

ARRANMORE ISLAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2008-2013

Prepared on behalf of
Comharchumann Oileán Árann Mhóir Teo
June 2008



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This Development Plan reflects the needs and ambitions of island residents. If there is anything missing or if things need to be changed, or even if you do not agree with something, the Comharchumann wish to hear about it. Please contact the Comharchumann at:

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
ISLAND AND COMMUNITY PROFILE.....	3
ACHIEVEMENTS	11
VISION FOR THE FUTURE	18
THEME 1: IRISH LANGUAGE & CULTURE.....	22
THEME 2: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & FACILITIES.....	25
THEME 3: EMPLOYMENT.....	27
THEME 4: SUSTAINABILITY & RENEWABLE ENERGY	30
THEME 5: TOURISM.....	33
THEME 6: FARMING & FISHING	37
THEME 7: ACCESS & COMMUNICATIONS	40
THEME 8: WASTE	42
THEME 9: HOUSING	44
DELIVERING THE PLAN.....	45

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. Social Welfare Statistics.....	6
Table 2. Population Figures 1841 – 2006: Arranmore, 28 Other inhabited islands, County Donegal and Ireland	7
Table 3. Summary Socio-Economic Indicators	9
Table 4. Progress on 1993 Development Plan Projects/Actions.....	15
Table 5. SWOT Analysis Presentation	20
Table 6. Rating of Social Facilities for Age Groups.....	25
Table 7. Main Occupation	27
Table 8. Place of Work or Study	27
Table 9. Preferred sector of those seeking work.....	28
Table 10. Goals, Objectives and Actions under each Development Theme.....	47

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. Plan Process.....	2
Figure 2. Demographic Profile Arranmore Island, 2006.....	4
Figure 3. Population Figures 1841 – 2006 Arranmore and eight of Ireland’s largest islands.....	8

LIST OF MAPS

Map 1	Location Map
Map 2	Aerial View and Places of Interest
Map 3	Environmental Conservation Areas
Map 4	Townlands Map
Map 5	House Survey Map

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CnO	Comhdháil Oileán na hÉireann
COAMT	Comharchumann Oileán Árainn Mhóir Teo
DCRGA	Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs
DCC	Donegal County Council
FÁS	Foras Áiseanna Saothair
FI	Fáilte Ireland
NDP	National Development Plan
RnG	Roinn na Gaeltachta
SEI	Sustainable Energy Ireland
UnG	Údarás na Gaeltachta
VEC	Vocational Education Committee

ANNEXE

A1 CONSULTATION LIST

A2 SELECT INFORMATION SOURCES

INTRODUCTION

This Development Plan was compiled on behalf of the people of Arranmore Island as represented by Comharchumann Oileán Árinn Mhóir Teo, the Island Co-operative. The purpose of this Development Plan is the identification of the strategic development of the island of Arranmore for the next five years and to provide initial implementation advice. This Plan starts by looking back at the achievements of Comharchumann Oileán Árinn Mhóir and the Island community. It then looks forward to the next five years with a view to improving the quality of life and opportunities for Islanders.

Funding for this work was provided by Údarás na Gaeltachta, with funding for the concomitant socio-economic survey by Comhdháil Oileán na hÉireann, the Islands Federation.

The Plan was prepared during 2006 and 2007 and involved at all stages full consultation with the Comharchumann, the inhabitants of the island, contact with appropriate public bodies and relevant organisations, community and voluntary groups, and individuals. Consultation and community input has been central to this development plan. With guidance from the Comharchumann, the community was consulted at the fact finding stage via house to house surveys, local community groups, media contacts, and local bulletins.

A household and socio-economic survey was carried out as part of the Plan in August/September 2006 and is separately published. This provided detailed information regarding potential resources, demographics, income, employment, and living standards; and gauged attitudes and opinions of the Islanders. From these results the Development Plan has identified the key problems of the area, the potential development opportunities and assessed the main issues to be addressed on the Island.

The Plan is presented in this the main document, including Island maps indicating location, places of interest, townlands, aerial view, identified houses, environmental designations as well as photographic plates; a separate Executive Summary document; and the previously issued Household and Socio-economic Survey.

The document includes a snapshot island profile, community profile synopsis, review of achievements to date, forward vision and nine development themes with objectives and actions. More detail on the Island and community are provided in each of the development themes and other appropriate sections of the Plan. The Plan objectives and actions are provided in an easy to read table format at the end of the report. This table details who is responsible for each agreed action, potential funding sources, timescale and anticipated outcomes.

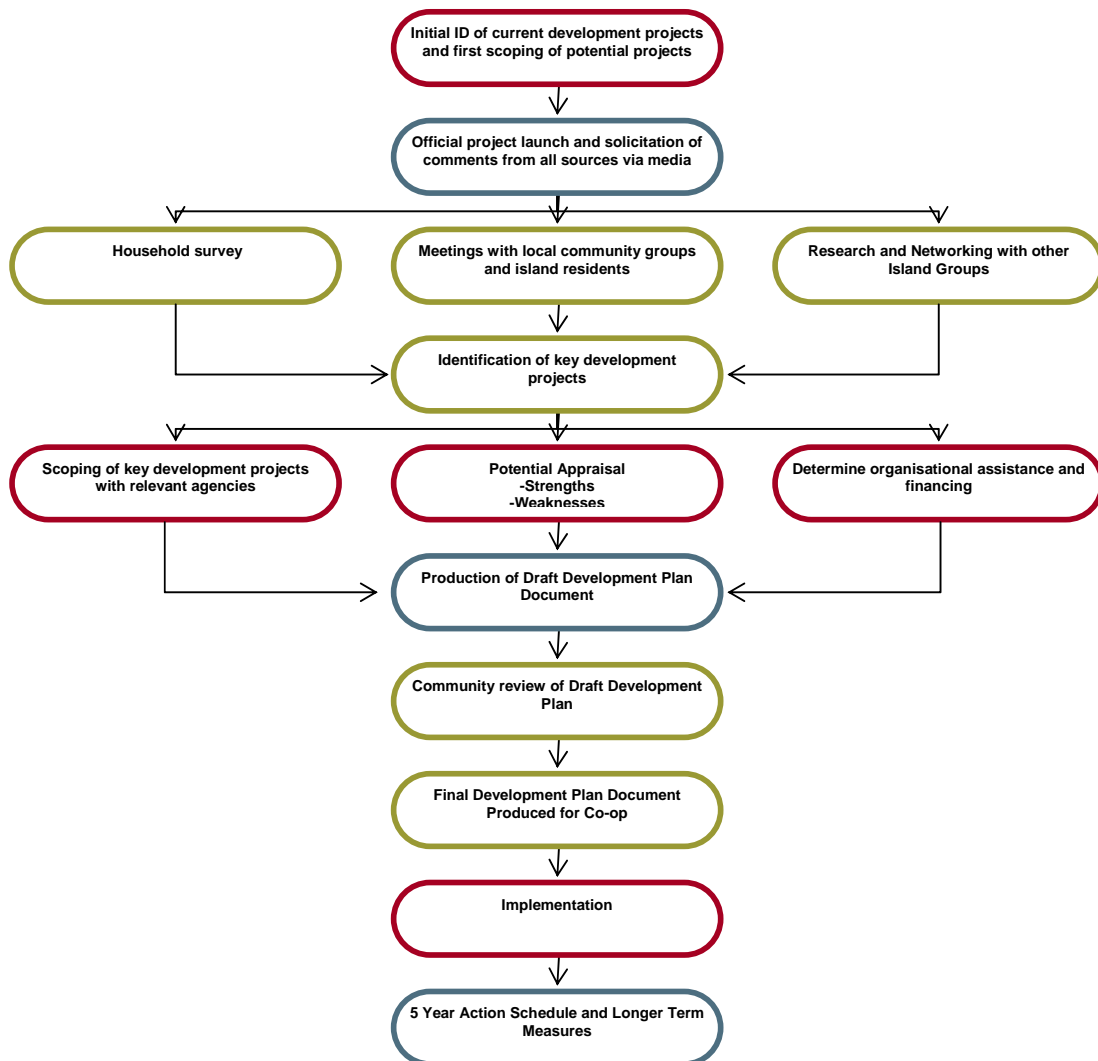
The Plan stresses that unless positive and co-ordinated action is taken at all levels Arranmore Island is facing into a future that looks much like its past. The island has a steadily declining population, a high unemployment rate, a high age dependency ratio, and a high level of reliance on social welfare and other means of state support.

This Development Plan offers the island community a road map to stabilise if not reverse these negative trends, but also gives an honest appraisal of the hard work that is ahead.

Methodology

The general methodology of the process by which this development plan was compiled is shown below.

Figure 1. Plan Process



As is apparent in the chart above, consultation and community input has been central to this development plan. With guidance from the Co-op, the community was consulted at the fact-finding stage via house-to-house surveys, local community groups, media contacts, and local bulletins. At all stages interested individuals were asked to contact the consultants with any queries. This is therefore the Islanders' Plan for the future of the community as a whole.

ISLAND AND COMMUNITY PROFILE

Island Facts

Below is a snapshot of the Island. Reference is made to the maps contained within this document including Map 1: Location Map, Map 2: Aerial view and Places of Interest, Map 3: Environmental Conservation Areas, Map 4: Townlands Map, and Map 5: House Survey Map.

Total Land Area:	18.1 sq. km, Ireland's second largest island
Coastline:	28km
Highest Point:	Cnoc an Iolar (227metres above sea level)
Distance from Mainland:	5 km
Access:	15-20 minute car/passenger ferry journey or a 5 minute journey on passenger only fast ferry. All departures from Ailt an Chorráin - Burtonport, Co. Donegal
Population:	522 in 2006, down 12.2% from 1991
Language:	Gaeilge, English
Townlands:	An Leadhb Gharbh – Leabgarrow Poll a'Mhadaigh – Poolawaddy Scraig a'tSeabhaic – Scraig Na Goirt Ghearra – Gortgarra Na Clocha Corra – Cloghcor Fál an Ghabhann – Fallagowan Baile an tSrátha – Ballintra Baile Ard – Ballard Uileann – Illion Plochóg – Plughoge Leadhb Reannagh – Leabrannagh Athphort – Aphort Na Tuarthaí - Torries

Community Profile

This section presents a profile of the Island community using official statistics obtained from Census and other sources. As discussed, the future of Arranmore depends so much on maintaining a permanent resident population on the Island. What is even more critical to the island's survival is that a young and vibrant population be sustained. As borne out in Census statistics for Arranmore since the last Island Plan in 1993 this has not been the case.

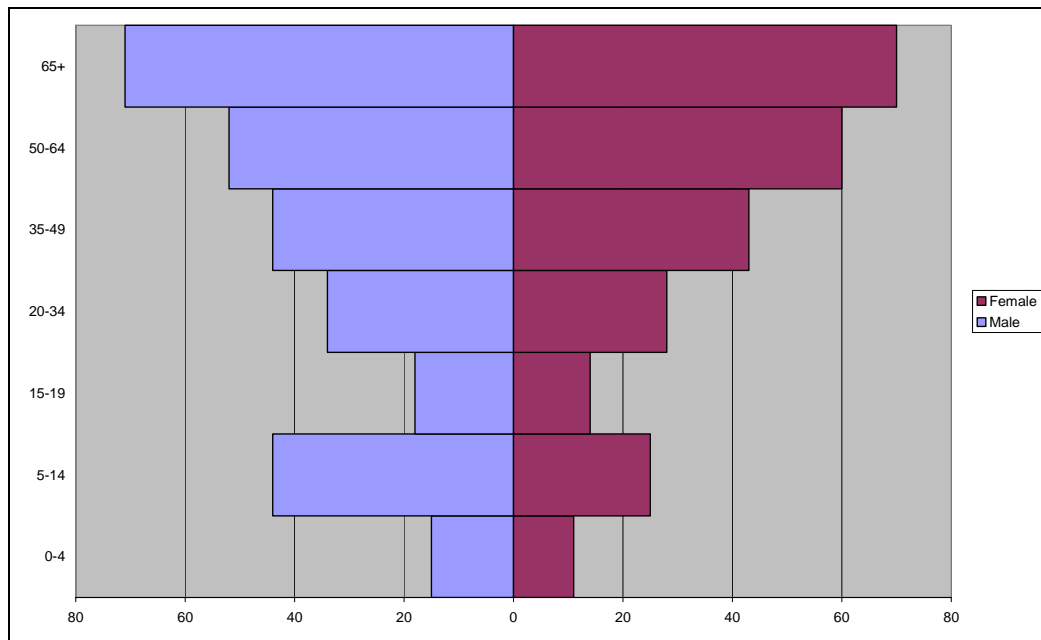
Population Profile

Arranmore's population profile consists of fewer young people and more people in the older age groups as shown in the age structure diagram below. This simple diagram communicates a lot about the island. Simply put, the island population is declining.

