



**BOYLE**  
**AGE FRIENDLY TOWN**  
**Strategy**



Elaborative Planning in Action

**“An Age Friendly Town is a town where  
the community understands  
and responds to the needs of older people”**

Age Friendly Irel.

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# Introduction

Globally there is a growing movement around the theme of ageing and how people understand the needs of older adults in society. In the Irish context, issues about older people and ageing are set to be one of the most important challenges facing the current and future governments. It is estimated that by 2036, the percentage of the population aged 65 years and over will increase by 250% (CSO, 2007). The 2016 CSO Census figures highlight that the percentage of the national population over the age of 65, had increased by 19.1%, an increase from the 12% recorded in 2011.

These statistics indicate that now is the time for a new innovative approach to tackle the issues that exist for older adults and strive to achieve the objective of 'making every place in Ireland a great place in which to grow old'.

The Roscommon Age Friendly Town Strategy was prepared by the Roscommon Age Friendly Alliance and working group, with particular input from Roscommon Older Persons Council, and support from Age Friendly Ireland. The Boyle Age Friendly Town Strategy follows on from the very successful Roscommon Age Friendly County Strategy which was adopted in December 2015.

The methods of research employed for this strategy were divided into two distinct categories. The first involved desk research and analysis of local population statistics. The second involved a series of consultation exercises which were based on the nine themes identified by Age Friendly Ireland (and the World Health Organisation WHO) as to what makes a place Age Friendly. These consultation exercises included on-street questionnaires, walkability audits of the physical streetscape, interviews with stakeholders, and a focus group event. Once gathered, the findings of these consultations have been used to develop an action plan, this plan identifies key initiatives and those responsible for delivering them, within an agreed timescale. To lead the project, a local steering committee was set up, with representatives from key organisations involved in Boyle town. The purpose of this group was to give direction to the project.

A selection of the consultation findings with older people in Boyle were as follows: -

- A lot done to improve the public realm in Boyle, but more to do.
- Businesses in Boyle are friendly but could be more aware of older adult needs.
- Older people want accessibility on information relevant to them and provision of information at outlets where they can easily access it.

As a result of the consultation findings, actions have been formulated to try and address these challenges such as: -

- Exploring solutions with Roscommon County Council on issues older adults have with the accessibility of the physical environment.
- Ensuring universal design principals are included within the Boyle 2040 town centre rejuvenation plans.
- Age Friendly Business training initiative
- Age Friendly Library Initiative

The Action Plan accurately identifies the areas for improvement that will benefit older people in Boyle and it is anticipated that these challenges will be effectively acted upon by the relevant stakeholders, agencies and organisations.



# Age Friendly Ireland

## Age Friendly Cities & Counties Programme

The world's population is getting older, with many of us living longer and healthier lives and experiencing older age very differently from our grandparent's generation. Although the change is happening later than in other European countries, the number of people in Ireland over 65 is rising. At present the proportion of the population over 65 or 637,567 citizens has grown by 19% since 2011; by 2036 the CSO estimates 20% of the population will be over 65 or 1,160,000 people. This means a doubling of the over 65's population in 25 years. Roscommon alone has seen a 14% increase since 2011.

The Age Friendly Cities and Counties programme (AFCCP) was established by the Ageing Well Network in 2008 (now managed by Age Friendly Ireland, and is aligned to the World Health Organisations (WHO) Age Friendly Cities programme which is operational in towns and cities across the world. The programme was set up in response to the ageing population of Ireland and a realisation that we need to start planning now for this unprecedented demographic shift.

Within Ireland, the AFCCP has been adopted by all 31 counties, with the overall aim to make every county in Ireland 'Age Friendly'.

In each county, the AFCCP is managed by an Alliance group which is chaired initially by the Chief Executive of the Local Authority. The alliance is made up of the key decision makers in the county including the CEOs of local development companies, the HSE, the Chief Superintendent of the Gardaí, Citizens Information Services, Older People's Council and key education representatives.

Essentially, the AFCCP engages with organisations who are currently working with the community, and looks to explore how they can better use current resources to respond to the real issues for older people. The programme also seeks to ensure that older people are central to devising the recommended actions. The approach is built on the premise that "If you design for the young you exclude the old, but if you design for the old you include everyone." (Prof. Bernard Isaacs (1924 - 1995) Geriatric Medicine at Birmingham University).

## Age Friendly Ireland and Roscommon

The Roscommon Age Friendly County Programme was officially launched in 2013. The Dublin Declaration on Age Friendly Cities and Communities was signed by the then Leas Cathaoirleach, Councillor Ivan Connaughton, on behalf of Roscommon and its citizens in 2014.

A process of county-wide consultation then ensued and following the collation of the in-depth feedback; the Roscommon Age Friendly County Strategy was published in December 2015.

As well as covering the themes identified by Age Friendly Ireland as to what makes a place age friendly, a number of important principles were incorporated into the strategy:

- Become one of the greatest places in which to grow old;
- Have easily accessible public buildings, shops and services;
- Incorporate older people's views into significant decisions being made about the county;
- Promote a positive attitude to ageing and address stereotypes about older people;
- Create opportunities for older people to be engaged with their county socially, as employees and as volunteers.

With these principles in mind, Boyle town was chosen as the inaugural town in County Roscommon to take part in the Age Friendly Towns initiative in 2016.







# Age Friendly Towns Initiative

The Age Friendly Towns (AFT) programme falls under the AFCCP and to date has been rolled out in a number of towns across Ireland.

The AFT programme is a collaboration between Age Friendly Ireland, participating Local Authorities, alliance members and the Irish Planning Institute.

Similar to the AFCCP, the AFT programme is managed by a steering committee. This group is chaired by a local Council representative and is made up of a number of key local decision makers. The AFT initiative also seeks to consult local organisation's and service providers as well as older people; and following this will propose a series of recommendations that are then allocated a responsible body whose role it is to implement in a timely manner.

The aim of the Age Friendly Town Initiative is to improve the quality of life of older adults living in Boyle by engaging them in shaping and enhancing their own community.



# Research & Geographical Mapping

## Town Profile

The town of Boyle nestles at the foot of the Curlew Mountains, between Loughs Gara and Key, on the main pass connecting the plains of Connacht with the north.

The town has a rich heritage and its historical landmarks include Boyle Abbey, the 18th century King House, and the Drumanone Dolmen built more than 4000 years ago.

Boyle has a tradition as a thriving market town - the atmosphere of the old 'market town' has been recreated with the vibrant Farmers' Market, which is held each Saturday from 10.00-14.00 in the grounds of King House.

Boyle has the wonderful amenity of Lough Key Forest and Activity Park located a short distance from the town. The park comprises of 350 hectares of historic parkland that sweeps down to the shores of Lough Key and its many islands and The Lough Key Experience, which attracts over 200,000 visitors annually.

The origins of the town itself can be traced back to the 12th Century a history that goes back to the foundation of the Cistercian monastery here in 1161.

Five Main Streets dominate the town, intersected by the Boyle River. These include Elphin Street where the train station access is found. Shop Street where the Post Office and Brogan's Chemist is located. Bridge Street, site of the former Royal Hotel. Lower Bridge Street, where Boles of Boyle is located. St. Patrick's Street at the intersection and Green Street is located on the historic old Mail Coach road linking the town with the original road to the Curlews.

### Education

There are 6 primary schools in the town and 3 post primaries. Boyle is also home to a VTOS Centre and Local Training Initiative (LTI) offering further education opportunities to adults and one enterprise centre providing a range of services and upskilling opportunities for small business and students.

### Health

Boyle has three nursing homes; Drumderrig House Nursing Home, which has a registered capacity of 107 people, Plunkett Community Nursing Home with a capacity of 38, and Abbey Haven Care Centre & Nursing Home with a registered capacity of 63 residents.

Boyle is also home to a recently opened purpose built Primary Health Centre located in Termon, Elphin Street. Loftus Medical Centre and Boyle Medical Centre are also located in the town centre radius.

## Access

Boyle is serviced by the N4 National Primary Route between Sligo and Dublin, and the N61 National Secondary Route from Roscommon town. There are three Local Link bus services operating in the town, the 570 Local Link service departs for Roscommon Town from the town centre daily, there are also a daily round town service and a service to Lough Key Forest Park during the summer months also departing from King House. Boyle is also on the main Dublin/Sligo rail line with six train services daily, as well as a regular bus service, Boyle is also only a 40-minute drive from Ireland West Airport.

## Amenities

Boyle is well known for the annual Boyle Arts Festival, which takes place in July every year. It is recognised as the most successful town arts festival in the country, and has a significant track record of attracting top national and international artists and visitors from all over the world.

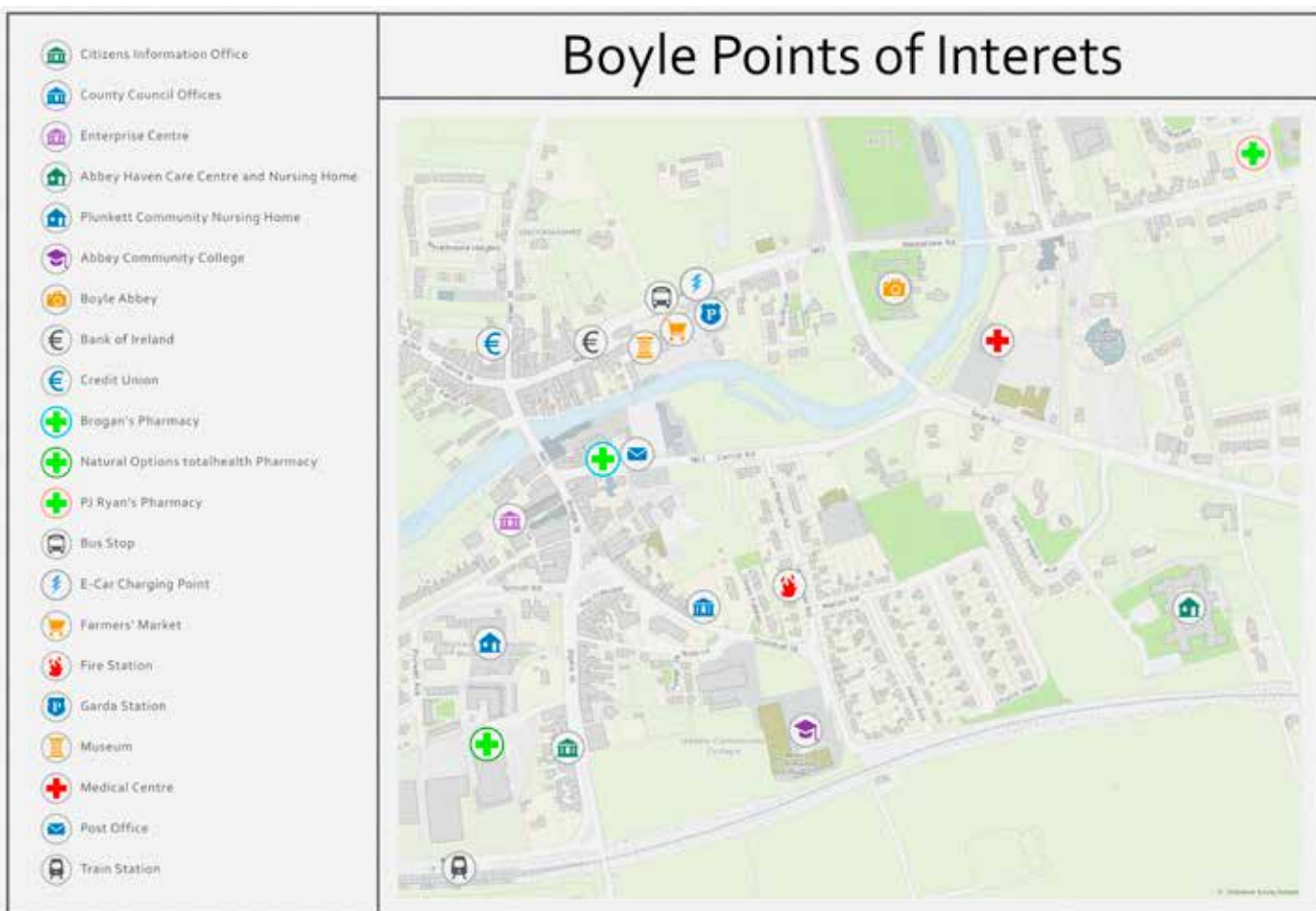
Boyle is surrounded by lakes and green areas, which are popular for swimming, boating, fishing and walking among other activities, as well as sites of historical and geographical interest.

The pleasure grounds park and activity area is located in the town centre, in a picturesque setting on the banks of the river Boyle to the rear of King House.



## Mapping Hard & Soft Assets

The physical layout of Boyle is detailed in the map below. It profiles an inventory of the hard and soft assets of the town. In particular, it focuses on services an older person might use on a day to day basis. Hard assets are primarily physical features such as a car park, whereas soft assets are less tangible such as learning and education centres.

