the late-summer of 2021 the first Geashill Development Group meetings were held in person (initially outdoors on the green and then later indoors in Geashill).

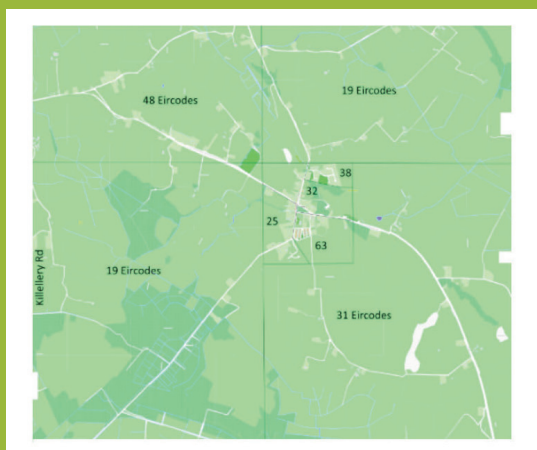
A community survey was drafted, finalised, promoted and distributed to over 250 households in the village (151) and outlying areas (100+). Households had the option of completing an online version or paper version. Promotion was via social media, newspapers and local notes. The survey was returned either online, to the voting box at Geashill National School, or by direct post to Offaly Local Development.



Promotion took place over social media...



...and paper responses returned locally and by post.



Community survey (paper version) distribution area

Surveys were returned by 90 households, comprising 296 individuals. The survey was analysed and the findings presented to the Geashill 5 year planning group (by Offaly Local Development). The group designed and printed a community bulletin which was distributed to inform of the results and the results are also evident in this planning document.

The survey responses identify some of the current priorities and form an evidence base behind key actions in the 5-year development plan for Geashill.

# GEASHILL SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE

## Population

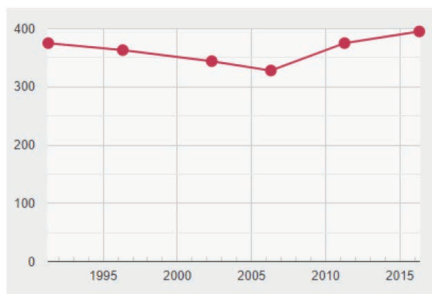
There were 395 people living in the village in 2016. If the two statistical small areas immediately outside the village are included there were 505 total individuals in its immediate environs.

Population growth from 2006-2016 in the Geashill electoral division was 10.9%. The village population itself declined in the period 1991-2006 but had grown 20% in 2006-2016 with a lot of that growth between the 2006 and 2011 censuses. This is the fourth highest percentage growth in an Offaly town or village during the 10-year period.

The likely main reason for growth in Geashill's population between 2006 and 2011 was the development of 35 new houses in Ard Riadha from 2005.



Above: Geashill's location in County Offaly and the nearest bogland beside it (brown areas).



Geashill village population 1991-2016



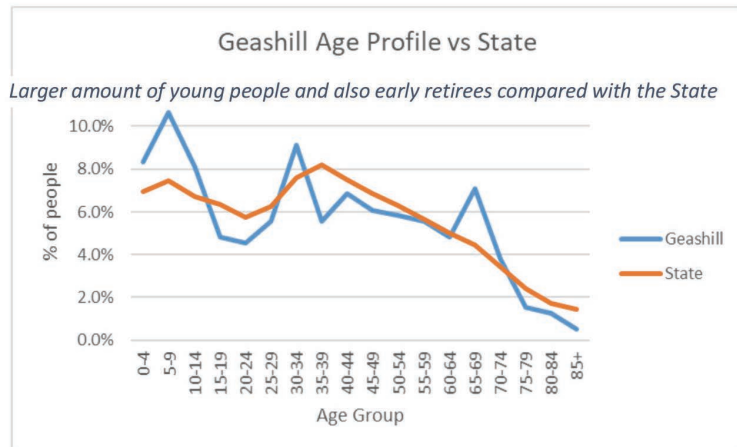
Left: Map of village (Openstreet mapping) outlining the relatively recent housing estate of Ard Riadha.