A healthy demographic profile would have a greater number of younger people than older people, just the opposite of that shown below for Arranmore. The gender breakdown is just about even for most age groups, but there are over 5 times as many people aged over 65 as there are infants.

In Arranmore it appears that once they are able, young people aged 15 – 19 are leaving the island for better education and work opportunities. While there are a good number of children of primary school age (5 – 14) it is predicted the next Census will reveal that those children will also have left the Island.

Figure 2. Demographic Profile Arranmore Island, 2006



Source: CSO, Small Area Population Statistics, 2006.

Age Dependency

What is more worrying is that while the population in total is decreasing on the Island, the percentage of people who are of a dependent age is increasing. The percentage of the total population aged fewer than 15 and over 65, and therefore relying on those able to work to support them, stood at 43% in both 1996 and 2002, but increased to 44.6% in the 2006 Census. This is compared with 35.2% for Donegal (the highest rate in the country) and 31.4% for the State as a whole in that same time period.

Education

Educational attainment is low in Arranmore with 57.3% of the population having primary education only. This is a shocking statistic when compared with 29.8% in Donegal and 18.9% nationally in 2006.

Social Class Composition

The changes in social class composition (the percentage of professionals and semi- and unskilled manual workers) mirror closely the levels of educational attainment in a community. Arranmore again scores low in comparison with the County and nationally in terms of social class composition and in fact has the lowest levels in social class composition in all of Donegal. Arranmore had 13.0% professional and 52.2% semi- and unskilled workers compared with 32.9% and 18.9% nationally, and 27.5% and 23.5% in Donegal.

Unemployment

Arranmore again ranks highest in Donegal, this time in unemployment. The Island has the highest male unemployment rate in Donegal at 56.4% and female unemployment rate at 26.2%. This is compared with 8.8% for males and 8.1% for females nationally and 14.4% and 10.8% respectively for County Donegal.

Relative Deprivation

The recently published Trutz Haase Social and Economic Consultants report on Deprivation in the Republic of Ireland is based on the 2006 Census of Population, providing an up to date analysis of the changes in deprivation that have occurred in each local area in the past 15 years. The Deprivation index is arrived at by analysing three measures of affluence/disadvantage: Demographic Profile, Social Class composition, and Labour Market Situation. The Trutz Haase report gives an absolute (a single fixed scale) and relative index score (measuring the relative position of each area at a specific point in time) for each Electoral District (ED). The relative index score is referenced here for Donegal and for Arranmore.

The national relative index score overall has changed very little since 1991 falling from 2.3 to 2.1 in 2006. Donegal's relative index score has also changed very little since 1991 which showed a -10.9 score whilst in 2006 it was -10.0.

According to this Index Donegal is classed as "disadvantaged". In fact, Donegal ranks the highest in the country in terms of ranking in these scores and its ranking has remain unchanged since 1991.

To compound matters, some of the country's most disadvantaged rural areas are situated in Donegal. Arranmore has the distinction of being among the most disadvantaged EDs in Ireland. **The Island has the added distinction of being classed the single "extremely disadvantaged" ED in all of Donegal with a relative deprivation score in 2006 of -58.3.**

Social Welfare Dependency

The numbers of Islanders in receipt of benefit further confirms these telling Census statistics for the Island. In total 284 people or 54% of the Island population was dependent on some sort of social welfare benefit in December 2006. The majority of these were in receipt of either the old age non-contributory pension or job seekers allowance¹. Detailed information is provided in the table below.

Table 1. Social Welfare Statistics

Scheme	No. of Recipients
Old age contributory pension	8
Old age non-contributory pension	92
Retirement pension	16
Widows contributory pension	9
Widows non-contributory pension	5
Invalidity pension	5
Deserted wives allowance	*
Lone parents (unmarried)	*
Occupational injuries benefit	*
Free fuel	6
Lone parents (separated)	*
Carers allowance	10
Blind persons pension	*
Disability allowance	25
One parent family payment	*
Job seekers allowance	80
Job seekers benefit	7
Job seekers credit	8
Total	284

* the number of recipients is below 5. Data suppressed in the interest of confidentiality.

Population Trends

Arranmore Island's population constitutes 18% of the total inhabited island population of Ireland and is the country's second most populated island. The table below shows that the population change of Arranmore Island and 28 other islands² combined showed a slight increase from 1991 to 1996 then steadily decreasing since then whereas County Donegal and Ireland as a whole has shown a healthy increase in the same period.

¹ Dept. of Social & Family Affairs, 08/12/06.

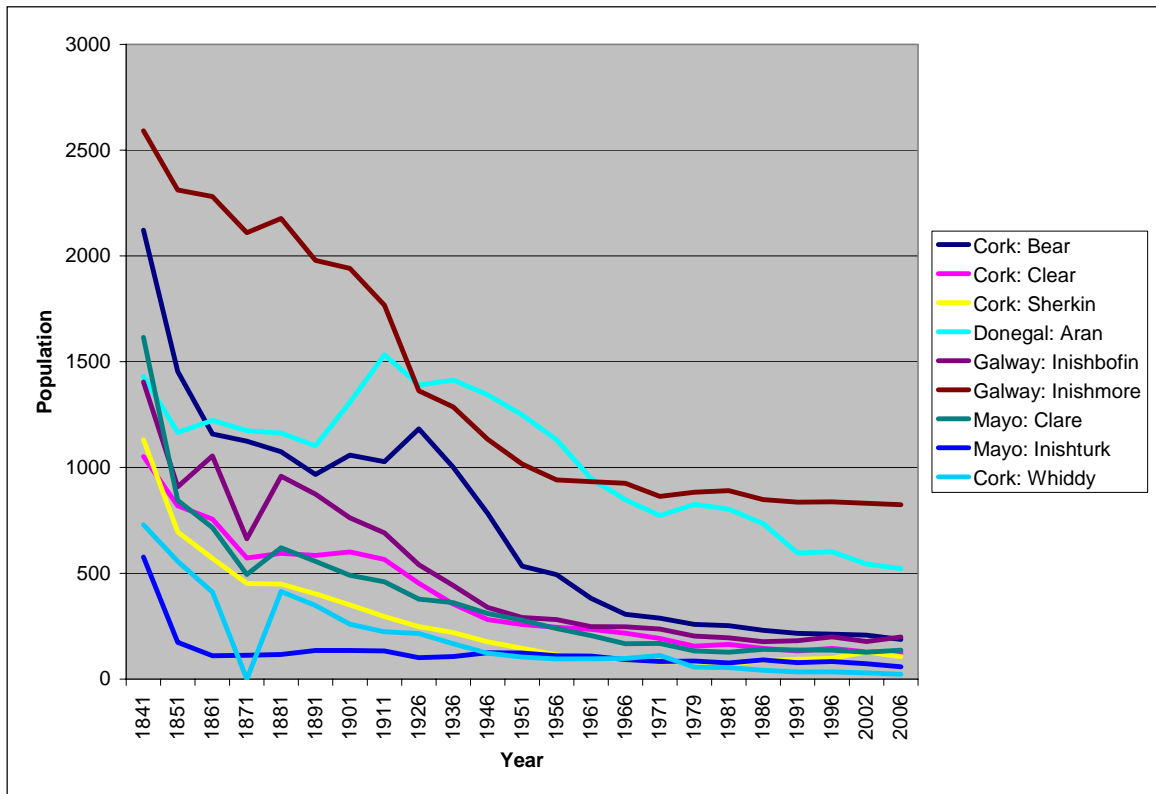
² These are the 28 other inhabited islands that are listed as members of Comhdháil Oileán na hÉireann (ref. <http://www.oileain.ie/>). They are as follows: Cork: Bear, Clear, Dursey, Inishodriscol or Hare, Long, Sherkin, Whiddy; Donegal: Gola, Inishbofin, Inishfree Upper, Inland Roy, Tory; Galway: Inishbofin, Inisheer, Inishmaan, Inishmore, Inishtravin; Mayo: Claire, Clynish, Inishbiggle, Inishcottle, Inishgort, Inishlyre, Inishkillew, Inishturk, Island More; Sligo: Dernish, Inishmulclohy (Coney Island).

Table 2. Population Figures 1841 – 2006: Arranmore, 28 Other inhabited islands, County Donegal and Ireland

Year	Arranmore	28 Other Inhabited Islands	County Donegal	Ireland
1841	1431	14504	296448	6528800
1851	1166	11153	255158	5111600
1861	1223	10265	237395	4402100
1871	1174	8645	218334	4053200
1881	1163	9518	206035	3870000
1891	1103	8911	185635	3468700
1901	1308	8589	173722	3221800
1911	1533	8120	168537	3139700
1926	1390	6968	152208	2972000
1936	1414	6286	142310	2968400
1946	1344	5396	136317	2955100
1951	1249	4690	131530	2960600
1956	1131	4372	122059	2898300
1961	948	4004	113842	2818300
1966	847	3662	108549	2884000
1971	773	3441	108344	2978200
1979	825	2934	121941	3638200
1981	803	2820	125112	3443400
1986	735	2590	129664	3540600
1991	596	2490	128117	3525700
1996	602	2552	129994	3626100
2002	543	2430	137575	3917200
2006	522	2348	147264	4239800

The chart below in Figure 3 displays population change from 1841 to the present day of Arranmore Island and the other 8 largest islands of the Republic of Ireland (i.e. those with populations of 500 or more in 1841 and include: Bear, Clear, Sherkin and Whiddy in Cork; Inishbofin and Inishmore in Galway; and Clare and Inishturk in Mayo).

Figure 3. Population Figures 1841 – 2006 Arranmore and eight of Ireland's largest islands



This is another simple chart that explains a lot about Arranmore Island's past, present and future.

Arranmore's population was the fourth largest of these nine largest islands in 1841. As seen in the chart all island populations have declined over this historical period. All islands except Arranmore have experienced a near steady decline from the mid 1960's to a levelling off to relatively stable populations in recent times.

Arranmore's population fluctuation since the mid 1960's has been more marked and shows a steady decrease. There was a healthy population increase in the late 70's and early 80's only to continue decline in more recent times.

As shown in the chart above Arranmore has maintained the second largest population of these 9 Irish islands since 1961 behind Inishmore.

Summary Arranmore Socio-Economic and Population Statistics

The following table summarises the statistics just discussed.

Table 3. Summary Socio-Economic Indicators

Indicator	Arranmore Island	Donegal	State
Age Dependency Ratio	44.6%	35.2%	31.4%
Educational Attainment – primary only	57.3%	29.8%	18.9%
Social Class Composition - Professional	13.0%	27.5%	32.9%
Social Class Composition - Semi – and unskilled	52.2%	23.5%	18.9%
Unemployment - male	56.4%	14.4%	8.8%
Unemployment - female	26.2%	10.8%	8.1%
Relative Deprivation	-58.3	-10.9	2.1
Rate of Population change 1991 - 2006	-12.4%	+14.9%	+20.3%

The Impact of Emigration on the Island

In his report on New Measures of Deprivation for the Republic of Ireland, 2006 Trutz Haase states that:

“Emigration is socially selective, being concentrated amongst core working-age cohorts and those with further education, leaving the communities concerned with a disproportionate concentration of economically-dependant individuals as well as those with lower levels of education. Sustained emigration leads to an erosion of the local labour force, a decreased attractiveness for commercial and industrial investment, and, ultimately, a decline in the availability of services.”