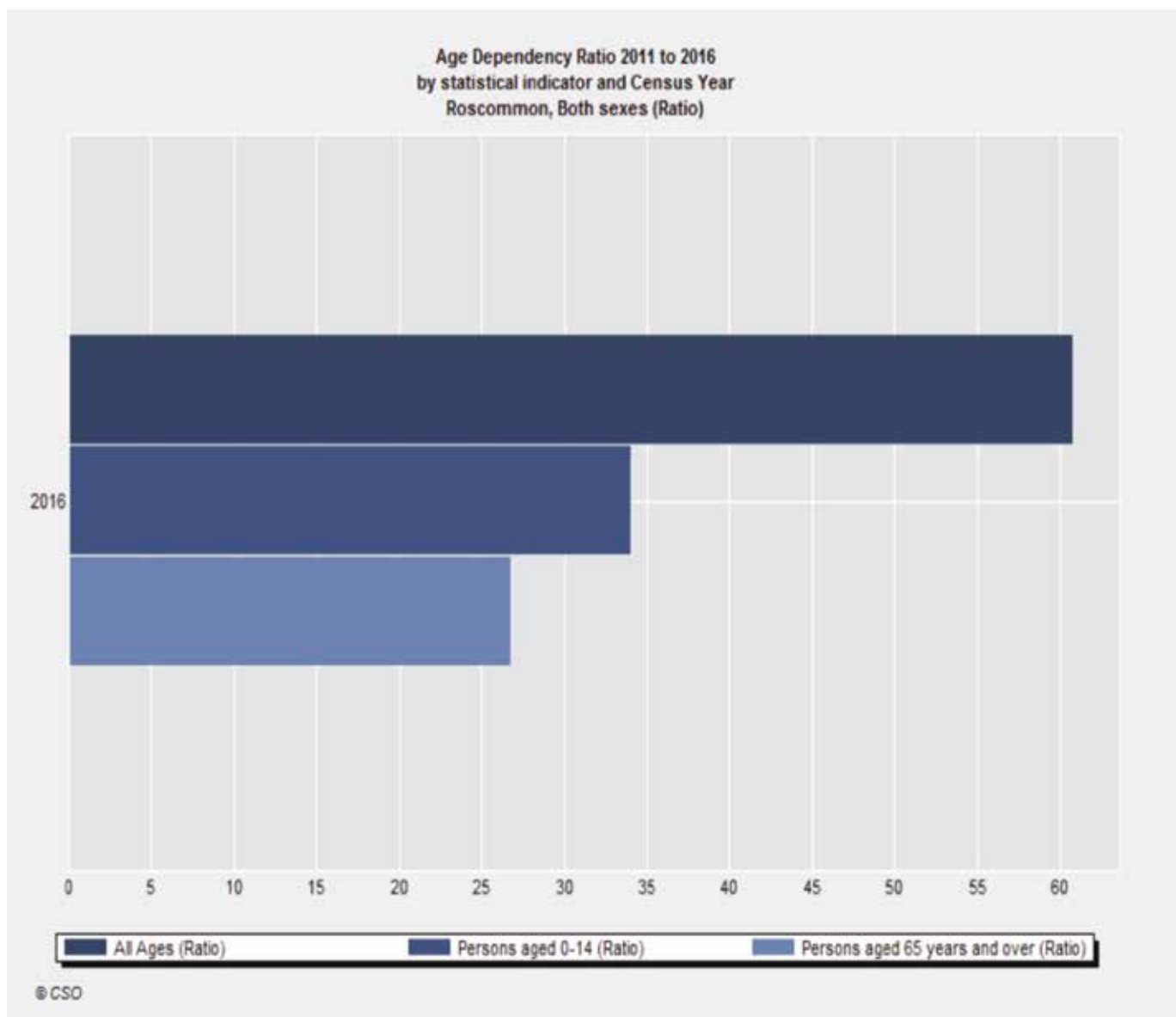


# Demographic Profile

## Roscommon County

The population of County Roscommon was recorded at 64,544 in 2016. 29.4% of Roscommon's population is aged 55 or over, amounting to approx. 18,975 people.

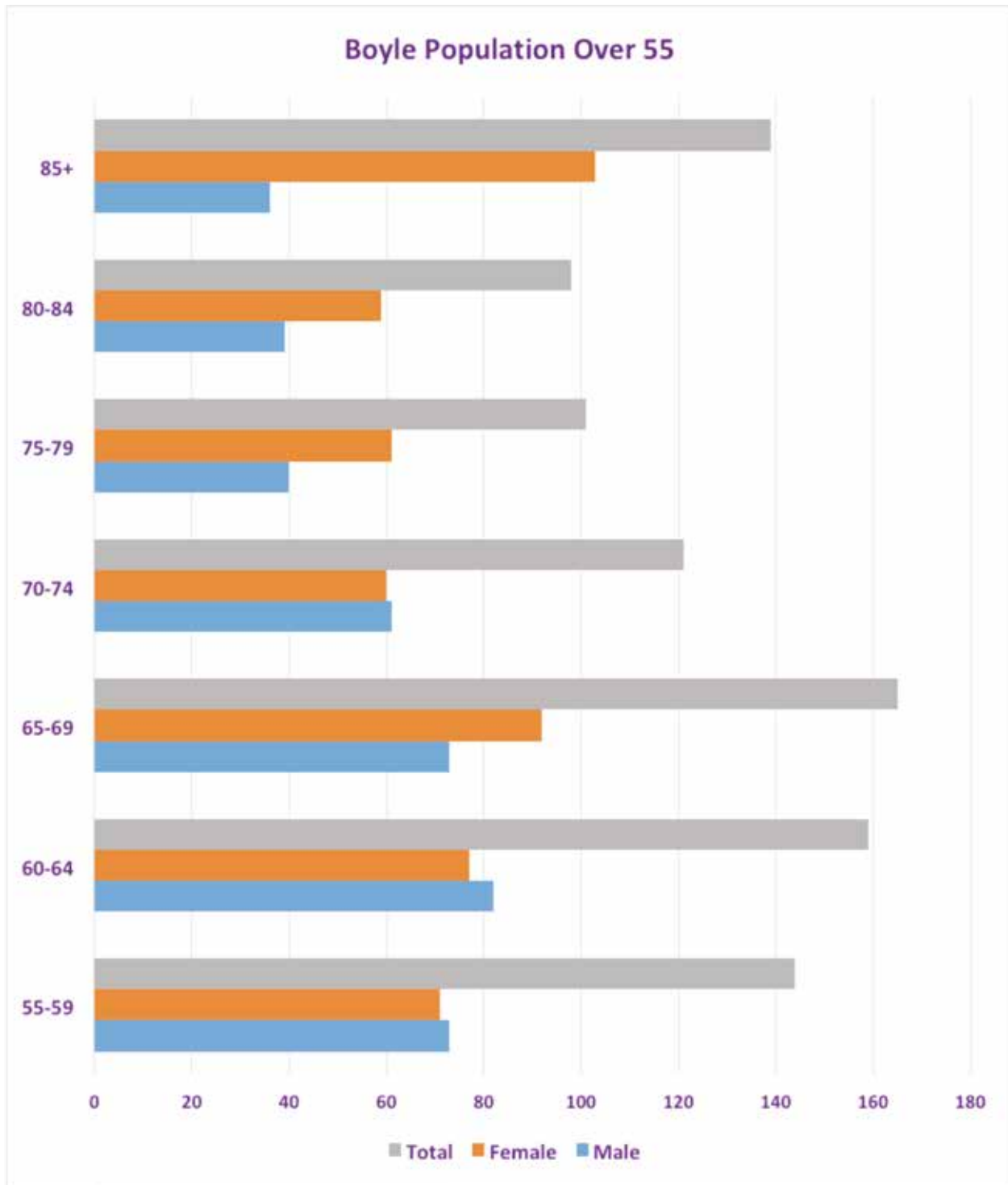
The County as a whole has an age dependency ratio of 39:7 making it the 4th highest in the Country. Dependants are defined for statistical purposes as people outside the normal working age of 15-64. Dependency ratios are used to give a useful indication of the age structure of a population with young (0-14) and old (65+) shown as a percentage of the population of working age (15-64).



## Boyle Town

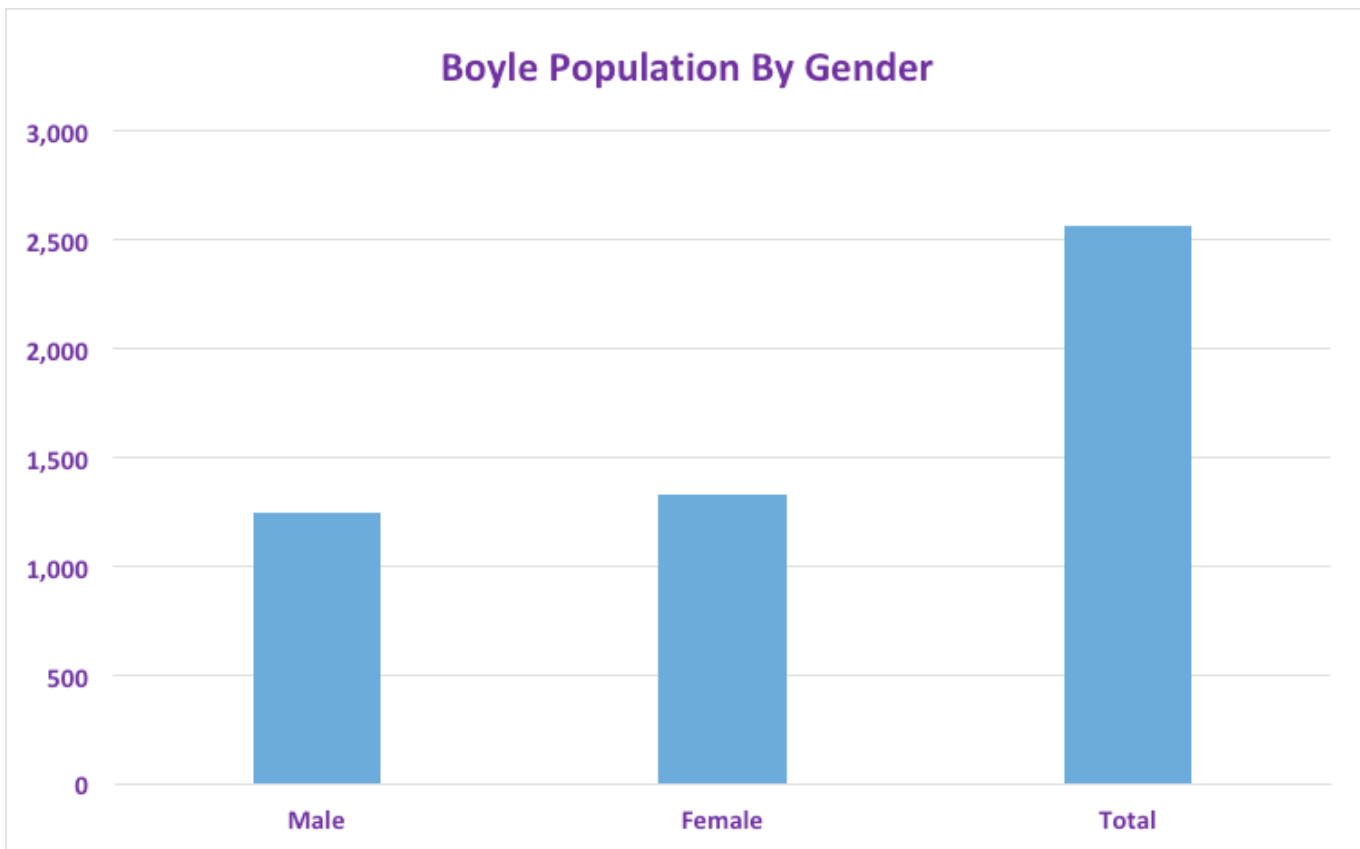
The population of Boyle town according to 2016 Census was 2568.

Similar to the County, 36% of Boyle town's population are over 55 years of age (927) and the age dependency ratio for the town was 72.1 in 2016 compared with 58.8 in 2011.

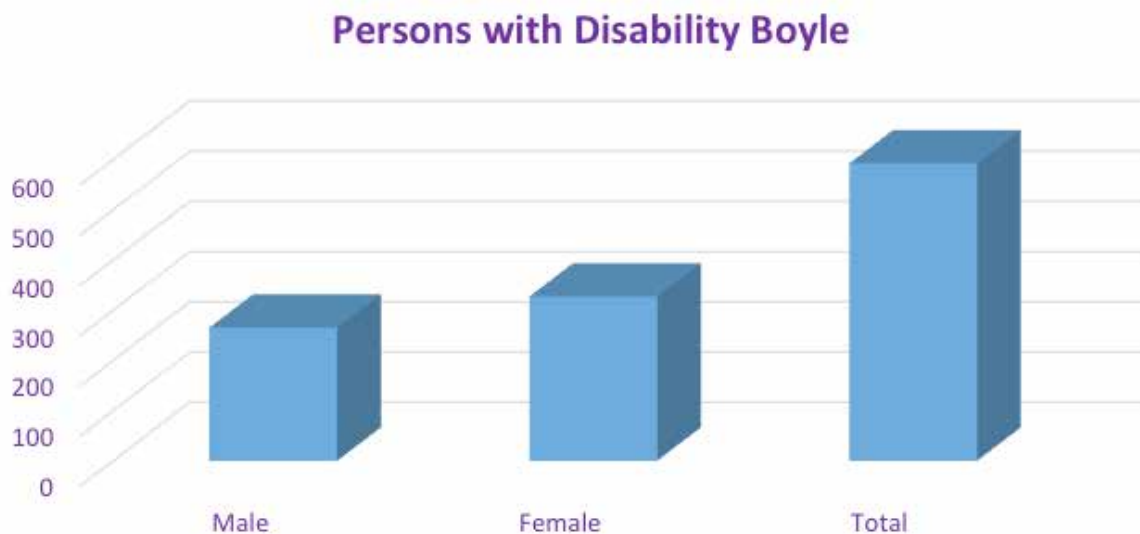


The next two graphs show Boyle's population by gender. Women dominate the upper age groups.