Town/Village	Pop. change 2006-16 (%)
Killeigh	33%
Edenderry	25%
Walsh Island	21%
<b>Geashill</b>	<b>20%</b>
Cloghan	19%
Ballinagar	19%
Mucklagh	17%
Kinnitty	14%
Tullamore	13%
Clara	11%
Kilcormac	10%
Shinrone	9%
Banagher	8%
Moneygall	5%
Rhode	4%
Ferbane	2%
Daingean	2%
Clonbullogue	-1%
Pollagh	-1%
Ballycumber	-4%
Belmont	-9%
Bracknagh	-12%
Shannonbridge	-21%

Table 1: Population Change in Offaly Towns 2006-2016 (data.cso.ie)

### Age & Family

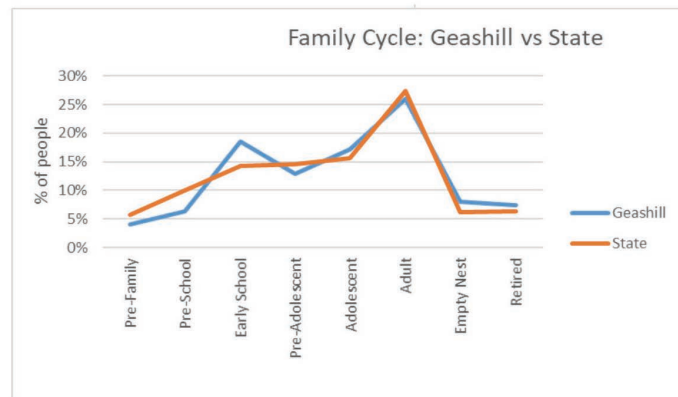
The local age profile in the village compared to the state shows a larger amount of young families and early retirees. The 2016 proportion of the village at various stages of the family cycle are, for the most part, similar to the state. However, the Early School stage is 35% higher compared to the State and the Pre-School stage 40% lower.



### Education & Work

Just 11% of respondents in full-time employment were working in the Geashill area compared to 46% of those in part-time employment.

32% of the surveyed individuals were in education with slightly more in pre-school and primary education compared to secondary, further education and third-level.



*New housing has attracted young families to the area which is reflected in the age profile comparison with the State generally.*

### Broadband

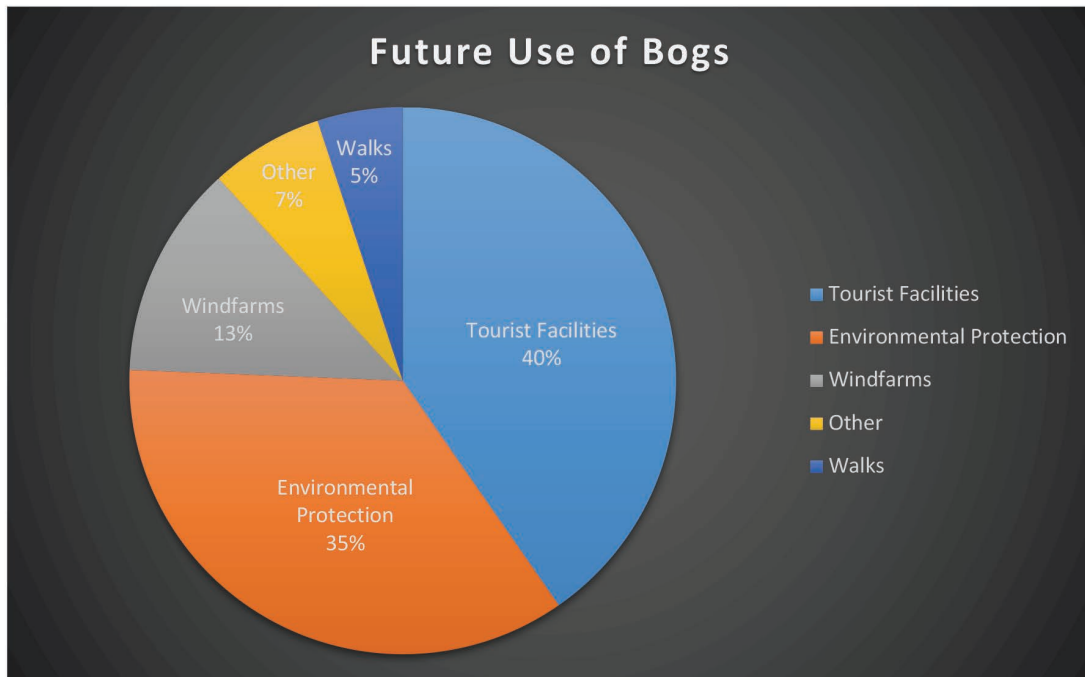
At the time of writing, there is fibre broadband in some areas of Geashill village. There is no planned extension to remaining parts of the area from the current provider. Under the National Broadband Plan, Offaly will see an investment of €48M in the new high-speed fibre network. This will enable e-learning, remote monitoring of livestock or equipment, e-health initiatives, better energy efficiency in the home, and facilitate increased levels of remote working. The first stage of rollout of Broadband Connection points has taken place in Offaly in conjunction with Offaly County Council. The timescale for wifi connection points in Geashill has not been confirmed.