A decreasing population and declining age profile have been key factors in the abandonment of islands. As populations decline commercial and social services become less economical to run; shops and pubs close and services are cut back or transferred to the mainland. As a result emigration increases and community morale declines. The process of emigration and depopulation become self-reinforcing.

This is precisely the situation in Arranmore today. The primary aim of this Plan must be to steady, if not reverse this population decline.

The Geographical Imperative

Arranmore’s size, geographic location and accessibility must certainly be contributing to its status as the second largest island of Ireland in population terms.

Arranmore is Ireland’s second largest island in terms of land area, again behind Inishmore. Arranmore is only 5km distant from the Donegal mainland. The island is served by two ferry services. One is a conventional ferry that accommodates up to 128 foot passengers and all sizes of vehicles. This journey takes 15 - 20 minutes. The other is a fast ferry passenger only service that commenced in 2007. This can make the island in 5 minutes. Both services run daily all year.

The choices now open to Islanders and visitors alike with improved ferry access and timetables now make it possible for people to travel daily to and from the mainland. This should make the island more attractive as a place to live and visit and may help

reverse the population decline in future. However, improved access comes at a cost, and it is this additional cost that poses certain challenges for initiatives on the Island.

The added cost of transport to the Island means that goods and services are more expensive for the Island residents and visitors. It becomes more difficult for businesses and services to compete with those on the mainland especially with the rise in fuel costs that is only set to continue.

Another cost of improved access is somewhat less tangible but even more important. This is the impact on the culture and language of the Island. More frequent association with the mainland will inevitably lead to a dilution of island culture and threatens the community language of the Island. Unless it makes a special effort, over time, Arranmore Island could lose its uniqueness, appeal and attraction. In the long term this too could have negative economic consequences.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Comharchumann Oileán Árinn Mhóir Teo (COAMT)

The Island co-operative Comharchumann Oileán Árinn Mhóir Teo (COAMT) was founded in 1976 and is the main representative community and development body for the Island. The aims of the Comharchumann are to promote the economic, social and cultural development of the Island. COAMT is democratically run on a 'one man, one vote basis' and is owned by the members/shareholder and registered with the Industrial provident society as a co-operative. At the present time, 210 households have shares in the Comharchumann.

Developments in tourism, horticulture, fishing, services and the crafts industry are undertaken for the benefit of the entire community. The co-operative liaises with relevant authorities and can access agencies and funding directly. The co-operative is in receipt of an annual administrative grant from Údarás Na Gaeltachta. The Comharchumann employs circa 8 full-time staff, sub-contracted workers and a manager with development as well as management responsibilities. The Comharchumann manages and administers a holiday complex comprising 8 self-contained holiday units, It operates a hardware and builder's providers, it supplies vehicular fuel and supplies households with central heating fuel. The island's general road improvement and maintenance works programme is administered and conducted on behalf of Donegal County Council by the co-operative. The premises presently also contain recycling facilities for Donegal County Council on a temporary basis.

Some of the larger projects undertaken by the Comharchumann have been:

- Contractors for the Day Care Medical Centre
- Secured and administered the ferry service from 1983-86
- The building and management of an 8-house holiday village
- Canvassed & constructed council houses: 8 family & 4 senior citizens
- Facilities for fishermen e.g. piers and slipways
- Pitch and Putt golf course
- The building of a Heritage/Cultural Centre
- Securing grants for the development of mussel farming
- Initiating the previous island Development Plan
- Providing the premises for the supply of building materials
- Machinery pool

COAMT is representative of the island population. It has provided sub-contracting and construction services. With full time staffing and premises, the Co-operative has established capabilities for promoting broad based development in many areas with long experience of working with and support from a range of agencies and delivery of projects.

Another island-based organization involved in local development is Comharchumann Forbartha agus Fostaíochta (CFF), the Arranmore Development and Employment Co-operative. This has been resourced by social employment schemes and although presently not staffed has been approved for additional staff funding.

Progress since the 1993 Development Plan

The previous Island Development Plan was launched in 1993, 15 years ago. Since then many of the recommended projects and actions have been achieved.

Greater social, access and physical infrastructure are now in place on Arranmore. The improvement of the national economy has offered employment and educational opportunities in Ireland, particularly Letterkenny, Sligo and Dublin; that has deflected emigration out of the country. New technologies such as the World Wide Web, broadband and mobile phone networks offer instant communications. Some sectors particularly farming and fishing have experienced serious decline. Different issues such as waste, energy and sustainability have emerged.

Table 4 indicates each of the relevant projects and comments on progress.

Farming and Horticulture: 6 actions

There has been limited progress in this sector. Agriculture has continued to decline on Arranmore Island since the last agricultural census in 1980. In 1980 there were 263 farm holdings on the Island, 76% of which were less than 15 acres and 13% less than one acre in size. Only 2 holdings at that time were over 15 acres in size.

Sheep were the main livestock with 1,021 on the island in 1980. Cattle numbered 265 at that time. In 1980 the main crops grown were hay, potatoes, oats, kale/cabbage and turnips and some 1,018 acres were given over to rough grazing.

In the 1993 Island survey the number of sheep on the island had increased to 5,000 and the number of other livestock dwindled to one cow, with no evidence of tillage or crops other than domestic vegetable gardens. In the 2000 agricultural census the number of holdings has declined to 40 (all specialist sheep enterprises). By 2000 the number of sheep had declined to 1,220.

Organic polytunnels by private promoters for organic horticulture production have been approved in 2007 for funding. Free range egg production, strawberry runners, commercial tree production, pilot biomass energy through fast growing trees have not yet progressed although the Co-op did set up a machinery bank.

Mariculture: 4 actions

Offshore mussels mariculture was initiated but storms destroyed the installations and the project was abandoned. No on-shore aquaculture targets were provided for crustaceans or halibut production.

Infrastructure: 6 actions

The island ring road has been completed. Public lighting has been extended but can be improved. The Leabgarrow sea wall has been constructed. A helicopter pad is now in place. The Comharchumann manages and repairs roads by contract to Donegal County Council. A new lifeboat station and slipway has been completed and construction on a new pier at Rannagh should start shortly.

Training and Education: 3 actions

Continual training and education has been provided on the Island although not in a consistent manner. The new enterprise centre contains useful equipment for classes. I.T. workers were trained for an I.T. enterprise that has since discontinued, although several people are carrying on such work from home. Ongoing training, up scaling and education would be necessary such as a micro enterprise programme and the development of conference sessions for small businesses to encourage greater entrepreneurship and innovation.

Tourism: 10 actions

An 8-unit holiday village (Baile Saoire) was constructed in 1995 and has proved a major tourism asset for the island. The Comharchumann manage this under a separate entity. The pitch and putt course is operational but not the tennis courts. The Irish language colleges are still operational but language-learning holidays on the Island remain undeveloped. Mooring points have been provided for visiting yachts. Lake and sea angling could be further developed. The craft shop near the main Ferry Pier is not presently open as a tourism centre. A heritage cottage and byre house was provided at Cloghcor but suffered storm damage to thatch and remains closed.

Very few older houses have been restored into holiday home accommodation, although restored accommodation near the lighthouse operates as holiday units. There is no blue flag beach for either of the two main beaches. The walking route is signposted and mapped. A cultural centre has been provided near the holiday village. This could facilitate tourism and interpretation. A new hotel has opened and the hostel has been renovated and extended. Plans are advanced for the development of a promenade at Leabgarrow. A bird watching facility has been approved for financial assistance but there are commonage issues. A study was prepared for the provision of a lighthouse interpretation centre that could be located in the derelict coastguard buildings near the lighthouse.

Cultural and Community: 6 actions

Island folklore has been documented into two publications with the assistance of social employment schemes. Promotional DVDs and websites have also been provided.

An Irish language development plan has been proposed. A children's playground has been approved for funding. The older community hall is currently ongoing renovation and a new sports facility is proposed at the secondary school for community use.

Environment: 5 actions

Waste disposal and dumping have become major issues on the Island. These are now being addressed and basic recycling facilities are in place. The Island participates in the Tidy Towns competition although it has scored low in the past.

Services and Industry: 5 actions

An enterprise centre has been provided although most of the space is currently unused. There is one seasonal café open near the car ferry pier and the two hotels provide food. An ATM facility is to be provided in the post office. The Island bakery has not been reinstated nor is there a chemist service.

General Actions: 3 actions

Comharchumann management staff have development worker roles. A second co-operative was established but is presently not staffed. The vehicular ferry service is subsidised but ferry costs are still prohibitive for islanders and increased subsidies should be provided. The passenger ferry service is not subsidised. The Donegal County Development Plan 2006-2012 now has policy statements recognising the special difficulties of Donegal off-shore Islands with respect to access, communications and economic development. The Council intends to prepare an "Islands Strategy" to set out in detail specific policies and programmes for development of islands but this has not been prepared as yet. A County Council committee of councillors and officials has been established and meets on island issues.

Inter-island actions/Projects recommended: 3 actions

The development of the World Wide Web and commonplace electronic communications via e-mail and websites; and recent provision of broadband on the island ensure an up to date communications. This has greatly benefited communications for islanders, COAMT and the islands federation, Comhdháil Oileán na hÉireann.

EC Presumed General Policies for Island Development: 4 actions

The islands are now in receipt of greater public financial assistance than ever before. This is administered largely through the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (DCRGA).

The islands representative federation - Comhdháil Oileán na hÉireann was re-established in 1993 and opened offices in 1995. This organisation tackles main issues affecting Ireland's islands. Comhdháil has offices in Inish Oírr. The organisation has 33 member islands, 11 of which are major islands (e.g. Árainn Mhóir and Toraigh in Donegal) and representation from small islands in Donegal, Mayo and Cork. Islands with non-permanent residents are associate members. The goal of Comhdháil, as with government and EU policy, is to sustain permanent populations on the islands. In a European context, Ireland has relatively small populations on its islands. Ireland is unique in that they have Comhdháil with a direct line to government at the top level of civil service.

Comhdháil also administer the island LEADER programme with funding under 7 different programmes. Comhdháil is a member of the European Small Islands Network and have participated in INTERREG III exchange programmes to share information and spread innovation in areas such as agriculture, education, energy, marine related developments, and public services.

“A Strategic Framework for Development of the Offshore Islands of Ireland was published in 1996 by the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. There are no special national policies on structural transport subventions, reduced or zero Value Added Tax neither is there a formal state development system for island plans.

The table following summarises progress on the various projects/actions outlined in the 1993 Plan.

Table 4. Progress on 1993 Development Plan Projects/Actions

Theme and Project/Actions	Progress
<i>Farming/Horticulture</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free range egg production • Strawberry runners production • Small organic vegetable production • Commercial tree production • Establishment of pilot scheme for biomass energy • Investigation of machinery bank and allied services 	Many of these measures not proceeded with. Agriculture is in decline on the Island. Small units of organic horticulture production have been initiated.
<i>Mariculture</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small oyster cultivation • Study of sites for shellfish culture • Feasibility of on-shore tanks for crustaceans/halibut • Environmental dredge for indigenous shellfish species 	Mussel cultivation started but destroyed by storms and abandoned. On-shore developments for crustaceans/halibut and shellfish have not proceeded.
<i>Infrastructure</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an environmentally sensitive ring-road and upgrade current road network • Provide adequate public lighting • Construct sea walls • Provide a helicopter service for emergency use • COAMT to manage and maintain roads • ESB to provide 3-phase electricity 	<p>Achieved</p> <p>Extended but more lighting required</p> <p>Achieved at Leabgharrow Helicopter pad provided</p> <p>COAMT is contracted by County Council to maintain roads.</p> <p>Three Phase power now on Island</p>
<i>Training and Education</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide education and training in a variety of trades and skills • Develop craft and co-operative marketing • Develop business and management training for tourism 	Training ongoing but more required, especially in the areas of craft and marketing, business and management.