Of note however is the additional increase in the 0-4 age category between 2011 and 2016.

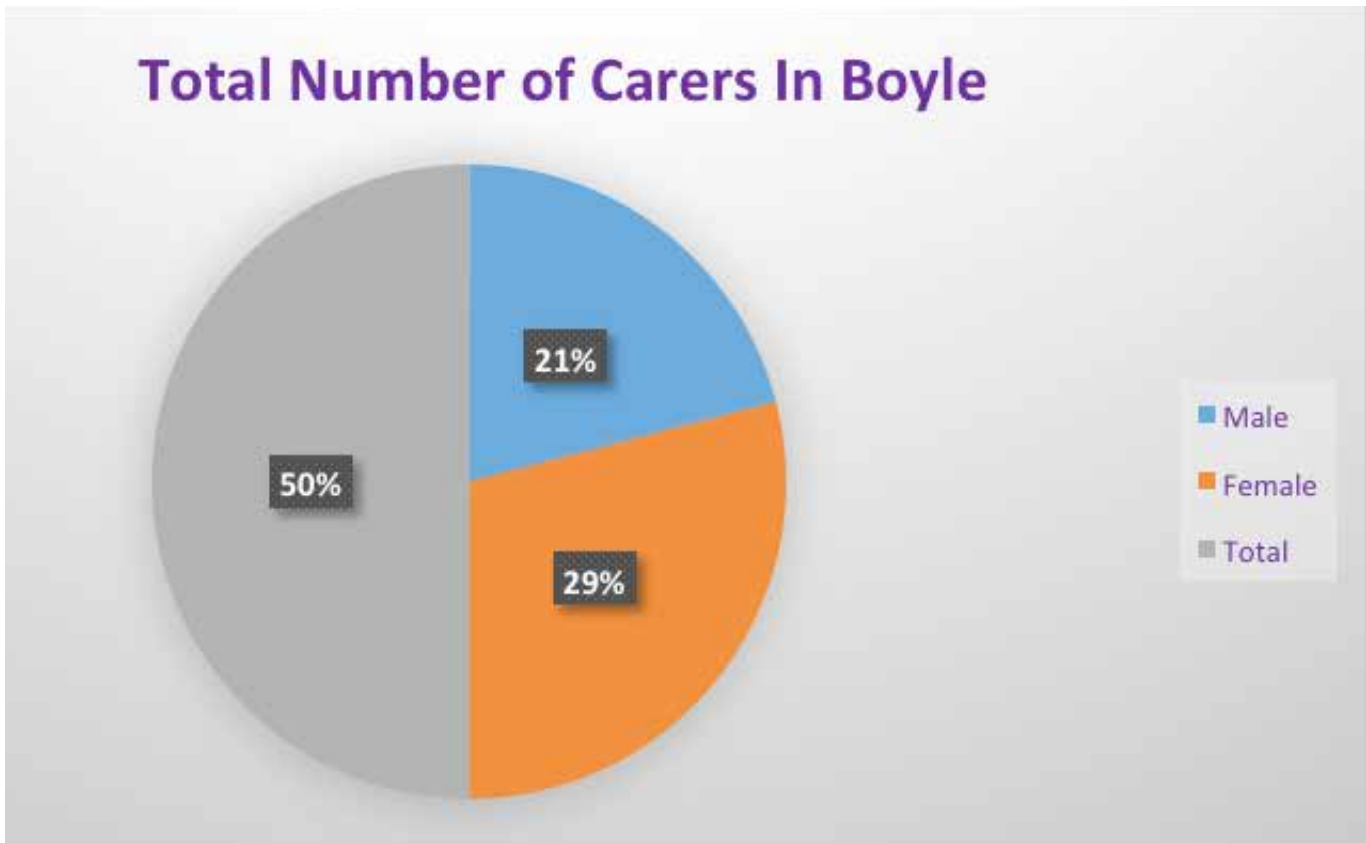


The next table shows the disability ratio of Boyle town.



Finally, the last table shows the number of carers in Boyle town, compared to the percentage of carers Nationally.

Total Carers in Boyle:





# Consultation

## Consultation Methodology

The basis for developing this plan came from consultation with local organisations and service providers as well as older people.

The issues were established using four primary methods of consultation which included:

1. On Street Questionnaire
2. Walkability Audit of the Physical Streetscape
3. Interviews with Key Stakeholders
4. Focus Group event

The following section will explain the consultation process under which the methods outlined above were used and summarise the findings to date.



## On Street Questionnaire

The on-street questionnaire was conducted at various locations throughout the town including: the Library and the Plunkett Home during the Christmas period of 2018. Surveys were conducted at the Post Office on the 10th of January 2019, and copies of the questionnaire were also distributed to older people's groups.

The purpose of the questionnaire was to gather older people's views on the nine themes identified by Age Friendly Ireland and also to ensure that older people in Boyle had a strong sense that their views and opinions would influence the final plans. All those who completed the questionnaire were over 55. A total of 68 surveys were completed, and the participants were a mixture of rural and town residents.

The results of the questionnaire were then collated using an online survey tool.

As well as highlighting the positives of Boyle town it also highlighted some negatives or areas for improvement.

The top five positives included:

1. 63% believe there is a good sense of community in the area
2. 71% rated their general health as being between excellent and good
3. 51% are happy with the Garda presence in the area
4. 67% feel safe alone in their homes at night
5. 72% find it easy to find out about local events that are happening

The top five concerns were:

1. 54% believe cars parked on footpaths are causing a problem for pedestrians
2. 49% are not happy with the low level of Garda presence in their area
3. 42% worry a lot about being a victim of crime
4. 51% find it difficult to find out what services and entitlements they are eligible for
5. 48% believe the footpaths are not well maintained in the town

*(See Appendix 1 for a copy of the survey results)*

## Walkability Audit

A walkability audit of Boyle town took place on the 5th of July 2017. This audit was carried out in collaboration with the Centre for Excellence in Universal Design (a body established by the National Disability Authority (NDA) in January 2007 under the Disability Act 2005). Unlike the questionnaire the walkability audit focused primarily on the theme 'Be enabled by the built and social environment'. The walkability audit consisted of a visual and physical examination of the town centres built environment from the perspective of the general public accompanied by Local Authority personnel including the Age Friendly Programme Manager and Municipal District Engineer.

A total of 20 participants took part on the day, with the following representatives in attendance:

- A wheelchair user
- A person with a vision impairment
- An older person
- A person with reduced mobility
- A person with a buggy / stroller
- A person with a young child (toddler)

The participating volunteers were sourced locally so as to ensure accurate and appropriate findings were recorded. The volunteers were informed that the purpose of the audit was to highlight the positives and negatives of Boyle's streetscape.

After the walk, the volunteers were asked to complete a survey called "How Age Friendly Is Your Town?" In doing so the volunteers were asked to agree or disagree with a number of statements and then rate their feelings on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent. Photographs were taken to assist in identifying and capturing the issues.

Following this, the results were then analysed by the steering group, and presented to the Municipal District Engineer in Boyle. As with the on-street questionnaire, as well as highlighting the positives, the survey also highlighted the negatives.

The top five positives included:

1. Access to and condition of King House
2. Access to credit union
3. Beautiful, historic architecture
4. Access to Library
5. Features and amenities available in the Pleasure Grounds

Some negatives included:

1. Issues such as cracks and changes in gradients on footpaths
2. Lack of age friendly seating
3. Some of the disability spots in town are not appropriately placed, no age friendly parking places
4. The route to the train station from town is problematic and off-putting. There is no safe footpath access.

“The current set up of the Bank discriminates against people with disabilities. It is physically impossible to be independent at the bank in Boyle because you cannot access the building” (Quote from stakeholder survey participant)

*(See Appendix 2 for a copy of the walkability audit routes and areas identified as being in need of attention.)*



## Stakeholder Interviews

A total of 20 people were approached for one to one consultations during the walkability audit process. These people were identified by the Steering Committee and by the Council. The findings from the interviews were incorporated into the walkability report and issues of concern have been addressed, and will also be addressed in the Age Friendly Town Action Plan within this strategy document.



## Focus Group Event

A focus group event took place at the Enterprise Centre Boyle during April 2019. The event coincided with a consultation session being held for the development of a Healthy Estate initiative. Approximately 35 people attended this event with representatives from the local LEADER company, Citizens Information Service, Roscommon Age Friendly Working Group and the Health and Wellbeing sub-committee of the LCDC. The event was promoted in the local newspaper, the Roscommon Herald, through social media and also through a flyer drop around the town centre.

On the day itself a round table discussion was arranged with a facilitator and scribe who took notes. To aid discussion the facilitator was given a prompt sheet based on the 9 World Health Organisation Age Friendly Themes.

Participants were asked to make suggestions as to how their town could become a more Age Friendly place under each theme.

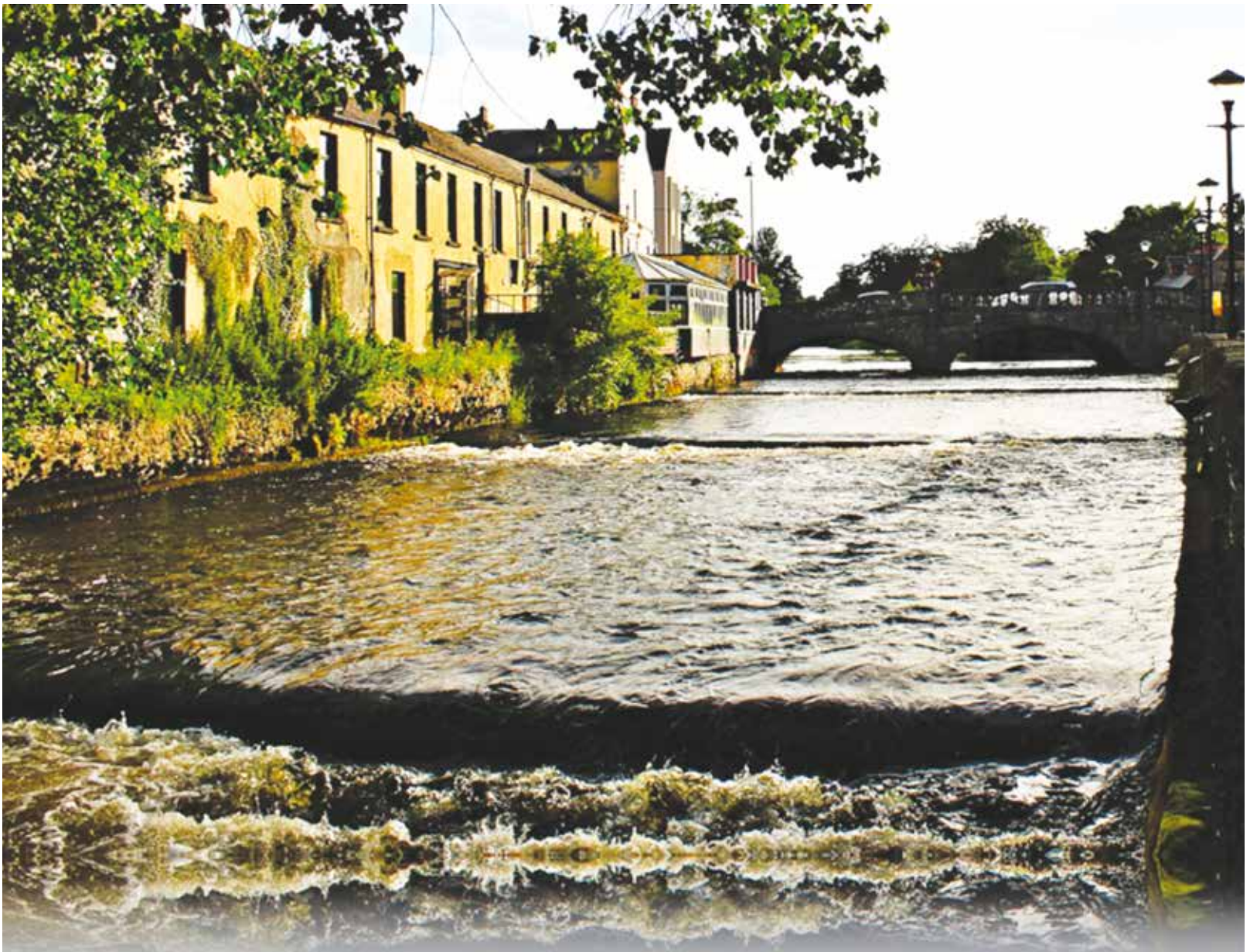
Suggestions recorded included:

- Provide one-hour car parking spaces around key service's in town centre including Bank & Post Office
- Local bus service should run a bus for older people to important social events throughout the year including Boyle Arts Festival.
- More opportunities for older people to participate in physical exercise classes suited to their capabilities.