### Post Covid-19 Working from Home

The household survey identified that 66% of respondents were working full time with a further 7% in part time work. 40% of respondents were travelling more than 20 miles to work. The working environment changed dramatically due to Covid restrictions introduced in March 2020. When asked about working from home, 32% of respondents plan to work from home 2-3 days per week. This presents opportunities for remote working facilities in Geashill.

**New enterprise in Geashill** – The survey identified that the key constraints to new enterprise in Geashill are; suitable space, funding, lack of customers and broadband.

**Future use of Bogs** – the following shows the responses to the question on the future use of bogs in the area.



# GEASHILL VISION 2022 - 2026

Having collated the responses to the household survey and identified key themes emerging from the findings, The Geashill 5 year planning group developed key thematic goals, following a process of consultation with the groups in the area, households and stakeholders. This led to the following presentation of goals, actions within each goal, partners for implementation and the outcomes expected.

Thanks to all of the contributors to this plan and to Offaly Local Development Company for facilitating the process.



*Opening of Geashill community playground*



*Wednesday Club on the green in Geashill*



# GEASHILL 5 YEAR PLAN

## Goals, Objectives, Actions and Outcomes

<b>GOAL 1: That Geashill will have services and infrastructure that will make it an attractive place to live.</b>			
OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PARTNER	OUTCOMES
<p>1.1 to work in collaboration with the local authority to ensure necessary improvements in the condition of all approach roads in and out of the village</p>	<p>Develop detailed submission to local authority and county engineer detailing traffic flow, speeding, potential and actual incidents on road,</p> <p>Engage community in monitoring and capturing</p> <p>Speeding issues to be highlighted and repairs to pedestrian crossing on Tullamore road</p> <p>Footpath alignment by castle wall and access by footpath to Raheen end of village in order to access the new picnic area and sculpture park</p>	<p>Geashill Community</p> <p>Offaly County Council</p>	<p>Improved road safety</p> <p>Enhanced footpaths for walking and tourism activities</p> <p>Improved access to facilities in the village</p> <p>Improve overall look of the facilities in the village</p>
<p>1.2 infrastructure in the village</p>	<p>Investigate the plans for improvements under town and village renewal, ESB works and any other structural works in the village to ensure they fit with community plans for the area</p> <p>To secure funding to complete the undergrounding of ESB lines at Ballydownan, Geashill</p> <p>Explore provision of supported housing in Geashill in response to appeal for accommodation for Ukrainian refugees</p>	<p>Geashill Community</p> <p>Offaly County Council</p> <p>ESB and other providers</p>	<p>Enhanced public realm in Geashill and collaboration at an early stage with agencies undertaking the work</p> <p>Provision of supported housing in Geashill to the benefit of the community at large</p>