Tourism	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a holiday village with recreational activities • Develop the Gaelic language in education and tourism • Develop leisure water sports • Provide a tourist information centre and craft shop • Renovate derelict buildings and cottages • Achieve a blue flag beach status • Develop the general amenities • Establish a co-operative for tourism promotion and projects 	<p>Baile Saoire built in 1995 with pitch and putt and soon to open playground. Language learning holidays remain undeveloped and Gaelic language in education still required.</p> <p>Dive centre now proposed Tourist information/craft centre requires reopening</p> <p>Many still derelict.</p> <p>Not achieved</p> <p>Many developed</p> <p>Baile Saoire is run by a separate entity of COAMT. A vehicle for further community enterprises.</p>
Cultural and Community	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a campaign to strengthen and increase use of the Irish language • Compile a folklore of Island through oral and written records • Conduct an Archaeological and Historical survey of Island • Organise community events and expand Island information • Develop culturally based entertainment • Provide a play area for children • Provide a library service 	<p>Still required</p> <p>Achieved</p> <p>Not done</p> <p>Required</p> <p>Insufficient</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Library service offered at Community Centre except in summer months.</p>
Environment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy action initiative (with FÁS) • Form an environmental group and devise initiatives • Partake in the Tidy-Towns competition • Provide a recycling service • Regularise and improve the refuse service 	<p>Local environment has been improved since participation in the Islands Tidy Towns competitions</p> <p>Basic recycling facilities are provided. Refuse collection services, including special wastes such as demolition debris, white goods, and cars are still to be tackled effectively. Dumping is still an issue.</p>
Services and Industry	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an advance factory/enterprise units • Provide general services such as an ATM, chemist and specialised shops 	<p>Achieved</p> <p>ATM to be provided in Post Office</p>

General Actions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appoint an island development worker • Subsidise travel costs to and from the island • Create a policy in the County Development Plan to consider Island needs 	<p>Since 2003, Assistant Manager appointed with development role, Manager position also has this role</p> <p>Insufficient subsidies. New passenger ferry and extended service.</p> <p>A County Islands Strategy is in preparation and regular contact with Council has raised profile of island's needs</p>
Inter Island Actions/Projects Recommended	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish an island communication network with full-time staff • Establish a distance learning programme • Create an association of ferry boat operators 	<p>Comhdháil na Oileán established and staffed</p> <p>Usurped by new technologies</p> <p>Not achieved</p>
EC Presumed General Policies for Island Development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation assistance • Reduced/zero Vat duty for Islands • Business development initiatives • Prepare island development plans and collect statistics 	<p>Some subsidies but insufficient</p> <p>Not done</p> <p>Achieved in part</p> <p>Data gathering carried out by Comhdháil</p>

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Core Concerns

The recognition of the core concerns of Arranmore residents defines the direction of the development strategy for the Island. These are described below.

Irish Language

The language is under threat. The issue with Irish not being the main medium of teaching in the secondary school has been of grave concern to many Islanders.

Community Sustainability & Self-Reliance

Although there are high levels of relative deprivation and dependency, the Island has a strong community spirit, and a good record of sustainability and self reliance. Much has been achieved as documented over the past 30 years by the Islanders through their Comharchumann. Community, health and educational facilities are in place with much needed facilities including the respite centre and Indoor Sports Centre further proposed. Many Islanders engage in full-time work on the mainland and abroad. The Island must sustain its permanent population to survive.

Economy

Employment is needed on the Island. The traditional economic activities of fishing and particularly Island agriculture are in decline, as well as the near demise of traditional crafts such as home knitting. Key problems on the island with regard to employment opportunities are the following:

- Higher transportation costs due to lack of access to mainland
- Limited hours for vehicular access to the mainland
- Poor access to information on markets which could be targeted
- Higher costs of living
- Higher environmental protection costs

The development plan will target these main issues in order to provide more employment opportunities for those living and working on the island. Attending to these issues would have a dramatic knock-on effect in targeting the economic issues of the Island. The improvement of employment opportunities will in turn generate wealth and expenditure on the island.

Possible economic and employment opportunities on the island include the services sector and micro enterprise, tourism, renewable energy and diversification in fishing and food production. Development of these sectors to their full potential could have a remarkably positive effect on the Island.

Tourism

Tourism has always been an important source of income for Arranmore and has the potential to produce further income and employment. Many households provide accommodation, which is important supplementary income. Accommodation providers, services and the local bars particularly depend to a great deal on tourists and visitors. There is a range of existing tourism accommodation, some in need of upgrading, and a need for more and innovative tourism activities.

Environment

The Island forms part of the west Donegal archipelago. This is a high quality land and seascape with hill and upland moor containing several lakes leading to precipitous cliffs. There are more sheltered small fields and pasture on the side facing the mainland. There are dramatic views of the Donegal coast, uplands and nearby Islands and on the western island side the expanse of the Atlantic Ocean. European environmental designations apply to the western fringes of the Island and to the seaward areas to the east between the Island and the mainland. The Islanders are proud of the physical beauty and setting of their Island and the surrounding sea.

The sea has been a source of livelihood for many on the Island for centuries. This tradition has led to the establishment of the Arranmore Lifeboat station and to renewed marine based activities such as the recently formed rowing club.

Dumping and litter are damaging the Island's environmental assets. Waste management is the most important current issue with Islanders. Adverse reports in the media give the Island a negative image with real financial impacts on tourism and service economy.

Access

Regular and affordable access to the Island is of paramount importance. There is now better physical access and two ferries with presently extended hours of service. Transport costs are burdensome on Islanders and increasing fuel costs will increase this.

Assets and Issues/Challenges and Potential

The broad strengths and assets, weaknesses and issues, threats and challenges as well as potential and opportunities are now summarised.

Table 5. SWOT Analysis Presentation

Strengths & Assets	Weaknesses & Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beautiful natural environment • Physical and community infrastructure well in place • Improved access by ferries • Strong community development and representation • Many positive achievements by COAMT since 1993 • Ireland's second largest island in land area and population • An Island diaspora with strong connections to home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declining population • Scores very poorly in every main socio-economic indicator when compared to Donegal and nationally • Severe decline in fishing and farming with loss of skills and cultural changes • Decline in use of Irish language and wide impacts on Island culture • Lack of entrepreneurship and employment opportunities
Threats & Challenges	Opportunities & Potential
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in waste and inability to manage properly • Decline in Irish language • Rising cost of fuel • Economic restructuring in the regional, national and global economy • Lack of new employment opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism packages combining Irish language learning and activities with natural heritage, history and environment themes. • Language and cultural development • Renewable energies with income potential for community benefit • Properties in the ownership and control of COAMT can be developed for enterprises • New enterprises and enterprise diversification from traditional fishing and farming • Building better tourism products. • Focused training and re-training • Indoor multi-purpose facility at secondary school

Strategic Themes

There are nine complimentary strategic development themes identified for the integrated strategic plan. Each theme is introduced by setting out concisely the challenges facing the Island community.

After stating the challenges, then follows a discussion of the facts under each theme citing findings from the companion 2006 household socio-economic survey, research undertaken and consultation responses.

The themes in order of priority are:

- Irish Language & Culture
- Community Development
- Employment
- Sustainability & Renewable Energy
- Tourism
- Farming & Fishing
- Access & Communication
- Waste
- Housing

The final summary Table 10 lists the goals, objectives and actions under each development theme.

THEME 1: IRISH LANGUAGE & CULTURE

The Challenge

To strengthen and promote the use of Irish on the Island

The Facts

Arranmore Island has special status as a Gaeltacht Island, designated because as Gaeilge is recognised as the daily language of the community. This is a vital designation for the Island. Many benefits come to individuals in the form of grants for vital services such as housing, employment training, language education, etc. and the Island as a whole for business development, tourism development, and community development because of this special status.

In its Strategic Development Plan 2005 – 2010, Údarás na Gaeltachta notes the fragile state of Gaeilge in the Gaeltacht due to a variety of forces at play in society and provision of services by government through English. The Plan notes the major fall-off in the numbers of parents using Irish in the household and in the use of Irish among young people in the Gaeltacht. One of the main elements of the Údarás na Gaeltachta strategic development strategy is to revitalise the Irish language as the community language through supporting native speakers, focusing on parents; supporting social networks that promoting Irish as the community language; to supporting new Irish speakers; and promoting Irish in areas where usage is declining or where Irish has a low profile.

The 2006 household socio-economic survey conducted as part of this Plan revealed that 149 no. individual respondents (55% of respondents) claim fluency in the Irish Language, whilst 13% claim to have no Irish, and 21% having average Irish. In contrast, in 1992 86% percent of respondents to a similar survey claimed fluency. This is a significant decline in the fluency of Irish speakers on Arranmore.

More detail on the causes of decline of Irish in Gaeltacht areas is provided in a research report prepared for the Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs.^{3 4} This report cites the impact of social dynamic and demographic factors on Gaeltacht areas including the influence of nearby urban areas, in-migration, tourism, and development of holiday homes.

This report highlights the most influential factor being the influx of English speakers to the Gaeltacht who are young parents. The researchers highlight that this has great implications for the future of the Irish language in the Gaeltacht.

The analysis carried out by the researchers suggests that the proportion of active, integrated Irish speakers needs to be maintained above 67% for the use of Irish in a community to be sustainable. The report suggests a re-categorisation of statutory Gaeltacht areas based on this threshold factor. The report also makes wide ranging recommendations for changes to legislation and government policy in the areas of education, grants, youth services, family support services, business sector, etc.

³ Comprehensive Linguistic Study of the Use of Irish in the Gaeltacht: Principal Findings and Recommendations, NUI Gaillimh, Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge and NUI Maynooth, National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis, 2007.

⁴ Coimisiún na Gaeltachta - Tuarascáil 2002

Based on statistical analysis (2002 Census), the research determined that Arranmore Island has 62.8% Irish speakers (Category B), and is considered to be an area where Irish is a community language to a certain degree, but is spoken primarily by older persons, persons in certain social networks or by certain institutions. Further research was conducted around the use of Irish in the home setting, in education, and among young people.

The government's recent emphasis on language planning has arisen from this important research report. For Category B areas like Arranmore Island the report recommends that seven year language plans be drawn up focusing on: language planning, education planning, family support services, youth services, community development, planning to enhance the use of Irish in business and community organisations, development of cultural/educational tourism, and religious services.

The Irish language is the predominant language spoken in the townlands of Aphort and Torries. In recent years, graded Irish language courses have been funded by Údarás na Gaeltachta. The courses are organized and administered by the co-operative. There has recently been much wrangling over the issue of teaching being through the medium of English only at the secondary school.

There are many actions the Arranmore Island community can take to further these objectives and clearly there would be support among Islanders for many such initiatives. For example, the household socio-economic survey of the Island found that there is a strong desire among Islanders (75% of respondents) to send children to a secondary school operating through the medium of Irish; and the vast majority (95%) of respondents would like the children of the community to have opportunities to improve their Irish outside of school.

If the language were to decline there would be a threat of loss of Gaeltacht status. This would have major implications for development of the Island as much of the public funding for the Island is because of the special Gaeltacht status that it enjoys. The language is the cornerstone of the island culture and islands are seen as national repository of our culture.

The language can also be promoted using the 1% for Arts Scheme administered by Roinn in the Gaeltacht. The Co-operative has sent businesses application forms for assistance with Gaeilge signage but there has been little take up to date. Foras na Gaeilge will fund signage in Gaeilge only.