# Action Plan

The next step of the project was to develop an action plan. This action plan was based on the results of the consultation exercises (including the on-street questionnaire, the walkability audit, the stakeholder interviews and the focus group event) and follows along the nine themes identified by Age Friendly Ireland (and the WHO) as to what makes a place age friendly.

As well as linking back to the Roscommon Age Friendly County Strategy goals, the action plan identifies the key issues raised.



# 1 Lead healthier & active lives for longer

## Objective at County Level:

- Older people supported to be 'out and about' by the built and social environment in Roscommon.

## Your Voice

"There are activities for older people in Boyle, but it can be difficult to find someone to go with when you're on your own"

## Overview

Boyle is well serviced with regard to healthcare facilities including a Primary Health Centre, Nursing Homes and GP surgeries. However, there appears to be a lack of collaborative thinking among services with regards to the delivery of health & wellbeing initiatives for older residents in the town.



## Actions Table

No.	Action	Timeline	Lead Organisation	Status
1.1	Roscommon Sports Partnership will hold a training and information session specifically aimed at the over 55's. This session will focus on showing older members of the community how to appropriately use Boyle's outdoor exercise equipment.	Short-Term (0-6 months)	Sports Partnership	To be progressed during 2020
1.2	Roscommon FAI Development Officer to pilot walking football initiative. This initiative will aim to increase participation in physical activity among over 55's in County Roscommon. Boyle to host pilot programme for the county.	Medium-Term	Roscommon County Council and FAI Development officer	Medium-Term (6m-1 year)
1.3	Roscommon Arts Office and Age Friendly Coordinator to pilot Cultural Companions initiative. This initiative provides opportunities for older people to engage with Ireland's arts and cultural scene, creating local networks of people interested in the arts to accompany each other to events.	Long-Term (1 -5 year)	Roscommon County Council Arts Office & Age Friendly Coordinator & Age and Opportunity	To be progressed
1.4	The HSE will work with Boyle Primary Health Care Centre, and local care homes to identify clinics that are primarily attended by older people with a view to working collaboratively with the appointment system and improving the experience of older people. This should include coordinated transport from Local Links to meet service need.	Long-Term	HSE, Local Links	To be progressed
1.5	Roscommon County Council to continue to look at funding the delivery of arts & theatre initiatives in care homes across the county, pilot initiative to be run in Plunkett Home in Boyle through Healthy Ireland.	Long Term	Roscommon County Council HSE	Commenced in 2018, music in care homes initiative funded through Healthy Ireland. Possibility of running this initiative again in the future to be examined.

# 2

## Stay living in our own homes & communities

### Objective at County Level:

- Assist Older people to stay living in their own homes and communities.

### Your Voice

"I would love to see out my days in my own house, but my children have moved abroad and its hard to see how I would manage if anything happened"

### Overview

'Boyle has a range of housing tenure from two up two down, to 3 bed-semis, located in large housing estates on the outskirts of the town. Many of the older properties in the town centre are vacant. These properties generally require maintenance, but older people said they don't know who to go to in terms of doing odd jobs or obtaining grant funding.

## Actions Table

No.	Action	Timeline	Lead Organisation	Status
2.1	Roscommon County Council Staff from housing, planning, special projects team and Municipal District Engineers will participate in a training sessions on design considerations for older people.	Medium Term (6m-1 year)	Roscommon County Council	Ongoing: Staff from the Council's Planning Dept., Engineers, Housing and Special Projects Team attended Universal Design Training hosted by the Age Friendly Ireland Programme. Additional Age Friendly Housing specialist Training being held during 2020.
2.2	Boyle Municipal District Office to undertake a series of repair works to footpaths and streetscape in town centre. These works will be completed in line with recommendations made during walkability audit of town centre.	Medium Term	Roscommon County Council	Ongoing Boyle Municipal District Office has under taken the majority of works proposed by the walkability audit committee, since 2017.
2.3	Roscommon County Council will allocate appropriate percentage of housing units developed at Station Road, Tarmon for older tenants.	Long Term (1-5 years)	Roscommon County Council	Complete 20% of units currently occupied by older tenants.
2.4	Roscommon County Council as part of Boyle 2040 Urban Design Plans to look at Piloting a residential occupancy scheme in the town centre	Long Term (1-5 years)	Roscommon County Council	Planning works for pilot scheme underway, initial consultations with residents held in May 2019.

# 3 Transportation

## Objective at County Level:

- Assist older people to get where they need to go, when they need to.

## Your Voice

“The Local Links is a Godsend for me as I can’t drive anymore, I wouldn’t be able to do my grocery shopping on a Friday without it”.

## Overview

Boyle benefits from access to a good national road network. It also has a regular bus and train service to Dublin and Sligo among others. In terms of local transport, the local links town centre and Lough Key service are a significant asset to older users and the community at large. However due to the steep gradients in some areas of town older users are limited to travel by car. One area in the town people remarked on as being particularly busy for pedestrians and motorists alike was the crossing at the Royal Hotel.

## Actions Table

No.	Action	Timeline	Lead Organisation	Status
3.1	Roscommon Older Peoples Council to seek consultation with Longford/ Westmeath Local Links service to ensure Town centre shuttle service in Boyle continue after change over process with Sligo Leitrim Local Links. OPC to consult with elderly users in town to assess if optimal usage is being made of service presently, or do collection points need to be adjusted.	Short-Term (0-6 months)	OPC	To be progressed
3.2	Boyle Municipal District Office will review current parking facilities at key town centre locations. This review will include the Post Office and Bank parking, and look at - alternative options including Age Friendly Parking or 1 hour only parking options including for signage.	Medium Term (6 Months – 1 year)	Roscommon County Council	To be progressed
3.3	Boyle Municipal District Office will review pedestrian crossings in the town centre. The aim of this review will be to improve the road safety for pedestrians and motorists alike.	Long-Term (1-5 years)	Roscommon County Council	To be progressed

# 4

## Be enabled by the built and social environment

### Objective at County Level:

- For older people to feel safe, and be, safe in their homes and communities.

Age Friendly Buildings and Public Spaces  
Recreation and Amenity Areas

### Your Voice

“The Town Park (pleasure grounds) should be a great asset to the town and part of our pull to tourists, instead it has been allowed to become overgrown, furniture has been damaged, there is no proper lighting and people won’t go there after dark.”

### Overview

The Municipal District Engineer in Boyle has undertaken a significant programme of works since taking part in the Age Friendly Street Survey process in 2017. This work was commended by members of the Age Friendly Town Working Group and the Engineer was commended for his approachability and willingness to take suggestions on board. With the recent announcements of significant funding for Boyle it is a great opportunity to add to those works and develop truly age friendly buildings and public spaces in the town centre as some issues remain including adequate seating and a shortage of Age Friendly Parking spaces.

## Actions Table

No.	Action	Timeline	Lead Organisation	Status
4.1	Municipal District Engineer to look at Introduction of one-hour parking to control illegal parking from Boyle railway station to Elphin street.	Short Term	Roscommon County Council	Complete This has improved access along this footpath to the railway station for elderly and disabled users.
4.2	During the consultation process, the lack of public toilets was highlighted as a negative for elderly visitors to the town.	Short Term	Boyle Town Team & Chamber of Commerce	Ongoing
4.3	Municipal District Engineer to ensure that signage on footpath at Lower Marian road is moved to accommodate wheelchair and buggy users.	Short Term (0-6 months)	Roscommon County Council	Complete Signage moved from footpath to accommodate more space for users with mobility issues.
4.4	Municipal District Engineer to address R294 Abbeytown flooding issue along the Boyle town Age Friendly footpath trail route.	Medium Term	Roscommon County Council	Works complete Installation of new storm water pipes works to new outfall.
4.5	Municipal District Engineer to repair substandard footpath in Great Meadow area of town to address needs of a number of residents in the area with mobility issues.	Medium Term (6m -1year)	Roscommon County Council	Complete Existing 110m substandard footpath and drainage removed and new footpath/ drainage installed with enhanced Age Friendly access to homes at Great Meadow Boyle. Drop down kerb developed for elderly resident to improve access to house.
4.6	Boyle Town Team to work with Age Friendly Town subcommittee and Roscommon County Council special projects team to develop Boyle as Age Friendly cycle town.	Long Term (1-5years)	Boyle Town Team, Roscommon County Council, OPC	Ongoing Boyle Town Team has consulted with AFT committee on development of Age Friendly Cycle town. Age Friendly works will include wider cycle paths for users with mobility issues in town centre. Age Friendly seating will be installed at the town centre intersection.

# 5 Healthy ageing: community supports, recreation & health services

## Objective at County Level:

- For older people to lead healthy and active lives for longer

## Your Voice

“The Family Resource Centre run courses for people regularly”

## Overview

Most people in Boyle feel safe living where they do (67% in their homes) although many reported having little contact with their neighbours and over 50% of respondents surveyed were not satisfied with the Garda presence in the area. The majority of participants said they would like to see improved Garda visibility and response times, with 42% concerned about being victims of crime in future.



## Actions Table

No.	Action	Timeline	Lead Organisation	Status
5.1	The Gardaí will speak at the proposed community information sessions at the library event space. Providing advice and information relevant to older people.	Medium Term (6m-1 year)	An Garda Síochána, Boyle Library	To be progressed
5.2	Roscommon County Council to pilot lock enhancement scheme for elderly residents in Boyle. Scheme will fund installation of anti-burglary locks on front doors for most vulnerable older adults in Boyle Municipal District.	Medium Term (6m-1 year)	Roscommon County Council, OPC Roscommon LEADER Partnership	To be progressed
5.3	The Roscommon LEADER Partnership will pilot a Care and repair scheme to replace previous trusted trades person scheme in Boyle. Scheme aims to provide TÚS workers to undertake small DIY jobs and social visits to isolated elderly users.	Long Term (1-5 years)	Roscommon LEADER Partnership	In-progress, scheme launched in 2019

# 6

## Respect and social inclusion

### Objective at County Level:

- For older people to be truly valued and respected and included in all aspects of social, economic and public life.

### Your Voice

"I feel the businesses in town do value my custom, Drapers shop are particularly friendly when I go in"

### Overview

A lot of businesses in Boyle were commended for their friendliness and assistance, and over 69% of respondents had previously used the Citizens Information Service or Library for information. A need was identified for an older persons guide on entitlements and services as 51% surveyed found it difficult to find out what they were eligible for.

## Actions Table

No.	Action	Timeline	Lead Organisation	Status
6.1	Roscommon Age Friendly Working Group to develop Age Friendly Information and Services Directory booklet. Directory will provide information to address lack of available information on services in Roscommon, as identified during consultation process	Short Term (0-6 Months)	Age Friendly Working Group	Complete. Directory printed and available in Citizens Information Offices and Offices of Roscommon County Council. E Version also available on Roscommon County Council Website. 2nd Edition has been produced.
6.2	Boyle Library to be developed as pilot Age Friendly Library for Co Roscommon. Staff will undertake training from the National Age Friendly Program Office on how to become an Age Friendly Library. Initiatives will include series of information evenings for elderly service users.	Medium Term 1-2 Years	Roscommon County Council	Ongoing Boyle Library staff have undertaken training on how to become an Age Friendly Library and have introduced a more Age Friendly service. Initiatives to date including free reading glasses and an Age Friendly reading section.
6.3	ALONE to look at the potential of partnering with HSE to pilot BConnect smart technology initiative with older community members in Boyle Municipal District. Technology supports older people to live independently at home and to facilitate those who care for older people. Technology includes smart home technology, a health monitoring app and an app for befriending volunteers.	Long Term (1-5 years)	ALONE AND HSE	To be progressed



# Information and communication

## Objective at County Level:

- Ensure older people have the information they need to live full lives

## Your Voice

“I am disappointed the bank did not take any notice of the problems the changes in service have caused older users when highlighted”

## Overview

51% of those surveyed said they felt the business made an effort to make them feel welcome. This figure should be utilized as a base line indicator for the Chamber of Commerce to encourage more participation in the Age Friendly Business Initiative. 72% of respondents felt they would find it easy to get information on local events.

## Actions Table

No.	Action	Timeline	Lead Organisation	Status
7.1	Older Peoples Council to work with Comhairle na nÓg to develop intergenerational initiatives. Initiatives will operate under the basis of shared learning experiences.	Short-Term (0-6 months)	OPC and Comhairle na nÓg	Tea with Teens event held on an annual basis. Location in Boyle to be considered for the next event.
7.2	Roscommon Age Friendly working group to host regional Dementia in Rural Ireland Conference in Boyle.	Short Term 0-6 Months	Roscommon LEADER Partnership, Brothers of Charity, OPC, Citizens Information Service	Complete Conference held in May 2019 in King House. Conference was extremely well attended by over 90 attendees. Very positive feedback from people living with dementia and their carers in the region with regards to the information and advice given by speakers on the day.
7.3	Roscommon Local Enterprise Office and Age Friendly Coordinator will seek to facilitate a training session on the Age Friendly Business recognition scheme for new businesses in Boyle.	Medium-Term (6m-1 year)	Local Enterprise Office, Roscommon County Council, Boyle Chamber of Commerce	Ongoing Staff member of Roscommon County Council and Local Enterprise Office were trained up to deliver Age Friendly Business Training. An Age Friendly Business Recognition Scheme took place in 2017. 12 No. businesses in the town participated in the process and achieved their Age Friendly Certificate. Further work required to follow up on progress of initiative and seek new businesses to take part. To be carried out during 2020.
7.4	Roscommon County Council to seek consultation into all future development plans for Boyle from the Older Peoples Council, to ensure age friendly accessible approach is embedded. These plans should include but not be limited to the Local Area Plan, Town Team plans and further developments of the Boyle 2040 Urban Regeneration Framework.	Long Term (1-5 years)	Roscommon County Council	Ongoing

# 8

## Participate in social, economic & public life

### Objective at County Level:

- Work together to ensure older people have appropriate representation on business, community and local government public forums.