**GOAL 1:**  
That Geashill will have services and infrastructure that will make it an attractive place to live.

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PARTNER	OUTCOMES
1.3 to improve access to high speed broadband	Conduct research into plans for provision of high-speed broadband and other connectivity projects in Geashill and follow up for timeline	Geashill community Offaly County Council National Broadband Ireland	Availability of high speed broadband to all premises in the area  Promotion of remote working hub in Geashill
1.4 to enhance mobility for people in the communities	To promote and lobby for improved public transport services for Geashill in areas identified outside the village. Link with Local Link	Geashill community, NTA and OffalyLocal Link and transport provider	Transport services that reduce dependence on cars and provide transport for all

**GOAL 2:**  
That the community develop innovative recreational activities that harness natural assets, promote health and wellbeing, encourage new visitors.

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PARTNER	OUTCOMES
2.1 To develop recreational activities that harness the potential of the village, bog and land creating exciting and interesting activities with the potential for enterprise and employment	Investigate how Geashill can maximise its potential through developing physical linkages between the village, Raheen Church, looped walking routes and connections to the bog from the village for walking and cycling  Ongoing maintenance of the existing walking routes, developing space that enhances biodiversity  Identify further uses of the green in Geashill for activities  Connect Glebe Walk with GAA track and support development of walking track in GAA grounds which will be accessible to all members of the community	Geashill community Offaly County Council Offaly Local Development Company	Increase in walking cycling and wellbeing facilities in the area  Linkages to developments in walking and cycling throughout the county

**GOAL 2:**  
**That the community develop innovative recreational activities that harness natural assets, promote health and wellbeing, encourage new visitors.**

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PARTNER	OUTCOMES
2.1 To develop recreational activities that harness the potential of the village, bog and land creating exciting and interesting activities with the potential for enterprise and employment	<p>Investigate development of outdoor gym facility at playground</p> <p>Investigate provision of youth sports activities in area at back of playground</p>	<p>Geashill community</p> <p>Offaly County Council</p> <p>Offaly Local Development Company</p>	<p>Increase in walking cycling and wellbeing facilities in the area</p> <p>Linkages to developments in walking and cycling throughout the county</p>
2.2 To provide recreation and sporting facilities that promote active, healthy, and wellbeing	<p>Investigate possible links to the greenway from Geashill</p> <p>Audit current facilities for sport in the village and surrounding area and promote use of these through a publicity campaign</p> <p>Collaborate with agencies and local facilities to provide activities for young people and young adults in the area</p> <p>Enhance the provision of activities for older adults through consultation with agencies and funding bodies</p>	<p>Geashill community</p> <p>GAA</p> <p>Offaly County Council</p> <p>Offaly Local Development Company</p>	<p>Geashill community</p> <p>GAA</p> <p>Offaly County Council</p> <p>Offaly Local Development Company</p>

**GOAL 3:**  
**That Geashill will impact positively new and existing enterprise opportunities locally.**

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PARTNER	OUTCOMES
3.1 To increase the number of local employment and enterprise opportunities	<p>Conduct feasibility study into café in village – highlighted in survey</p> <p>Consider the views of households that responded to the survey about new enterprises, available suitable space, broadband, funding, energy efficiency and categories of new enterprises in the area</p>	<p>Geashill community and businesses</p> <p>Offaly County Council + LEO</p> <p>Offaly Local Development Company</p> <p>Green Offaly</p> <p>SEAI</p>	<p>Promotion of social new, existing and social enterprise development</p> <p>Provision of employment</p> <p>Incorporating green initiatives into developments in the community</p>

**GOAL 3:**

**That Geashill will impact positively new and existing enterprise opportunities locally.**

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PARTNER	OUTCOMES
3.1 To increase the number of local employment and enterprise opportunities	<p>Support agencies to promote the funding sources available to new enterprises</p> <p>To promote and actively consider social enterprises and/or co-operatives which bring vital services to the area</p> <p>To consider green enterprises at community level in the wider Geashill area</p> <p>Investigate the sustainability and potential of Saturday market</p>	<p>Geashill community and businesses</p> <p>Offaly County Council + LEO</p> <p>Offaly Local Development Company</p> <p>Green Offaly</p> <p>SEAI</p>	<p>Promotion of social new, existing and social enterprise development</p> <p>Provision of employment</p> <p>Incorporating green initiatives into developments in the community</p>