Recommended Objective and Actions

Objective 1.1: Continue to Strengthen and Promote the Irish Language

- Approval and implementation of Irish Language development plan for the Island community
- Promote the drawing up of Irish language plans and policies by Island businesses and community and voluntary groups
- Employ a language development officer
- Promote language equality in the Secondary school

- Increase the use of the Irish language by offering regular programmes of courses and social events for all ages and abilities.
- Erect more bilingual signage on the Island for business premises, directional, interpretation, townlands, roads, walking routes, etc.
- Carry out a public arts project reflecting the language and complementary cultural/historic event

THEME 2: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & FACILITIES

The Challenge

To engender community development and enhance current community services and facilities on the Island and to identify improvements

The Facts

There are many community committees active on the Island. Most of these come under the umbrella of and are sponsored by the Co-op. There are various community facilities including the community hall (currently undergoing renovation), the Health Centre, and the Craft Shop at Leabgarrow which is occasionally used by the local community, and the cultural building at the Baile Saoire.

Links have been made with other island groups and with some outside the state in Rathlin and Scotland. The new EU INTERREG IV Programme has a strong trans-national element with N. Ireland and western Scotland as administered for the county by Donegal County Council and could provide funding for fact finding visits and mutual projects.

The development of the island is led by COAMT. The implementation of this Plan will require a lot of commitment from the Manager.

Fifty-five percent of responding households stated that they would like to see a full-time Garda on Arranmore and 39% stated no. 122 no. respondents made comments on the reason(s) for their answer. Many respondents who did not see the need for a full-time Garda on Arranmore would like to have one in the summer season and at weekends. Other results from the survey summarised in the table below indicate that there is a lack of social events and services for all age groups on the island.

Table 6. Rating of Social Facilities for Age Groups

	good	reasonable	poor	no opinion
Children up to 12	15 (7.0%)	25 (11.4%)	146 (66.0%)	17 (7.8%)
Young people age 13-18	5 (2.3%)	14 (6.4%)	157 (73.0%)	15 (9.8%)
People 18-25	6 (2.8%)	28 (12.8%)	137 (64.0%)	20 (9.1%)
People 26-60	9 (4.2%)	40 (18.3%)	118 (55.0%)	22 (10.0%)
People over 60	45 (20.9%)	61 (27.9%)	73 (34.2%)	24 (11.0%)

The survey indicated a need and demand for more organised activities, and a proper community building with provision of an indoor sports and recreation facility. A childrens' playground and all weather pitch is also needed; and ideally a swimming pool.

Recommended Objectives and Actions

Objective 2.1: Strengthen Community Development

- Organise sporting and recreation activities for all ages
- Adopt an integrated approach to provision and promotion of activities
- Maximise use of existing community facilities on the Island (schools, Heritage Centre, Craft Centre) as venues for courses, workshops, events.
- Increase communication among groups and all-Island promotion of events and offerings
- Increase frequency of publication of Community Newsletter
- Organise an all Island Community Alert group
- Continue with seasonal/part-time Garda presence on island (as commenced in 2007)
- Continue links with other Islands including Rathlin and those in Scotland and investigate trans-national INTERREG IV funding

Objective 2.2: Provide more Community Facilities

- Facilitate provision of “multi-use/multi-purpose” building with indoor sports and recreation, fitness suite, and gymnasium for all ages at the Secondary school/VEC site
- Facilitate provision of an all weather playing pitch with floodlighting either at the Baile Saoire COAMT lands or close to the football field
- Consider provision of a heated swimming pool using renewable wind or wave energy in the long term

THEME 3: EMPLOYMENT

The Challenge

To encourage and widen the employment and training opportunities on Arranmore.

The Facts

It is a stark fact that Arranmore has the highest level of unemployment in Donegal. The Island has the highest male unemployment rate in Donegal at 56.4% and female unemployment rate at 26.2%. This is compared with 8.8% for males and 8.1% for females nationally and 14.4% and 10.8% respectively for County Donegal.

These are official statistics, more detail of which was obtained in the 2006 Island household socio-economic survey. From responses received almost a quarter (23%) of respondents classified themselves as unemployed. The tables below indicate the types of employment and the location of their employment or study of those Islanders who were then employed or in full-time education or training.

Table 7. Main Occupation

Occupation	Number	% of Respondents
Agriculture/forestry	4	8.5
Fishing	5	10.6
Construction	5	10.6
Mining/quarrying/turf production	0	0.0
Manufacturing	0	0.0
Transport/communications	2	4.3
Wholesale and retail trade	3	6.4
Banking/real estate/financial services	2	4.3
Public administration/defence	4	8.5
Education/health/social work	11	23.4
Hotels/restaurants	5	10.6
Community/social/personal services	6	12.8

Table 8. Place of Work or Study

Place of Work or Study	Number	% of Respondents
At home	37	41.6
Elsewhere on the island	31	34.8
Off the island but within 10 miles	2	2.2
Off this island within 11 to 30 miles	0	0
Off the island over 31 miles	19	21.3

In the household socio economic survey those seeking work were asked which were their preferred sectors to work in on the Island. The results shown below give a clear indication of the sectors that can be developed or improved on the Island.

Table 9. Preferred sector of those seeking work

Preferred sector	Number	% of respondents
Agriculture/forestry	4	2.7
Fishing	11	7.4
Construction	13	8.8
Mining/quarrying/turf production	1	0.7
Manufacturing	2	1.4
Transport/communications	0	0.0
Electricity/gas/water supply	0	0.0
Wholesale/retail trade	2	1.4
Banking/real estate/financial services	3	2.0
Public administration/defence	2	1.4
Education/health/social work	11	7.4
Hotels/restaurant	10	6.8
Community/social/personal services	6	4.1

The household survey also revealed a demand for training in a range of economic sectors including business training, IT, alternative farming. FÁS schemes are currently provided on the Island but micro-enterprise programmes are needed to encourage new business start ups. There is also a general need to stimulate initiative for new business start ups. The new enterprise centre contains useful equipment for teaching and can be used as a training centre.

A conference on the Island inviting identified possible businesses and entrepreneurs suitable for an island location would be one worthwhile initiative.

The 2006 Island Household Socio-economic Survey revealed that there is a definite desire for Islanders to return. This is also strongly evident in the numbers of people who have come back to Arranmore to live in recent times. A different perspective on entrepreneurship is really needed on the Island. This can only come from time served elsewhere. Areas such as tourism and other services would really benefit from the energy and enthusiasm that newly returned emigrants can bring.

There may be an opportunity to work with the Donegal County Council's Diaspora programme on a campaign during holiday times to attract returning emigrants or those thinking of returning home to Arranmore.

There is also a growing professional demand for translation services; particularly since the Irish language is now one of the official EU languages. Certification for those interested would be necessary. This is a worthwhile enterprise opportunity to pursue. Such a translation business exists on Cape Clear Island.

New initiatives, diversification and support for entrepreneurship will assist in creating new employment.

Recommended Objectives and Actions

Objective 3.1: Training, promotion and diversification for employment opportunities

- Conduct training needs analysis for island economy to identify skills sets that are needed for local enterprise development
- Organise a business development conference to promote entrepreneurship and inward investment on the Island
- Target business development initiatives to Islanders now living elsewhere in Ireland and abroad to encourage them to return
- Offer training in required skills such as business and information technology, renewable energy technologies, energy efficiency

Objective 3.2: Establish a commercial translation service

- Investigate the potential for developing a translation service including certifications required

THEME 4: SUSTAINABILITY & RENEWABLE ENERGY

The Challenge

To develop sustainable and renewable forms of energy on Arranmore Island.

The Facts

The major source of heating for properties is oil imported from the mainland with some turf burning. The annual ESB power cost on the Island is estimated at just over 1 million euros annually. There has been a very limited uptake of sustainable energy production at a domestic level for Island houses. Only one dwelling has geothermal heating and one has a domestic wind turbine installed⁵.

Findings of the 2006 Household Socio-economic survey reveal that the main energy saving features in Island homes are double glazing and loft insulation, followed by lagged hot water tank and cavity wall insulation. These standard energy saving features are present in over two-thirds of all dwellings; compared to only one-third of all houses in 1992, while only 11% of houses had double glazing then.

Demonstration renewable energy projects such as solar thermal and solar electricity/photovoltaic (PV) could be carried out such as in the Baile Saoire, where energy costs are prohibitive due to the electric heaters; or in using the vacant Byre House building. Other buildings, whether proposed or being renovated, should incorporate renewable technologies and, as important, energy efficiency and conservation features to achieve the now national higher Building Energy Ratings (BERs).

Initiatives for encouraging renewable energy sources on islands have been promoted by the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Comhhdháil and by EU initiatives administered by bodies such as ManagEnergy and ISLENET and under funding programmes such as the ALTENER II Programme with opportunities under the INTEREG IV. Transnational visits have been organized to the western Scottish and Danish isles and an information seminar was held on the Island in 2007. Other islands have had renewables including demonstration solar panel and wood burners in properties in Inis Óirr and the installation of wind turbines partly to power a desalination plant in Inish Meáin. Elephant grass for biomass power is being investigated in Bere Island.

There could be potential for biomass growing of willows and perhaps grasses on the now extensive fallow lands on the eastern lands of the Island. This could fuel on Island wood boilers, particularly for non-domestic properties.⁶ Hydropower could be considered on streams from the lakes although there would be fisheries concerns.

Commercial wind energy would presently be the most efficient and economically viable of renewables. Arranmore has high wind speeds and the proposed upgrade of power line transmission routes along the western seaboard of County Donegal will allow for an increase to 110kV capacity that will allow for potential renewable energy

⁵ The wind turbine was verified by observation and not by survey response.

⁶ Wood Energy From Farm Forests, Teagasc 2007; A Basic Information Guide to the Non-Food use of Land in NW Ireland, Donegal County Development Board Agricultural Sectoral Forum (undated)

connection. This is therefore an optimum time to develop renewable energy facilities on the Island.

Two wind energy companies have made enquiries to the Co-op and the consultants during the plan. One has stated that it would seek to develop a wind energy project in partnership with the local community. These could generate power for consumption on the island at wholesale prices and for export to the mainland grid.

The westerly uplands of the island would provide the best wind speeds, are distant from dwellings, and largely outside the cliff margin SAC and NHA designations, with no overt planning constraints. However almost all of these lands are in commonage with over 200 commonage holders and obtaining consent from all would be very difficult. This commonage issue is a major constraint to wind energy development in the Island uplands. Birds could also be another constraint.

The mainland side of the island would have lands not in commonage but proximity to dwellings could be a constraint. The existing electricity cable connection to the Island at 10kV would also constrain power generation capacity unless the energy project was of sufficient scale to permit economic provision of higher capacity transmission cables.

The 2006 Island Household Socio-economic Survey in fact found that a majority (82%) of respondents would support a wind farm on the island to provide communal electricity.

A foreshore license is currently being applied for a wave energy turbine pilot off the Arranmore coast by Shanahan Engineering. The provision of wind energy on the Island would complement this wave energy generation project whereby an on shore power transformer station could be located on Arranmore and the existing mainland cable upgraded.

Community models of wind energy participation have been provided by The western Development Commission⁷ and there are good practice examples in several Scottish Islands. These can generate substantial revenues to local communities. They could also help provide power for an Island swimming pool for example.

Recommended Objectives and Actions

Objective 4.1 Attain a commercial renewable energy source on the Island that will benefit the Island community

- Commission a Wind Energy Feasibility Study for the Island that will:
 - Identify potential sites for a commercial wind farm
 - Propose a solution for the use of commonage land to site a wind farm
 - Examine load data, grid and inter-connector capacity
 - Apply for planning permission for wind turbines and wind measurement mast for the selected site Initiate negotiations with purchasers of electricity
 - Quantify the revenue benefits to the Islanders
 - Provide a detailed cost estimate for developing a project

⁷ The Potential for Community Ownership of Wind farms in Ireland, Western Development Commission, 2004

- Investigate Community partnership with commercial wind energy company based on models promoted by Western Development Commission and implemented by the Scottish islands of Eigg and Ghia; and Danish islands.

Objective 4.2: Provide and encourage renewable and sustainable technologies for existing and new buildings

- Identify a pilot or demonstration project for renewable energy and energy efficiency features
- Incorporate renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency in selected Island buildings

Objective 4.3: Exploitation of Biomass

- Encourage and provide know how for growing biomass fuels on redundant farming lands on the Island

THEME 5: TOURISM

The Challenge

To recognise and develop potential tourism areas and opportunities on Arranmore Island.