### Your Voice

“The Town Team seem to be doing some good work and the men’s shed did some great work around the town as well, there needs to be a proper building for those kind of groups to meet”.

### Overview

Over 63% of respondents felt they could volunteer if they wanted to, in Boyle. This figure would indicate that those surveyed know there are opportunities out there if they wish to avail of them. Over half of respondents felt the town had most of the services and shops they needed. 37% felt there were not enough clubs and societies in the town, but 36% felt there was, which might indicate a lack of awareness of some clubs and societies for some residents.

## Actions Table

No.	Action	Timeline	Lead Organisation	Status
8.1	The Older Peoples Council will set up a quarterly drop-in service in Boyle library. This drop-in service will facilitate /take the form of an information session with guest speakers from the HSE, the Garda Síochána local societies and clubs and the Chamber of Commerce among others on matters relevant to older people such as the fair deal scheme.	Short-Term (0-6 months)	Older Peoples Council and Boyle Branch Library	To be progressed
8.2	Galway & Roscommon Education & Training Board will collaborate with Roscommon Older People's Council to facilitate a Community Education course in Community Leadership with older people in Boyle.	Short-Term (0-6 months)	Galway Roscommon Education & Training Board and the Older Peoples Council	To be progressed
8.3	Boyle Camera Club supported by Roscommon County Council will under take a project to document and capture, at one point in time, the people who live, work, visit and travel through Boyle on a typical day. The aim of the project will be to photograph as many of those people as possible, creating an historic visual record of the town and its people.	Medium Term 6 Months – 1 Year	Boyle Camera Club Roscommon County Council	Ongoing Exhibition launched in Boyle during November 2018. Exhibition also displayed in Head Quarters of Roscommon County Council Aras an Chontae Roscommon during the summer of 2019.

# 9

## Continue to learn, develop and work

### Objective at County Level:

- Provide opportunities for older people to stay engaged in the work force through continuous learning and development opportunities.

### Your Voice

“There are beginner courses in the Enterprise Centre for computers, but it’s hard for me to get there because of the steep hills”.

### Overview

Older people said they would like more training in using computers (internet and Skype) and mobile phones. This offers an ideal opportunity for the Enterprise Centre to address this skill gap with older people in the area. Some did stress the need to put on transport for any courses that do take place as access for people with mobility issues was highlighted as a barrier for two respondents.



## Actions Table

No.	Action	Timeline	Lead Organisation	Status
9.1	Roscommon County Council Age Friendly Coordinator has agreed to pilot an intergenerational IT programme with TY students and elderly members of the community in the Boyle Municipal District. Roscommon LEADER Partnership to provide train the trainer courses to TY class in local secondary school. Roscommon County Council and OPC to identify interested participants and coordinate an awards ceremony for participants and trainers.	Short-Term (0-6 months)	Roscommon County Council, LEADER Partnership and Older Peoples Council	To be progressed: Plans to be put in place to undertake 8 week training course in Boyle Secondary School during 2020.
9.2	Galway/Roscommon Education & Training Board to collaborate with Roscommon OPC to provide lifelong learning programmes in interaction with 'Using Technology' i.e. Banking Online, Motor Tax, using Mobile Phone Apps. GRETB will also deliver modules in Personal Safety and Personal Decision which will enable individuals to explore possible influences on decision making. Family learning programmes include grandparents and grandchildren in gardening, computer skills, storytelling, food choice and health and other modules.	September 2019 to June 2020	GRETB & Boyle Older People's Council	To be progressed
9.3	Roscommon Age Friendly Alliance to source funding for installation of "Magic Table" in Boyle Library. This specialist piece of equipment will allow people with dementia and those with intellectual needs to use an interactive technology to play, learn and interact with their peers.	Long Term 1-2 Years	Roscommon County Council Age Friendly Coordinator and County Librarian.	Ongoing Work is underway to identify suitable location in Boyle Library for table infrastructure. Supplier has also been sourced.

# Next steps...

## Regular monitoring

Regular monitoring of the plan by a member of staff of the Council to ensure the actions are being effectively implemented and the status is updated accordingly.

## Alliance group

Quarterly review of the plan by Alliance members to address any issues or problems raised as part of the plans implementation process.

## End of year review

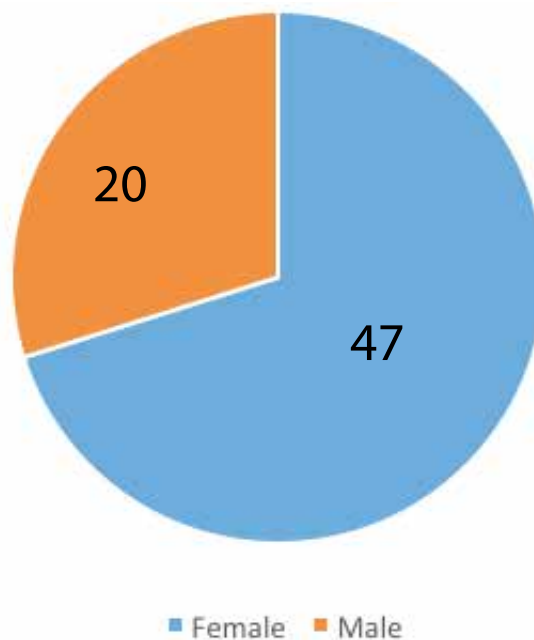
End of year review of the plan by a member of staff of the Council to identify and address any incomplete actions, along with a suggestion remedy.

# Appendix 1:

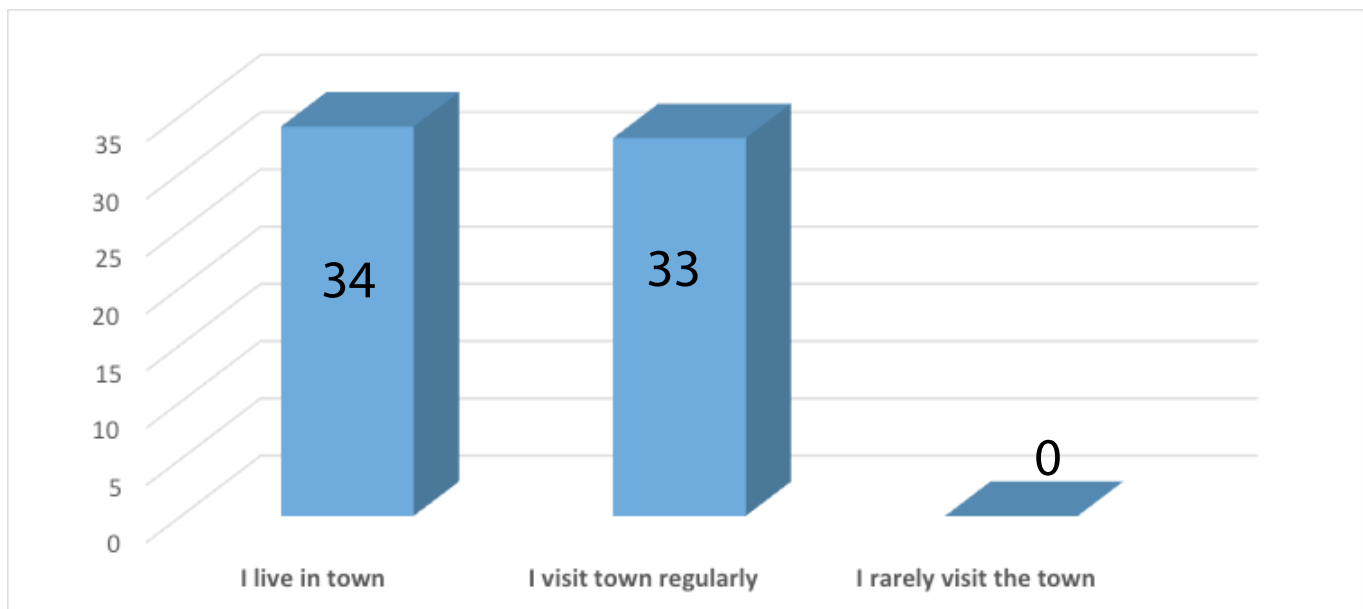
## Boyle Age Friendly Town Survey Results

The following results were collected using the official age friendly town survey sanctioned by the national Age Friendly Programme Office. The public survey was piloted in The Plunkett Nursing Home, Post Office and Library in Boyle town centre during 2018 and 2019, there were 67 individuals surveyed over a period of four weeks. The information could not have been captured without the good will and assistance of staff in all three venues, and the general public, many thanks to all.

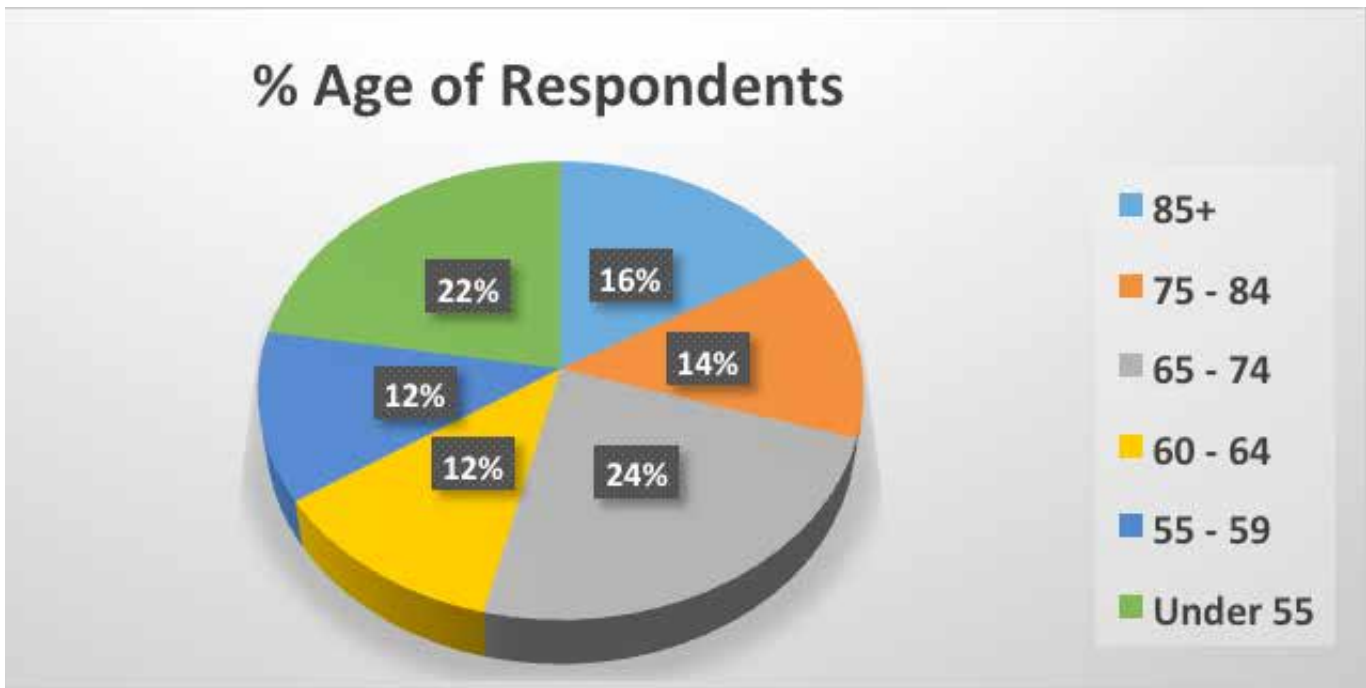
### 1. Are you male or female?