**GOAL 4:**

**That Geashill will have new social activities and learning opportunities, enhancing the quality of life for the people of Geashill.**

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PARTNER	OUTCOMES
4.1 to deliver a range of relevant adult & community education programmes in Geashill in collaboration with LOETB	Providing a range of adult and community-based education opportunities to the community based on interest and need, art classes, digital literacy etc.	<p>Geashill community</p> <p>LOETB</p> <p>Offaly Local Development Company</p>	Engaging people in further education as a pathway to employment, social activities and connection in the community
4.2 to facilitate the development of a range of community groups or communities of interest e.g. walking groups, youth group, parent and toddler	Support and facilitate the development of community interest groups based on need/ demand and interest e.g. Walking group, youth group, parent and toddler group, Men's shed, Women's shed, local heritage group, biodiversity, horticulture	<p>Geashill Community</p> <p>Offaly Local Development Company</p> <p>County Childcare committee</p> <p>Offaly Sports Partnership</p>	<p>More active community in Geashill</p> <p>Reduction in the need to travel outside the area to engage in community based activities</p>
4.3 to support and encourage the involvement of new people in community life	Members of the community planning group to take responsibility for different areas of interest in the plan - act as local drivers	<p>Geashill 5 year planning group</p> <p>Offaly Local Development Company</p>	Collaborative working and cohesive planning

**GOAL 4:**  
**That Geashill will have new social activities and learning opportunities, enhancing the quality of life for the people of Geashill.**

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PARTNER	OUTCOMES
	encouraging people and networks to get involved in projects of interest	Geashill 5 year planning group  Offaly Local Development Company	Collaborative working and cohesive planning
4.4 to harness and develop existing community buildings to provide a viable community space or central community hub that is fit for the community/ multi-purpose use	Audit of current community space for suitability and access, availability, cost, insurance etc  Planning for future use of community space to facilitate needs of community  Car parking options and availability for events	Geashill Community and owners of community buildings  Offaly County Council  NBI  Offaly Local Development Company	Multi purpose community facilities
4.5 enhance and foster pride of place	Community festival – Muc Fair  St Patrick’s Day celebrations  Seasonal fairs	Geashill community  Offaly Local Development Company  Offaly County Council	Enhanced wellbeing, pride of place and promotion of local culture
4.6 to investigate how other buildings could be put to use in the community in the future	Feasibility study on use of old post office  Potential spaces for remote working hubs in the village  Spaces for new enterprise in the village  Current levels of dereliction in the village	Geashill community  Offaly County Council (including Heritage)  Offaly Local Development Company	Improved public realm  Provision of work spaces and new enterprise

**GOAL 5:**

**That the people of Geashill & visitors will have a greater understanding and connection to the history and heritage of the area.**

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PARTNER	OUTCOMES
5.1 To foster and develop an interest in local history	Development of history group and spin off activities in the area	Geashill community Heritage Office, Offaly History	Gathering of unique stories and preservation of history of the area
5.2 To record and document the social and economic history of Geashill	Develop a programme to collect and collate history of area	Geashill community LOETB Heritage Office Offaly History	Local heritage celebrated and preserved
5.3 to celebrate people and place	Establish connections with Diaspora	Geashill community  Failte Ireland  Heritage Offaly	Reaching out and connecting to the wider Geashill community  Pride of place

**GOAL 6:**

**That Geashill will be at the forefront of sustainable change and the transition to zero carbon economy.**

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PARTNER	OUTCOMES
6. 1 To develop a local action plan for sustainable energy	<p>Progress the Sustainable Energy Community Plan and recruit new members to undertake development of Energy Master plan</p> <p>To implement actions on foot of the master plan that support energy efficiency e.g.; Community buildings &amp; GAA</p> <p>Provide information and appropriate supports for private home owners in terms of sustainable energy use</p> <p>To collaborate with agencies re electric car charging points</p>	<p>Geashill Community</p> <p>Offaly County Council</p> <p>SEAI Bord na Mona</p> <p>Owners of community buildings</p> <p>Electric car charging providers</p>	<p>Road map for a sustainable future for Geashill</p> <p>Provision of car charging points for visitors to Geashill</p>