The Facts

Island tourism in Ireland is promoted as a unique product.⁸ Tourism is a mainstay of the Island economy. While the new passenger ferry is an excellent improvement to accessibility of the Island, it is important to have facilities and offerings to a good standard to encourage people to stay longer thus increasing spend on the Island. Rural and especially island destinations have to work harder to compete in the international tourism market which has seen an increase in travel to cities with cheap flight and hotel deals and more short breaks.

In order to achieve its potential as a holiday destination, Arranmore Island must capitalise on the features that make it unique. The Island is blessed with natural resources that make it a perfect holiday destination for activities such as walking, bird watching, swimming, whale watching, diving, lake and sea angling.

Although there are two local boats providing sea-angling services, sea angling could be better developed and promoted. The rich waters around the island provide numerous Cod, Ling, Conger eel, Pollock, Wrasse, Skate, Turbot and Plaice.

Fresh water lake angling can be provided at the Island lakes. These need restocking and creation of walking paths around the lakes would be welcome. There are two freshwater lakes that contain Brown trout and one, Lough Shore, is the only lake in Europe where Rainbow trout breed naturally.

The Island's people, its heritage, history and culture and use of the Irish language similarly are aspects that can be developed. Teaching traditional crafts can also be a source of income (often as a greater source of income than selling traditional crafts), although both teaching craft and selling craft are important.

The Island has become a destination for "stag & hen" parties in recent years. This has led to local conflicts. Added value, such as offering boat trips and other activities, and better management could be provided for this market.

Accommodation on the Island consists of 2 hotels, 15 bed and breakfasts, and 4 self catering establishments including a 32-bed hostel, 2 self catering cottages, 2 self catering dwellings at the lighthouse, and a holiday village "Baile Saoire" consisting of 8 self catering cottages.

The Baile Saoire is developed, owned and managed by Comharchumann Oileán Árainn Mhór Teo. A sample survey of holidaymakers at the Baile Saoire conducted in Summer 2007 revealed that most people find out about the accommodation by word of mouth, and their reason for coming to the Island was primarily to visit family. Most of those who stayed in the Baile Saoire come from either the UK or elsewhere in Ireland, and whilst there engage mostly in either walking activity or visiting family.

⁸ www.irelandislands.com and www.discoverireland.ie

Overall, holidaymakers at the Baile Saoire were very pleased with the accommodation. Those surveyed were somewhat satisfied with the accommodation standard and ambience in the unit, and even less satisfied with the provision of services onsite. All holidaymakers surveyed would return to the Baile Saoire and would recommend it to other people.

The units of the Baile Saoire have recently been re-painted but measures are essential to improve their energy efficiency and therefore running costs. As highlighted in the user survey, improvements to the units, in particular to bathrooms and kitchens, and new leisure facilities and amenities on site are required. All of these improvements will ensure the profitability of this enterprise.

A sample general tourism survey conducted in summer 2007 by Comharchumann Oileán Árinn Mhór Teo revealed that most visitors to Arranmore are either on a day trip or visiting family. Walking, visiting other islands, and visiting family and friends were cited as the main activities of visitors. The scenery and the people were cited most often as the things visitor most like about the Island. A lack of activities and a lack of restaurants/places to eat out were cited by many as disappointing about their visit. Noteworthy are the responses from visitors in the survey which indicated that whilst transport TO the Island is excellent, transport once ON the Island is poor; and that the availability of information on the Island prior to arrival and once there was also poor.

There could be potential for a religious tourism trail connecting various shrines and d points of interest and complementing the well developed Arranmore Way Island walking route. The old derelict coastguard building at the lighthouse could be developed for tourism accommodation or restaurant. It is owned by Údarás. A dive centre has been proposed on the Island. Plans for tennis courts have been prepared.

Locally produced food such as seafood or other artisan food products are an important part of the rural tourism product and are to be strongly encouraged. The recent marketing concept of the Arranmore Beer (although not brewed on the Island) will strengthen the tourism experience on the island.

In consultation with Fáilte Ireland North West, the Regional Tourism Development Officer stated that the tourism potential of the Island could be developed by:

- Eradicating dumping and instituting and properly financing a litter and a waste management plan
- Increasing the number and variety (B&Bs, self catering, hostel, camping) of approved tourist accommodation on the Island to encourage longer visitor stays
- Increasing the provision and promotion of visitor activities and eco-tourism including waking tours, heritage/historic/marine trails and natural heritage interpretation
- Creating themed events with traditional entertainment, particularly in the off season
- Providing services such as bike hire, places to eat for varied budgets, and “activity friendly” amenities (e.g. facilities for anglers)

- Improving basic infrastructure on the Island such as public toilets, car parking, and signage to benefit residents and visitors alike
- Providing transport for tourists around the Island, possibly incorporated into the rural transport initiative already provided for the Islanders
- Providing enterprise support and promoting entrepreneurship for Islanders, returning emigrants, and those wishing to base themselves on the Island

Recommended Objectives and Actions

Objective 5.1: Short term development of tourism accommodation and facilities

- Develop bird-watching and whale watching station and including resolution of commonage issue
- Facilitate development of the Leabgarrow promenade with tourist amenities
- Watersports/Marine Leisure: Develop on-shore facilities for tourism including a slipway at Poolawaddy, toilets and shelter at Pier, facilities and at all beaches on the Island
- Adding value to stag and hen party groups visiting the Island
- Upgrade Holiday Village accommodation with sustainable features and energy efficiency and provide tennis courts.
- Offer tent camping and camping van site

Objective 5.2: Develop new tourism products, promotion and training facilities

- Promote the Island as a tourism destination by developing a flagship project
- Provide new or upgrade existing café/restaurant outlets emphasising locally produced foods. Develop Arranmore branded artisan products such as fish and seafood, brewery, organically grown produce, lamb and mutton
- Promote development of the dive centre; sea and lake angling; and passenger trips such as an Island-hopping ferry, birds, whale and dolphin watching
- Develop unique offerings, packages and local products that maximise use of the Island's own resources (location, sea, people, bird life, Irish language) and co-ordinating transport for tourists
- Identify and promote private and community enterprise opportunities in tourism for the Island including for new and upgraded varied

accommodation, and new facilities such as luxury treatments/spa/seaweed baths

- Promote tourism through national campaigns and a web presence
- Offer tourism and hospitality training on the Island
- Offer a regular programme of general courses in Irish language, traditional music, and arts and crafts to support actions in the tourism development theme

THEME 6: FARMING & FISHING

The Challenge

The decline of farming and fishing on the Island is well documented and mirrors current trends on the mainland. The challenge for the future will be to develop new farming and fishing opportunities as a means of providing sustainable employment in harmony with the environment.

The Facts about Farming

Agriculture has continued to decline on Arranmore Island since the last agricultural census in 1980. In 1980 there were 263 farm holdings on the Island, 76% of which were less than 15 acres in size with the main enterprise being sheep.

The 2000 agricultural census paints a bleak picture of farming on the island. The number of holdings has declined to 40, all under 10 ha (24.71 acres) and all classed as specialist sheep enterprises. Farming is a lonely occupation on the Island. The 40 smallholdings on the Island are farmed primarily by one person, with the assistance of a spouse only in 2 farms. There are no regular farm family or non-farm family workers on farms on the Island.

A local newspaper article⁹ outlined the serious disadvantages faced by Arranmore and other island farmers as highlighted by the IFA. Farmers on islands have the added cost of ferrying animals to marts on the mainland. They are at a further disadvantage when selling because buyers know that island farmers will be reluctant to bring the animals back with them if they don't get their price. Additionally, island farmers end up paying VAT at the point of purchase and on freight coming to the islands. The IFA were recently campaigning for a 25% rise in payments for island farmers under the REPS 4.

The Facts about Fishing

The source of the most up to date information on island fisheries sector is the Comhdháil commissioned study on the Gaeltacht Islands Fisheries, March 2007.¹⁰ This study shows that there has been a severe decline in the fishing fleet in Arranmore Island since 1993. The importance of the fishing sector in the County was also outlined in the Donegal County Council Review of the Fishing Industry, 2006

The 1993 study documented 19 trawlers, 10 half-deckers, 10 punts and several leisure craft on the island. The 1993 study noted that these fishing craft were "significantly underused". At that time the main species fished were salmon, lobster, crab, herring, rock salmon, and periwinkles with offshore fishing of mackerel, cod and tope.

As of 2007 there are 16 fishing vessels registered on the Island with 5 curraghs, 2 orkneys punts, 5 half-deckers, and 4 larger vessels on the Island. Other boats would not be registered. The main species fished are brown crab, salmon, lobster, velvet crab and crawfish. Landings in 2007 grossed a total of €989,000 with average

⁹ Donegal News, Friday, 23 March 2007.

¹⁰ "An Assessment of Fisheries on the Gaeltacht Islands of Ireland: Sustaining island traditions", Nautilus Consultants in association with MERC Consultants, for Comhdháil Oileáin na hÉireann, March 2007.

grossings per boat of €61,828. Brown crab landings were the highest value at €390,000. The sector employs 15 people full-time and 18 part-time on the Island.

All fishing is within 0.5 miles of the shoreline. All fishermen supplement their income by claiming social benefit during the winter months, often on a part time basis or by having working spouses.

There are several piers and landing facilities on the island, which support both the ferry link to the mainland and the fishing industry. There are two piers at Leabgarrow and one slipway, both of which are used by roll on/roll off ferryboats. There are established official visitor moorings located at Leabgarrow maintained by Donegal County Council.

Most fishing vessels operate from the pier at Rannagh on the south side of the island. A small number of fishing boats operate also from Poolawaddy pier near Calf Island and from Leabgarrow.

The Gaeltacht Islands Fisheries Study (Comhdháil, 2007) study notes the impact of emigration from the Island on the fishing sector, with a lack of young entrants. It also predicts enormous impacts on the scale of fishing activity on the island with the ending of the drift net salmon fishery.

The 2007 Comhdháil study cited lack of transport for getting small volumes of fresh product to market. It noted problems at Rannagh; the need for gear and bait storage, and a larger cold store; and a lack of repair and maintenance facilities in the region. The lack of on-island facilities for cold or freezer storage is hampering the market for lobster and crabs.

On a positive note, the study points to opportunities in expanding small-scale sustainable fishing. This would benefit the environment and the island community and could be supported by infrastructure improvements. There is scope for exploring new fisheries or rekindling fisheries of the past (e.g. herring) with a host of new products and potential for added value activities such as smoking fish.

There is additional capacity in the crab sector. This would improve the viability of onshore holding facilities and encourage market organisation to get the best prices for product.

In March 2008 it was widely publicised that many of the Arranmore Island fishermen with salmon licenses were not going to participate in the government's Salmon Hardship Scheme. Many Islander fishermen were dismayed that no consideration had been given to the needs of island communities or the heritage value of allowing small scale salmon fishing to continue. Comhdháil Oileán na hÉireann was campaigning for special exemption for islanders but to no avail. Fishermen are reluctant to participate in schemes.

Also in March 2008 it was announced that a new pier is to be built at Rannagh on Arranmore Island. The existing pier is tidal and too small and the water is not deep enough for the bigger boats now in use. The new pier will be 50 metres long with a 15-metre dogleg for shelter along with an 80m long submerged breakwater. The estimated cost of the work is €8m. Design and statutory approvals will be ongoing throughout 2008 with construction expected to commence in 2009.

Recommended Actions

Objective 6.1: Fishing diversification and retraining

- Offer a programme of re-training for fishermen wishing to leave the sector
- Promote enterprise development targeted to the fishing sector (land-based aquaculture, fish farming, smoked fish, added value)
- Facilitate proposed pier development at Rannagh

Objective 6.2 Agricultural diversification

- Provide a programme of social and informal educational supports to Island farmers
- Promote organic production of vegetables and fruits as a means of increasing self-reliance, supplementing incomes or as an export product
- Support local agricultural enterprises through developing branded products in sheep meat and horticulture

THEME 7: ACCESS & COMMUNICATIONS

The Challenge

To improve access to and from the Island, improve the on-island transport infrastructure and research to improve internet access on Arranmore Island.