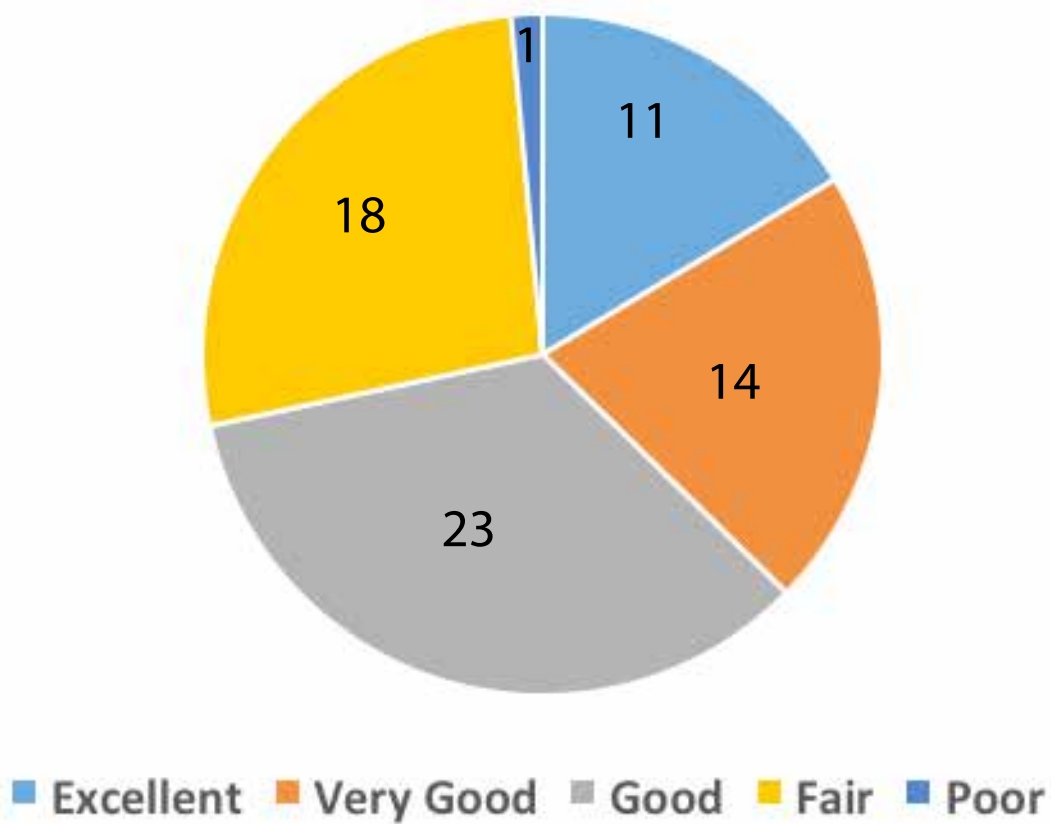
### 2. Which of the following statements most applies to you?



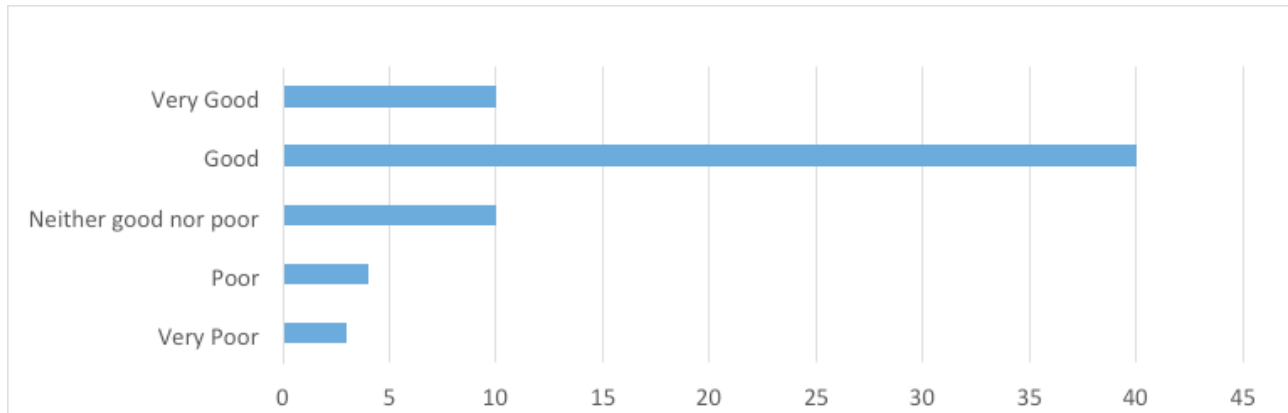
3. It is important for us to understand the issues for people of different ages.



4. How is your health in general?



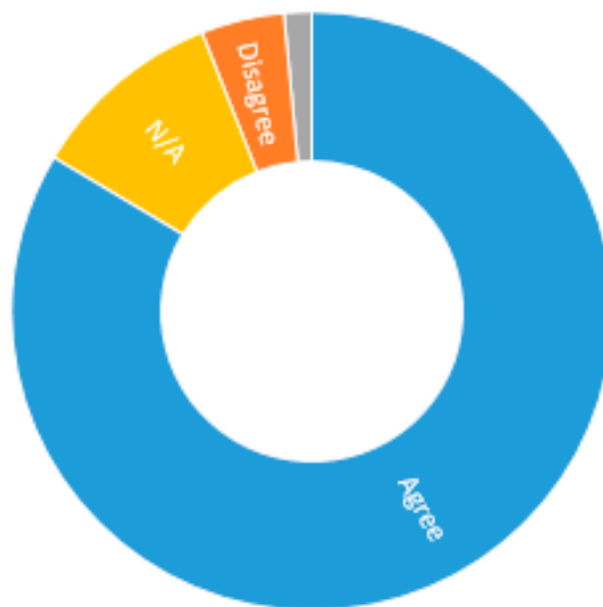
## 5. How would you rate your quality of life?



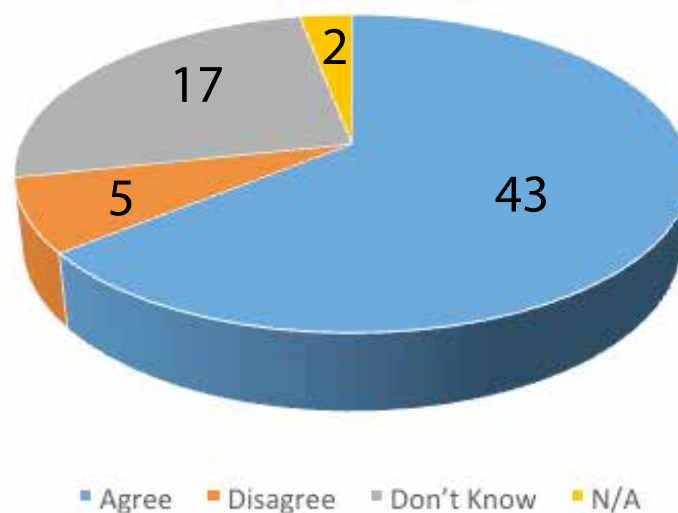
Questions 6&7 were for researcher use only.

## 8. Lead healthier and active lives for longer (Community Support and Health Services)

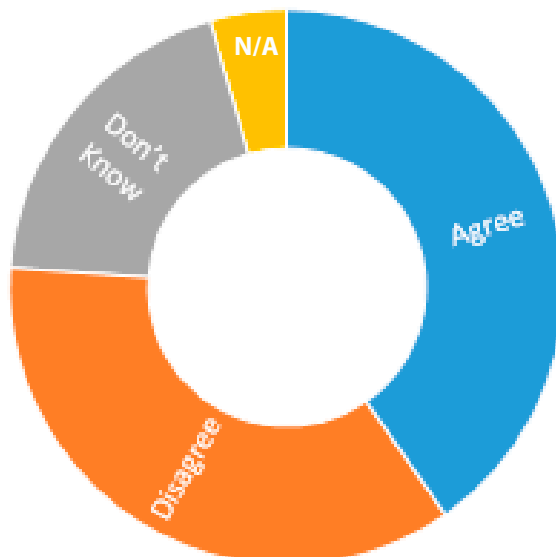
a) I am able to access good quality GP services.



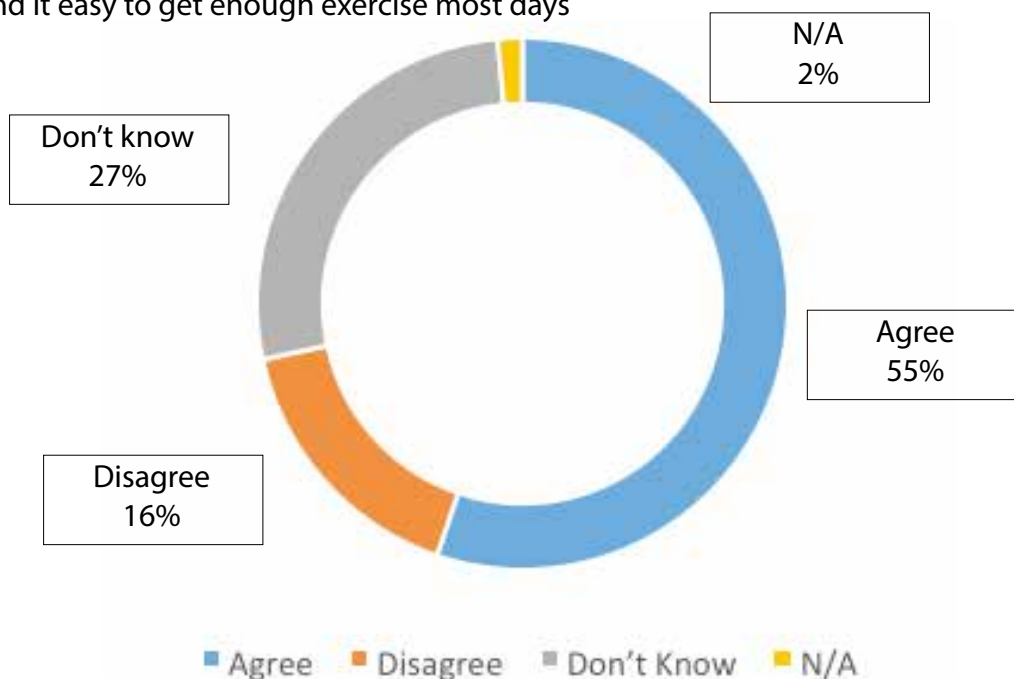
b) There are fitness and exercise classes I could take part in, if I wanted.



c) The cost of health care I need is not a problem

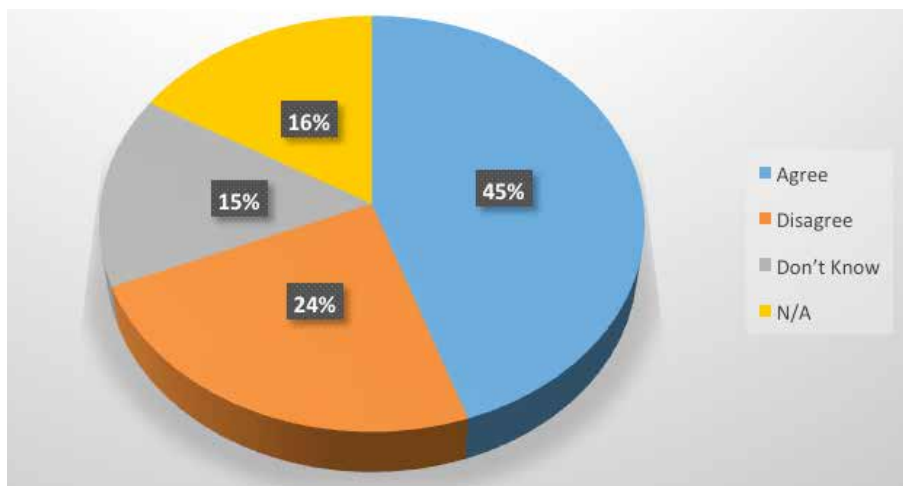


d) I find it easy to get enough exercise most days

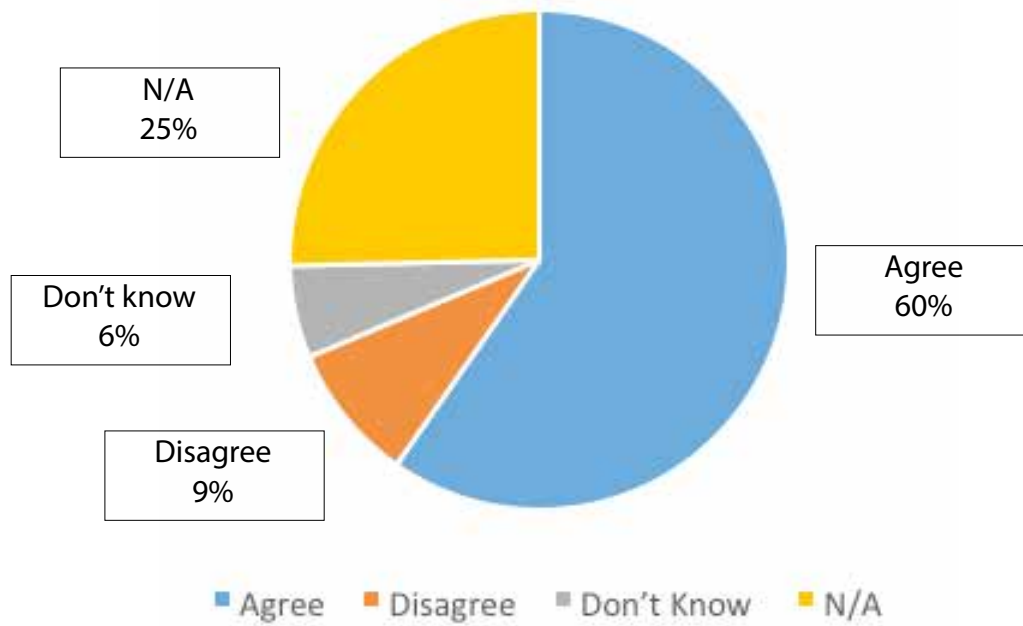


**9. Stay living in our own homes and communities (Housing)**

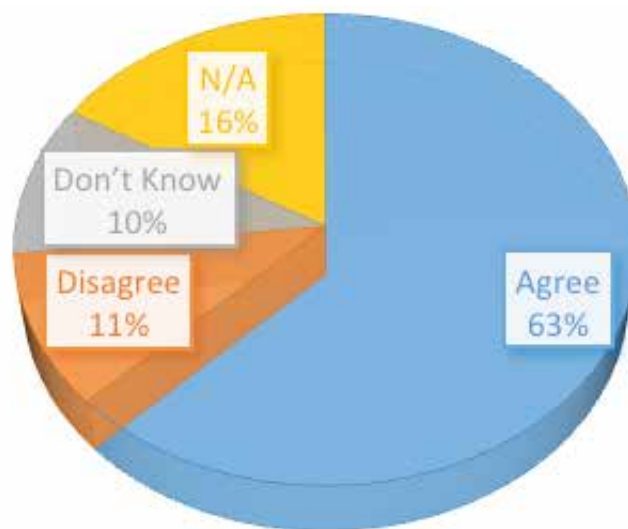
a) I am confident I will get the supports I need to stay living in my home as I get older