**GOAL 6:**  
**That Geashill will be at the forefront of sustainable change and the transition to zero carbon economy.**

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PARTNER	OUTCOMES
6.2 To develop greater awareness and understanding of what climate change, sustainability and the transitions to a zero-carbon economy	<p>Develop a plan for creating awareness in the area</p> <p>Link with school and businesses</p>	<p>Geashill community</p> <p>Offaly Local Development Company</p> <p>Green Offaly</p> <p>National school</p>	<p>Sustainable future for Geashill</p>
6.3 To have meaningful ongoing engagement with Bord Na Mona and other statutory providers in relation to future land use	<p>Develop linkages to other agencies regarding future land use</p> <p>Considering the views of respondents to the household survey</p>	<p>Bord na Mona, Lawpro, Coillte, Offaly Local Development Company, Offaly County Council</p>	<p>Collaborative working</p> <p>Planning for positive land use in the Geashill area</p>

**GOAL 7:**  
**That Geashill will further develop energy efficiencies locally, improve the local ecology through its community work.**

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PARTNER	OUTCOMES
<p>7.1 To have plans in place for wilding, biodiversity, Supporting local farming initiatives</p>	<p>Support the use of solar plans and other renewable energy sources on buildings through consultations with relevant agencies</p> <p>Build stronger links with the farming community to strengthen our shared priorities</p> <p>Support the development of areas of special interest, sensory, wilding and biodiversity in the wider area</p>	<p>Geashill community</p> <p>Farming families</p> <p>Green Schools</p> <p>Offaly County Council</p>	<p>Working together for a greener future</p>

**GOAL 8:  
Village Enhancement.**

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PARTNER	OUTCOMES
8.1 To continue the work and plan for future improvements	Litter control Dog fouling Overall look of village Volunteering with rewards Continue to enhance existing amenity spaces	Geashill Tidy Towns group Geashill community Offaly County Council	Continue to compete at the highest level in Tidy Towns Clean, attractive village for use by all

**GOAL 9:  
Marketing our village and wider Geashill area.**

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PARTNER	OUTCOMES
9.1 To continue to promote tourism to Geashill	Create links with tourism sites and have Geashill named on tourism and heritage trails Develop audio guides Become part of a Cluster in East Offaly for tourism	Geashill community Fáilte Ireland Offaly County Council	Develop tourism in Geashill Marketing of Geashill as a destination

**GOAL 10:  
Working together for a better Geashill.**

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PARTNER	OUTCOMES
10.1 Community development – grouping of expertise	That groups will work together to React cohesively and quickly to changes in the area that affect residents and groups Keep up the momentum gained during the planning process To avail of better funding opportunities	Geashill community groups Offaly Local Development Company Offaly County Council	Increased capacity of the community to respond to situations arising One voice for Geashill to lobby Efficient implementation of plans and plan for the future



**GOAL 10:  
Working together for a better Geashill.**

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PARTNER	OUTCOMES
<p>10.1 Community development – grouping of expertise</p>	<p>To gain best outcomes for area as a whole Insurance reasons</p> <p>Greening the village and surrounding area</p> <p>Improved social activities for all age groups</p> <p>Energy efficiency Planning and lobbying</p> <p>Do a feasibility study of areas within the village for creative spaces to be developed</p> <p>To consolidate the feedback to the community through periodic newsletters</p> <p>To celebrate volunteering</p> <p>To promote potential shared community spaces</p> <p>To gain leverage for cultural, economic and political reasons/issues</p>	<p>Geashill community groups</p> <p>Offaly Local Development Company</p> <p>Offaly County Council</p>	<p>Increased capacity of the community to respond to situations arising</p> <p>One voice for Geashill to lobby</p> <p>Efficient implementation of plans and plan for the future</p>



Offaly Local  
Development Company