The Facts

The current method of transport connecting Arranmore and the mainland is provided via a roll-on roll-off ferry from Burtonport, Co. Donegal to the pier at Leabgarrow. The ferry service is provided by Maoin na Farraige and is subsidised by the Irish government. The ferry has a capacity of 128 foot passengers and approximately 8 no. vehicles, and the total journey time is 15 to 20 minutes. Due to the shelter provided by a number of small islands between the mainland and Árainn Mhór the ferry can run in all but extreme weather conditions.

The ferry departs Burtonport at 8:30 a.m. throughout the year, running on average every 2 hours, with latest departure time of 5:00 p.m. in the winter and 8:00 p.m. in the height of summer. The ferry departs Arranmore at 9:00 a.m. throughout the year, running on average every 1.5 hours, with the latest departure time of 5:30 p.m. in the winter and 8:30 p.m. in the height of summer.

These times have proved restrictive to many who commute off the island for work or to meet engagements such as hospital appointments or those returning home later at weekends after working or being away.

A passenger only ferry, provided by Arranmore Charters, commenced in 2007. It has more frequent trips to and from Burtonport with an earlier departure from the Island of 7:00 a.m. This has improved access greatly for visitors and Islanders alike.

The main pier in Árainn Mhór is at Leabgarrow. There are also piers and slipways at Aphort, Ballintra, Polawaddy, Leabgarrow, Stacamór.

There are ten miles of County Roads and thirty of miles bog and private roads. The main road network is in reasonable condition. The Ballard Road to the uplands is in poor condition. Arranmore Co-operative provides road maintenance with funding by Donegal County Council, but only County roads are improved under this arrangement. Traffic levels peak summer time.

The large majority of respondents use cars as a means of transport, followed by tractors and then bicycles. In 1992 there were 70 bicycles on the Island, whereas in the 2006 survey only 13 were noted. Cycling has declined hugely to under 20% of previous 1992 levels.

Of the households that responded to the survey regarding internet access, 44 no. responded in total with 41 no. accessing the internet via dial up. Broadband has been provided although wireless broadband would be desirable. The island has a mobile phone mast, which was previously controversial.

Comments made by several residents stated that there is a need for more public lighting.

Recommended Objectives and Actions

Objective 7.1: More Flexible Land Access

- Extend subsidies for passenger ferry as well as larger ferry service
- Ensure flexible ferry service times
- Investigate wireless broadband for island
- Continue roads improvement programme
- Additional public lighting powered by solar energy

Objective 7.2 Reduce On-Island vehicular use

- Adopt a free bicycle scheme for visitors
- Investigate provision of electrically powered vehicles

THEME 8: WASTE

The Challenge

To identify and address the current waste management issues on the Island.

The Facts

Illegal dumping has long been a serious issue for the Island ever since the County Council closed the Island's landfill near Lough Shore ("The Dump") in the late 1990's. At this time the Council adopted the practice of contracting out collection and the export of waste to the mainland. Recently waste collections have been reduced in frequency from once weekly to twice monthly (with twice weekly collections in summer and holiday time).

Whilst 93% of respondents to the 2006 household survey stated they use the domestic waste collection service on the Island, it is clear from field surveys undertaken on the Island that there is a quantity of waste that is not being collected and is simply dumped. The types of waste disposed of in this way include glass bottles, large bulky items such as white goods, household furniture, building debris, and most notably several hundred old cars. Difficulties with road traffic enforcement and the import of cheap out of state registered cars to the Island have created the problem with scrap cars.

Forty two percent of responding households in the 2006 survey felt that waste collections were not frequent enough, and 95% of the population felt that illegal dumping is a serious problem on the Island and those offenders should use the waste service provided. Further comments made during the survey were that the waste service did not collect on a regular pattern each week, the collection trucks did not go to certain housing areas, there is no recycling or composting service on the Island and that the current dump is not well managed. It is clear that the service provided can be improved on many levels which in turn may decrease illegal dumping on the island.

Illegal dumping occurs in locations all over the Island, but is largely concentrated at The Dump near Lough Shore and at Ballard. Lately, the situation worsened to the point that the Island's water supply at Lough Shore was threatened with contamination and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) were called in to investigate.

A massive clean up was undertaken by Comharchumann and Donegal County Council in 2007 where car wrecks and metal were removed from these two largest dump sites. A lot of debris remains and dumping continues unabated. The County Council recently contracted consultants to prepare a Waste Management Plan for the Island.

Comharchumann Oileán Árinn Mhór Teo are currently working in partnership with Donegal County Council to deliver a range of services for waste collection and recycling on the island. These include:

- Bring bank facility for householders for glass and aluminum and metal cans
- Collection of waste car batteries

- Selling home composting bins
- Organising a twice yearly collection of waste electronic and electrical equipment
- Working with the County Council on the implementation of the Waste Management Plan for the Island for the next five years

In consultations with Fáilte Ireland North West, the Regional Tourism Development Officer stated that visually evident litter and dumping is regularly reported to them by very disappointed visitors. The Island has scored badly in the Tidy Towns competition for islands. The Regional Tourism Officer highlighted the need for a comprehensive, properly financed waste management plan if Arranmore is to achieve its full potential as a holiday destination.

Recommended Objectives and Actions

Objective 8.1: Waste Minimisation & Recycling

- Develop a dedicated civic amenity site for recycling and the collection of bulky waste/white goods and household hazardous materials. A possible site has been identified
- More frequent and reliable household rubbish collections including the collection of recyclables
- Examine potential for re-use of wastes produced on the Island as products for road surfacing and other on-island uses
- Initiate household or community composting and investigate recovery of bio-gas for heat and fuel
- Work with County Council in implementing the Island Waste Management Plan including providing realistic cost estimates and a programme of management for waste collection and amenity site services
- Initiate a waste minimisation and awareness campaign through an Island-wide publicity and schools programme

Objective 8.2: Closure of Lough Shore Dump

- Clean up and close The Dump at Lough Shore

Objective 8.3: Improved Physical Environment

- Adopt a zero tolerance approach in relation to litter and dumping especially in the most scenic areas and highly visible locations
- Undertake regular Island clean ups
- Strive to achieve better marks in the Islands Tidy Towns Competition
- Promote and continue the Council's collection service for end-of-life vehicles

THEME 9: HOUSING

The Challenge

To develop dwellings which meet the requirements of island inhabitants.

The Facts

The main settlement on the Island is at Leabgarrow and includes a small public housing scheme on the east side of the island. Other clusters on the island are Ballintra, Plochog and Aphort. All are located in the southeastern part of the island and much of the housing is distributed along the main road running from Leabgarrow to Rannagh.

During the household survey it was noted that there are 417 no. houses in total on the Island. Of these 43 no. were obviously derelict, and 21 no. were under construction and uninhabitable. This gives the number of actual habitable houses on the island at 353.

A large number of these houses could be second or holiday homes; although the determination of holiday homes is difficult, particularly with many Islanders returning home on weekends or even once monthly. It was determined that 126 houses on the island were holiday homes (36% of the habitable housing stock). It is estimated that the number of permanent households on the Island stands at 227.

Seventy three percent of the population in responding households is over age 25. There are more males than females in most age groups. The only exceptions being the 11-15 age group and the 16-17 age group. In the 65-74 age group males and females are equal in number. In the 18-24 age group there are over twice as many males as females.

As of the date of this survey 20 no. households are in need of alternative accommodation. 8 no. responding households who specified where they would need to move all stated that they are seeking another dwelling on the island. Some also stated that there is a lack of suitable housing on the island whether it is unaffordable or does not meet their housing requirements. It is noted that there is 43 derelict houses and 21 unfinished/inhabitable dwellings.

A 23 bedroom Respite Centre for sheltered accommodation has been proposed by the Respond Housing association at a site close to the Day centre. Funding has not yet been allocated. This would also accommodate many emigrants who would wish to return to the Island.

Recommended Objectives and Actions

Objective 9.1: Provide Respite Centre

- Work with and facilitate construction of Respite Centre

Objective 9.2: Better Housing

- Investigate provision of Social and Affordable Housing for Island residents
- Encourage refurbishment of vernacular Island buildings

Overleaf please find the goals, objectives and actions under each development theme as discussed in summary table format. Timescales are given as short-term (2 years), medium-term (5 years), and long term (beyond 5 years).

DELIVERING THE PLAN

The Development Plan is a process that can push forward and enable projects to be carried out. During the consultation process and preparation of the Plan several actions outlined in the Plan have already been achieved. The highly publicised removal of end-of-life vehicles from the Island by the Council and COAMT working together; the establishment of a Garda presence on the Island; and the recently opened playground have all come about.

From what has been achieved in such a short time it is clear that many of the actions listed in the Plan are achievable over the next five years.

The implementation of the Plan is the ultimate responsibility of COAMT, the various community committees on the Island and the islanders themselves as represented by the Comharchumann. Agency involvement and support will be vital to the Plan's success.

The implementation of the Development Plan for Arranmore will place a further burden on the development staff of the Comharchumann thus the Plan recommends further staff to support the development role of COAMT.

A steering committee should be established with agency representation to direct the implementation of the various actions scheduled. This should also include monitoring and review of progress on the Plan on at least an annual basis.

The Comharchumann should inform the island community of the Plan and its progress through meetings, using local publicity, the recommended community newsletter and website.

Other issues and opportunities will arise that can be incorporated into the Plan.

Table 10. Goals, Objectives and Actions under each Development Theme

THEME: 1					
IRISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE					
<i>Goal</i>	<i>Strengthening the Irish language and culture of the Island</i>				
Objective	Action(s)	Responsibilities	Costs & Funding Sources	Timescale	Anticipated Outcomes
(1.1) Promote the language	1.1.1 Approval and implementation of Irish Language development plan	COAMT UnG	UnG	All Short Term	<p>More people will be proud of speaking Irish and enjoying their culture.</p> <p>More people will speak Irish on a daily basis, whatever their age or ability.</p> <p>The local environment and culture will be enhanced by uniquely Irish signage and public arts projects.</p>
	1.1.2 Promote the drawing up of Irish language plans and policies by Island businesses and community and voluntary groups.	Promoters UnG	UnG		
	1.1.3 Employ a language development officer	UnG	UnG		
	1.1.4 Promote language equality in the Secondary school	VEC			
	1.1.5 Increase the use of the Irish language by offering regular programmes of courses and social events for all ages and abilities.	COAMT Irish Colleges	UnG		
	1.1.6 Erect more bi-lingual signage	DCC - Roads RnG	Foras na Gaeilge DCC RnG		
	1.1.7 Carry out a public arts project reflecting the language and complementary cultural/historic event	DCC – Roads RnG	DCC RnG		

THEME: 2 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND FACILITIES					
<i>Goal</i>	<i>Stronger and co-ordinated community development with a greater range of facilities</i>				
Objectives	Action(s)	Responsibilities	Costs & Funding Sources	Timescale	Anticipated Outcomes
(2.1) Strengthen community development	2.1.1 Organise sporting activities for all ages	All the Island clubs and committees facilitated by COAMT	UnG	All Short term	COAMT will continue to be supported in its community development role. Island resources will be used more efficiently. There will be greater communication around the Island. People will feel safe in their homes and looked after. Island life will be enhanced through learning from the experience of other island communities.
	2.1.2 An integrated approach to provision and promotion of activities		CnO		
	2.1.3 Maximise use of existing community facilities as venues for education, events	COAMT			
	2.1.4 Increase communication among groups and all-island promotion				
	2.1.5 Increase frequency of publication of community newsletter				
	2.1.6 Organise all-island community alert group	An Garda Siochana COAMT			
	2.1.7 Continue seasonal Garda	An Garda Siochana			
	2.1.8 Continue trans-national and island links	COAMT	INTERREG IV		

(2.2) Provide More Community Facilities	2.2.1 Facilitate provision of VEC promised multi-use indoor sports & rec. building at secondary school	VEC, RnG, COAMT	UnG, RnG, VEC	Short term	The community will have a wider range of sporting and community facilities that will lead to an improved quality of life and encourage people to stay and new families to come.
	2.2.2 Facilitate provision of all weather pitch beside Baile Saoire or football field	Football Club COAMT RnG	RnG	Medium Term	
	2.2.3 Investigate provision of heated swimming pool using renewable wind or wave energy	COAMT Energy Developer	Energy Developer, SEI	Long Term	

THEME: 3		EMPLOYMENT			
<i>Goal</i>	<i>To encourage and widen the employment and educational opportunities on Arranmore</i>				
Objective	Action(s)	Responsibilities	Costs & Funding Sources	Timescale	Anticipated Outcomes
(3.1) Provide wider training base, attract inward investment and promote entrepreneurship	3.1.1 Training Needs Analysis	COAMT FÁS	FÁS/UnG	All Short Term	The Island will participate more fully in local, regional and national economies. There will be more returned emigrants who will set up businesses on the Island. The Islanders will have developed marketable skill sets in new technologies.
	3.1.2 Organise a business development conference to promote entrepreneurship and inward investment	COAMT FÁS UnG	FÁS UnG CnO		
	3.1.3 Target business development initiatives to Island emigrants to encourage them to return	COAMT DCC			
	3.1.4 Offer training in required skills such as business and information technology, renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency	FÁS COAMT SEI	FÁS UnG CnO		
(3.2) Develop a commercial business translation service	3.2.1 Investigate the potential for developing a translation service including certifications required	COAMT Promoters	UnG	Short Term	A uniquely Irish business will have been established.