b) My home could be easily adopted to my needs as I get older

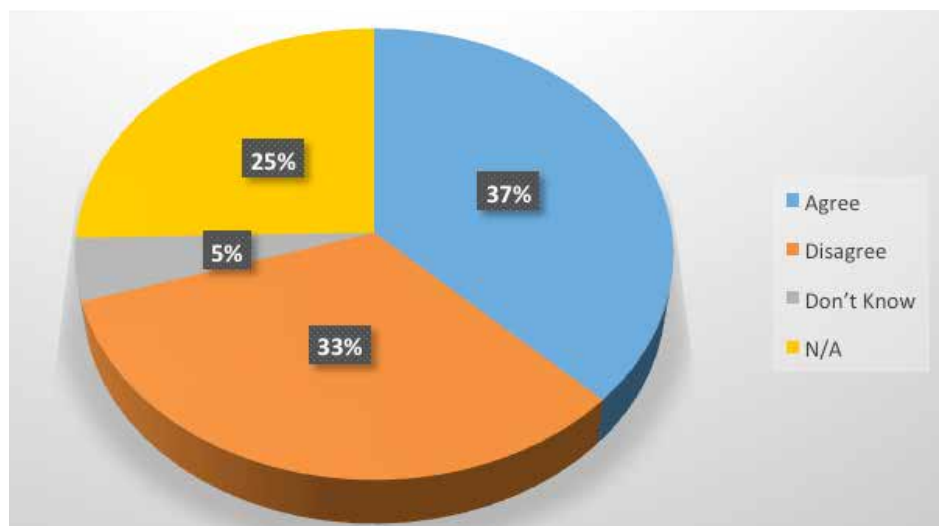


c) There is a good sense of community in this area

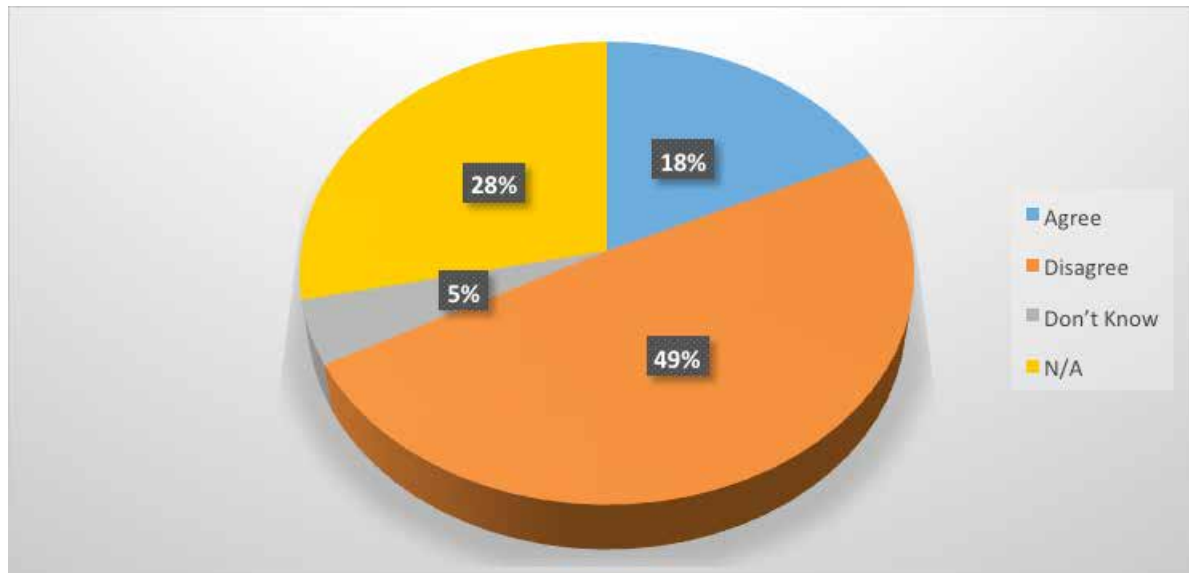


## 10. Get to where we need to go when we need to (Transportation)

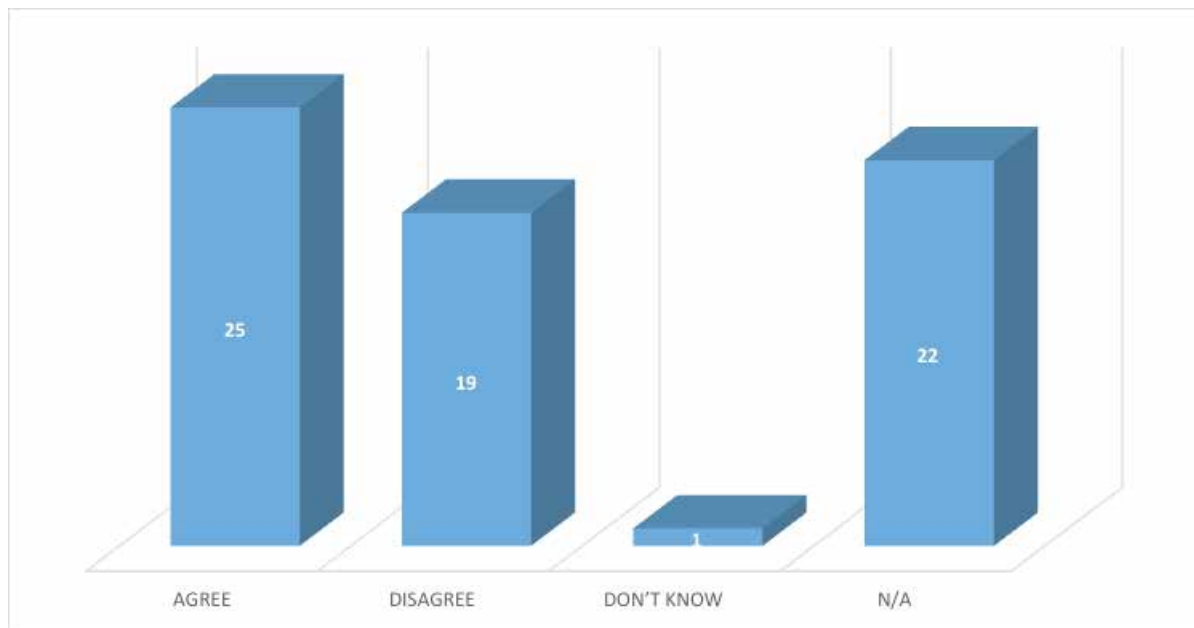
a) Transport wise it is easy for me to get into the town centre