THEME: 4 SUSTAINABILITY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY					
<i>Goal</i>	<i>Develop sustainable and renewable energy forms of energy on Arranmore</i>				
Objectives	Action(s)	Responsibilities	Costs & Funding Sources	Timescale	Anticipated Outcomes
(4.1) Attain a commercial renewable energy source on the island that will benefit the community	4.1.1 Commission a Wind Energy Feasibility Study for the Island	COAMT	UnG	Short Term	Groundwork will have been completed for a community wind energy project that has the potential to bring significant revenue and jobs to the Island.
	4.1.2 Investigate Community partnership with a commercial wind energy company based on models promoted by the Western Development Commission; or those implemented by the Scottish islands of Eigg and Gha.	COAMT UnG SEI DCC Energy developer	UnG SEI	Short Term	
(4.2) Provide and encourage renewable and sustainable technologies for existing and new buildings	4.2.1 Identify a pilot or demonstration project such as at Baile Saoire for renewable energy and/or energy efficiency	COAMT SEI RnG UnG	RnG UnG	Short Term	Baile Saoire will become a more profitable enterprise.
	4.2.2 Incorporate renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency in all new build and for retrofitting in older properties	COAMT SEI RnG UnG	RnG UnG SEI	Short Term to Long term	Island community will become self sufficient.
(4.3) Exploitation of Biomass	4.3.1 encourage and provide know how for growing biomass fuels on redundant farm land on the Island	SEI Teagasc COAMT Private promoters	SEI UnG CnO	Short Term	New business opportunities for farmers; use of agricultural lands; leading to island self-sufficiency

THEME: 5 TOURISM					
<i>Goal</i>	<i>Strengthening and expansion of tourism product</i>				
Objectives	Action(s)	Responsibilities	Costs & Funding Sources	Timescale	Anticipated Outcomes
(5.1) Development of tourism facilities and accommodation	5.1.1 Seek development of the bird and whale watching station	COAMT DCC	DCC	Short Term	More visitors will come to the Island for day trips and overnights.
	5.1.2 Develop unique offerings, packages and local products that maximise use of the Island's own resources (location, sea, people, bird life, Irish language) and co-ordinating transport for tourists	COAMT UnG	UnG/ CnO RnG SEI	Short Term	More business and thus jobs will be created in the services and tourism industry.
	5.1.3 Facilitate development of Leabgarrow promenade	DCC COAMT RnG	DCC RnG	Short Term	Islanders will gain a deeper sense of appreciation of their environment and the need to protect and beautify it.
	5.1.4 Promote development of the dive centre; sea and lake angling; and passenger trips such as an Island-hopping ferry, birds, whale and dolphin watching	Promoters COAMT	CnO UnG NDP	Short to Medium Term	Tourists will want to come back to the Island year after year.
	5.1.5 Identify and promote private and community enterprise opportunities in tourism for the Island including for new and upgraded varied accommodation, and new facilities such as luxury treatments/spa/seaweed baths	Promoters COAMT FI	CnO UnG NDP	Short to Medium Term	
	5.1.6 Renovate and upgrade holiday village units with renewable energy features	COAMT SEI UnG	UnG SEI	Short Term	
	5.1.7 Develop on-shore facilities such as a slipway at Poolawaddy; toilets and shelter at the Ferry Pier Offer	RnG DCC	CnO RnG DCC	Short to Medium Term	

	5.1.8 Offer a camping facility for tents and camper vans	RnG DCC	CnO RnG DCC	Short to Medium Term	
(5.2) Develop new tourism products, promotion and training facilities	5.2.1 Develop a flagship tourism project	COAMT	FI UnG CnO	All Short to Medium Term	More visitors will come to the Island.
	5.2.2 Provide new or upgrade existing café/restaurant outlets emphasising locally produced foods. Develop Arranmore branded artisan products such as fish and seafood, Brewery, organically grown produce, lamb and mutton	Promoters COAMT	CnO UnG		More business and job opportunities will be developed to service the tourism economy.
	5.2.3 Devise and encourage tourism initiatives based on Island assets of language, birds, sea; added value to stag and hen parties.	Promoters COAMT	CnO FAS CnO		Small-scale projects promoted jointly will bring more visitors.
	5.2.4 Promote development of the dive centre; sea and lake angling; and passenger trips such as an Island-hopping ferry, birds, whale and dolphin watching.	CnO COAMT Promoters FÁS	CnO FI NDP UnG FÁS		The quality of service and tourism product will improve.
	5.2.5 Promotion of Island tourism through national campaigns and web sites.	CnO COAMT FI	CnO FI NDP UnG		Islanders will have an increased appreciation and pride in their own Island culture and Irish language and will want to showcase the best for visitors.
	5.2.6 Offer tourism and hospitality training	FÁS COAMT	FÁS		
	5.2.7 Offer a regular programme of general courses in Irish language, traditional music, and arts and crafts to support actions in tourism development.	COAMT UnG Irish College Local Teachers	UnG DCC RnG		

THEME: 6		FARMING AND FISHING			
<i>Goal</i>	<i>Develop new sustainable fishing and farming opportunities</i>				
Objective	Action(s)	Responsibilities	Costs & Funding Sources	Timescale	Anticipated Outcomes
(6.1) Fishing diversification and retraining	6.1.1 Offer a training programme for fishermen who wish to leave sector	Fishermen COAMT FÁS	FAS/UnG	Short Term	Fishermen will have diversified their business and found new employment in alternative enterprises.
	6.1.2 Promote enterprise development targeted at the fishing sector including aquaculture	Fishermen COAMT FÁS UnG	FAS UnG CnO	Short to Medium Term	
	6.1.3 Facilitate proposed pier development at Rannagh	Fishermen COAMT DCC	€8million	Short to Medium Term	
(6.2) Agricultural diversification	6.2.1 Promote organic horticulture production	All COAMT/ Promoters	UnG CnO	Short Term	Agricultural lands will be made more productive with new business and employment opportunities to farmers
	6.2.2 Support local agricultural enterprises through branded food products including sheep meat and horticulture			Short to Medium Term	

THEME: 7 ACCESS AND COMMUNICATIONS					
<i>Goal</i>	<i>Better access and communications</i>				
Objectives	Action(s)	Responsibilities	Costs & Funding Sources	Timescale	Anticipated Outcomes
(7.1) More Flexible Island Access	7.1.1 Extend subsidies for passenger ferry service as well as vehicular ferry service	RnG Ferry operators	All RnG DCRGA	Short to Long Term	Access will continue to be improved and more economical.
	7.1.2 Ensure flexible ferry time services for early morning, late evening and weekend journeys	COAMT		Short to Long Term	
	7.1.3 Investigate all island wireless internet access	COAMT		Short Term	Islanders will be better connected to the mainland and wider world. Business will be facilitated.
	7.1.4 Continue roads improvement programme	DCC-Roads COAMT		Short to Long Term	
	7.1.5 Provide pilot solar powered street lighting	DCC-Roads COAMT		Short Term	
(7.2) Reduce on Island Car Dependency	7.2.1 Adopt a free bicycle scheme for visitors	COAMT	Private promoters/advertisers	Medium to Long Term	Island will become more self-sufficient
	7.2.2 Investigate introduction of electrically powered vehicles	COAMT			

THEME: 8		WASTE			
<i>Goal</i>	<i>Elimination of Dumping and Improved Physical Environment</i>				
Objectives	Action(s)	Responsibilities	Costs & Funding Sources	Timescale	Anticipated Outcomes
(8.1) Waste Minimisation	<p>8.1.1 Develop a civic amenity site for recycling, bulky goods and hazardous material</p> <p>8.1.2 Develop a more reliable waste collection service</p> <p>8.1.3 Examine the re-use potential for waste produced on the Island e.g. road surfacing</p> <p>8.1.4 Educate locals on waste minimisation</p> <p>8.1.5 Determine realistic costs for waste disposal</p> <p>8.1.6 Promote and continue the Council's collection service for end-of-life vehicles</p> <p>8.1.7 Initiate household or community composting and recovery of bio-gas for heat and fuel</p> <p>8.1.8 Work with County Council in implementing the Island Waste Management Plan including providing realistic cost estimates and a programme of management for waste collection and amenity site services.</p>	All COAMT and DCC	DCC UnG	All Short Term	<p>The island environment will be improved.</p> <p>People will have a greater understanding of the impact of waste management problems on the Island.</p> <p>Recycling will be increased and dumping will be decreased.</p> <p>Tourists will notice an improved environment and want to return.</p>
(8.2) Close Lough Shore Dump	8.2.1 Clean up and close The Dump at Lough Shore	COAMT DCC	DCC	Short Term	The Island's water supply will be protected and major eyesore will be removed.

(8.3) Improved Physical Environment	8.3.1 Adopt a zero tolerance approach to dumping and littering	COAMT DCC		Short Term	The Island will be more attractive to tourists and Island residents. The quality of life for Islanders will be improved.
	8.3.2 Undertake regular Island clean ups	COAMT DCC	DCC		
	8.3.3 Strive to achieve better marks in the Islands Tidy Towns Competition	COAMT	Private promoters and community committees		
	8.3.4 Promote and continue the Council's collection service for end-of-life vehicles	COAMT DCC	DCC		

THEME: 9 HOUSING					
<i>Goal</i>	<i>Improved housing range and provision</i>				
Objectives	Action(s)	Responsibilities	Costs and Funding Sources	Timescale	Anticipated Outcomes
(9.1) Provide Respite Centre	9.1.1 Work with and facilitate construction timetable for the Respite Centre	Respond Housing Association COAMT	Respond via national housing programme from DoEHLG	Short Term	Residents and returning emigrants can remain in their community and be cared for in their older years in a familiar environment.
(9.2) Better Housing	9.2.1 Investigate provision need for more social & affordable housing	COAMT DCC-Housing	DCC-Housing	Medium Term	There will be an adequate housing supply that meets the needs of the Island residents.
	9.2.2 Encourage refurbishment of vernacular buildings	DCC-Heritage COAMT	DCC-Heritage fund	Short-Medium Term	The Island's built heritage will be protected and improved.

ANNEXE

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A2 SELECT INFORMATION SOURCES

The contents and recommendations in this development plan were informed by the findings of various surveys, studies and reports and seminar attendances, with selected references listed below.

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