b) Public transport gets me where I need to go



c) It is easy to find parking near the town centre

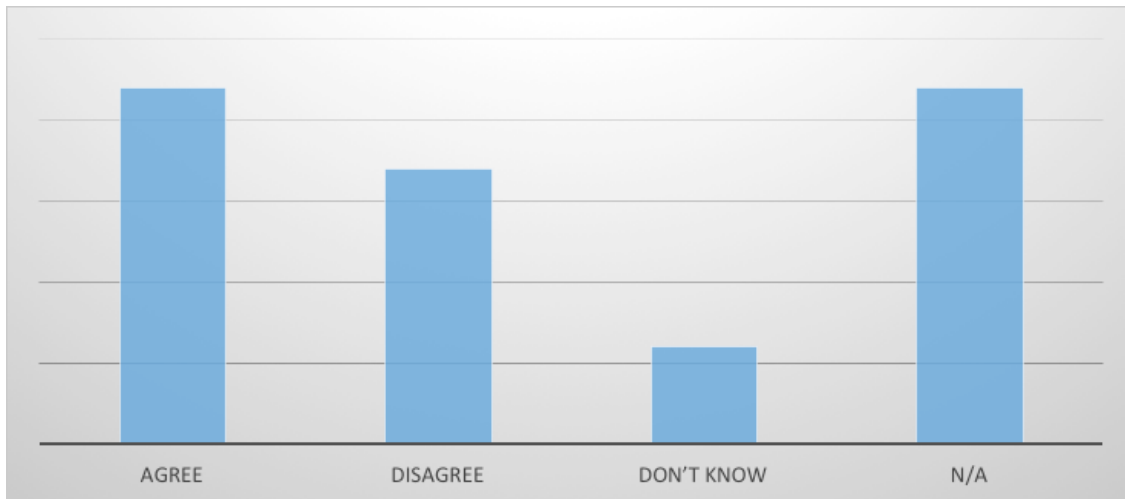


d) The price I pay for parking can stop me coming into town

**Boyle town centre is a free parking zone**

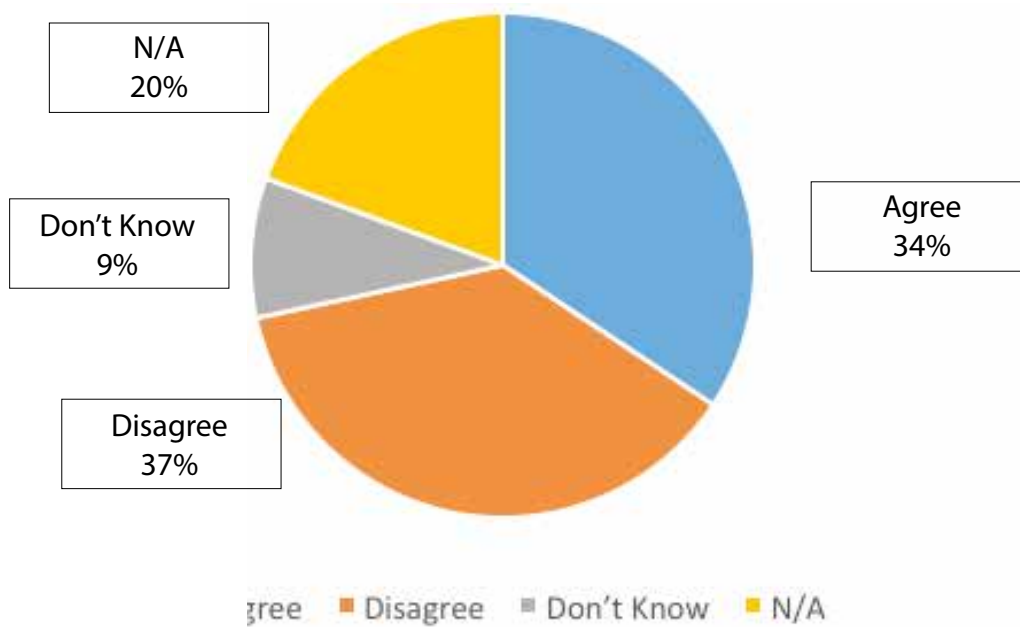


e) I am happy with the standard of bus stop in town

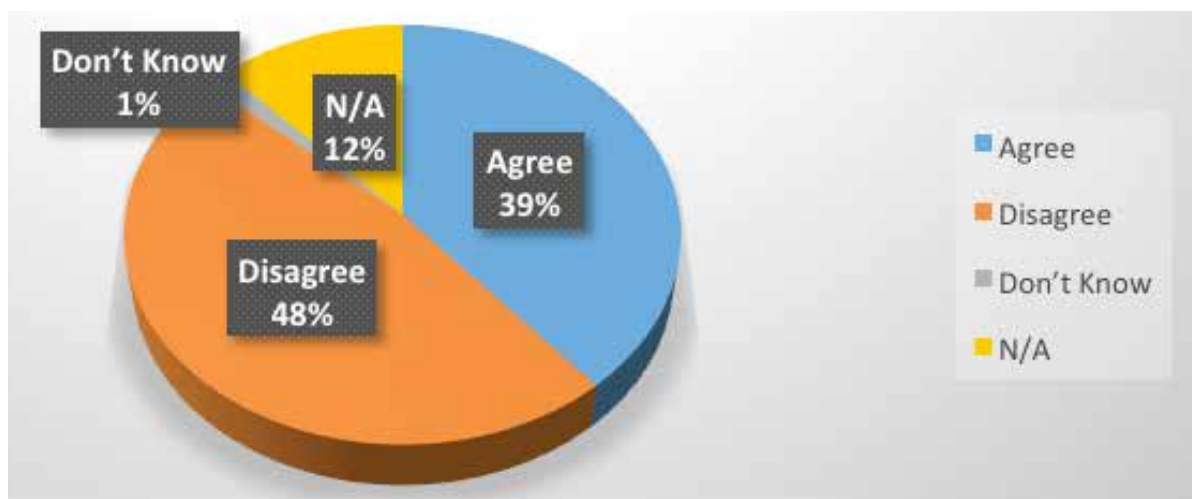


### 11. Be enabled by the built and social environment (Outdoor Spaces and Buildings)

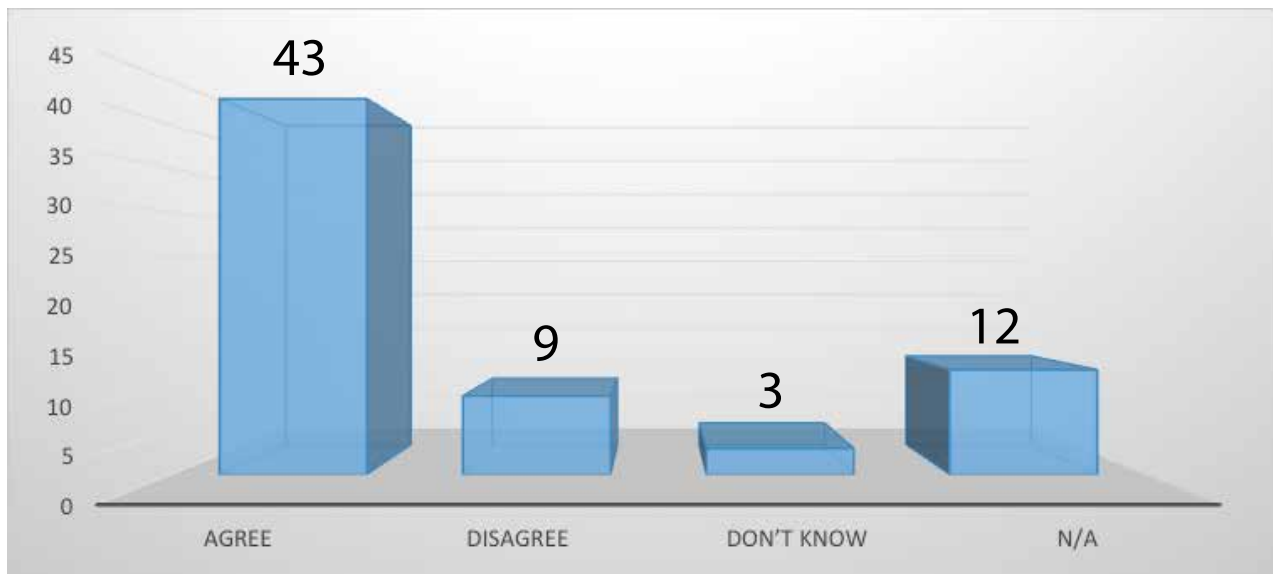
a) I am happy with the number of rest areas and public benches in the town



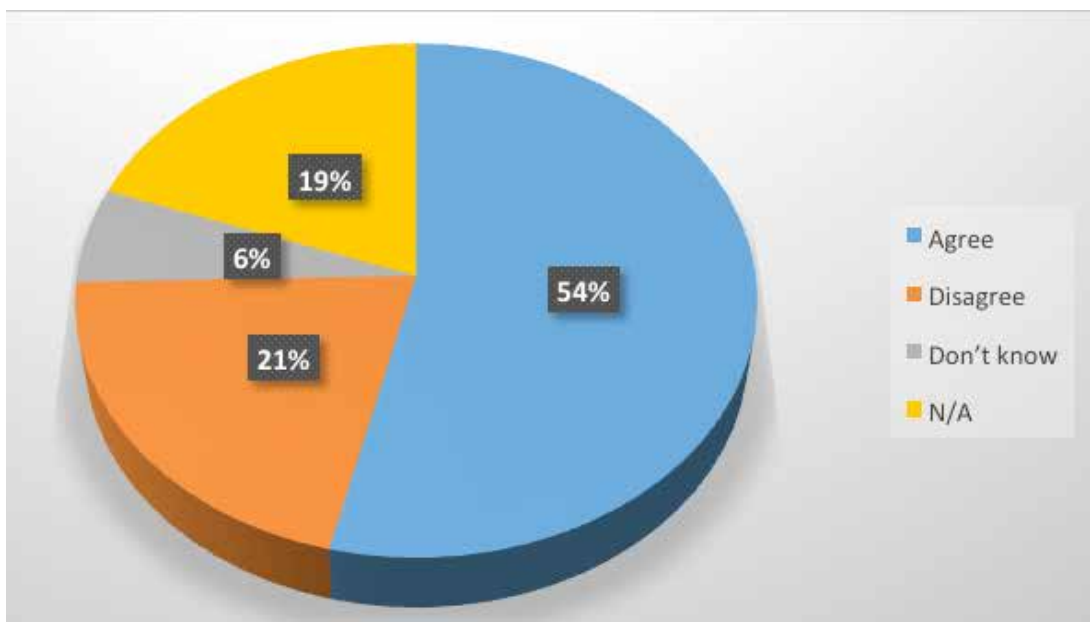
b) The foot paths are well maintained in this town



c) The street lighting is good in this town



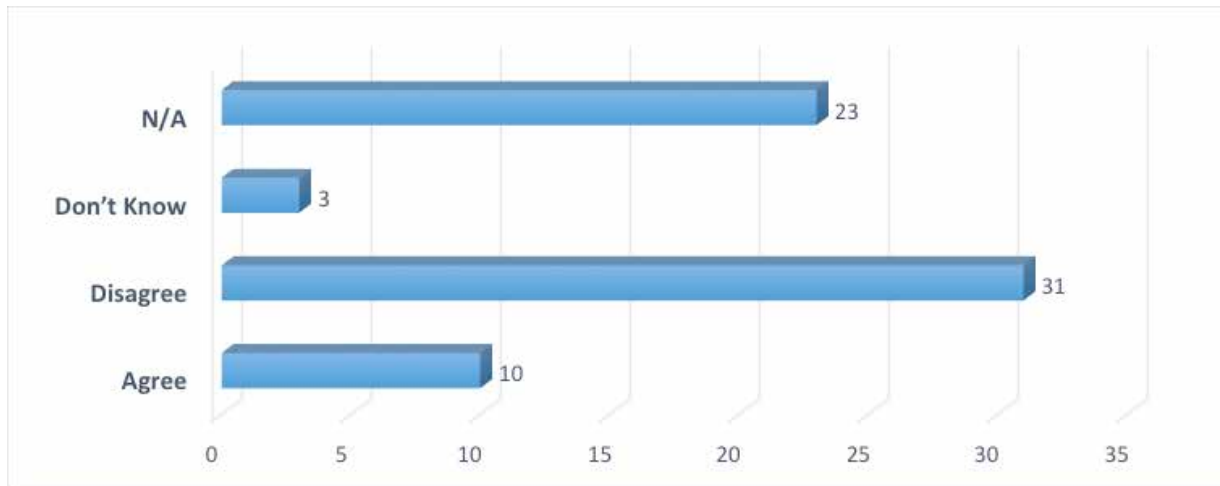
d) Cars parking on footpaths can be a problem



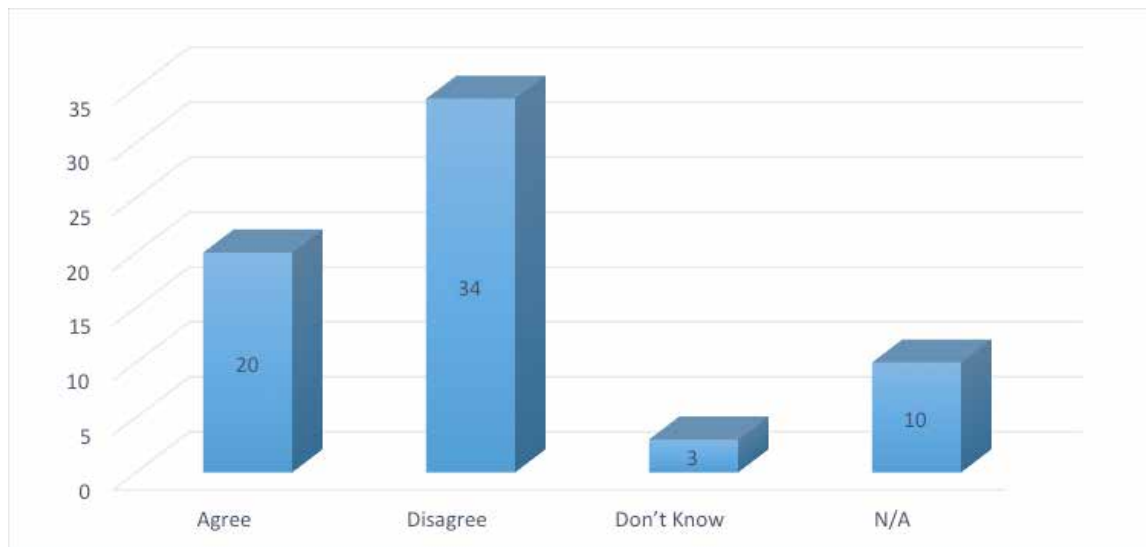
e) There are well maintained green spaces in the area



f) I am happy with the public toilets in this town

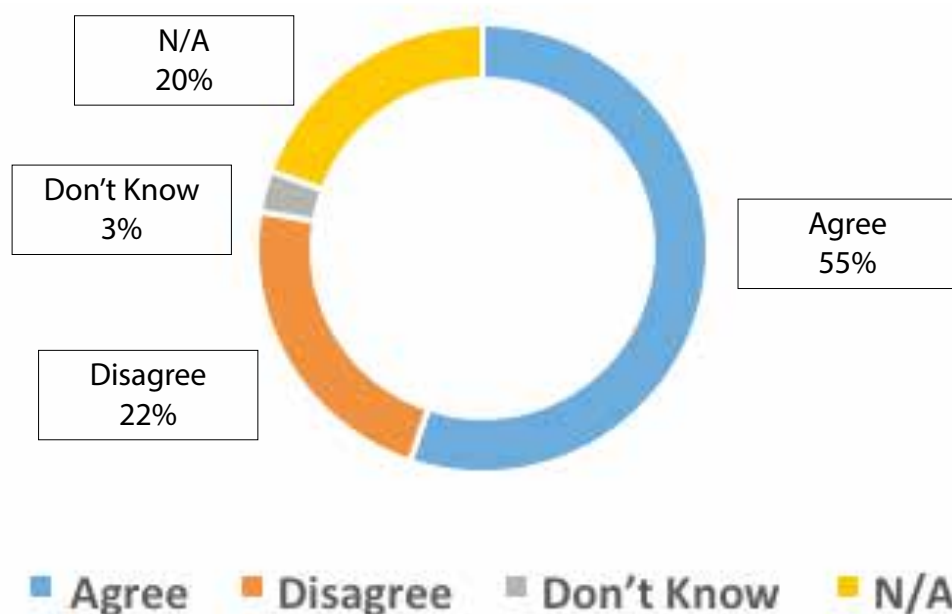


g) There aren't any good places to go for walks in town

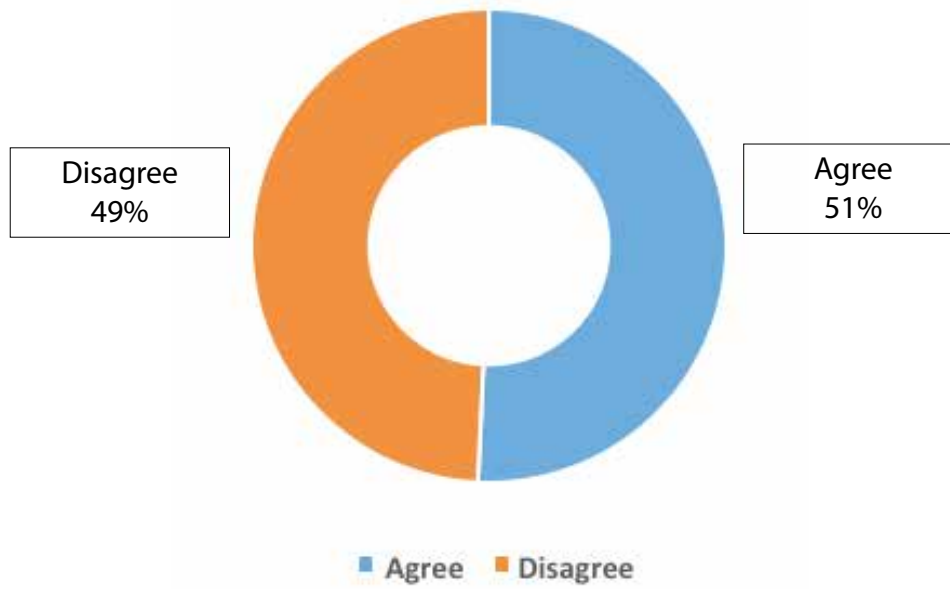


## 12. Feel and be safe at home and out and about. (Outdoor Spaces and Buildings)

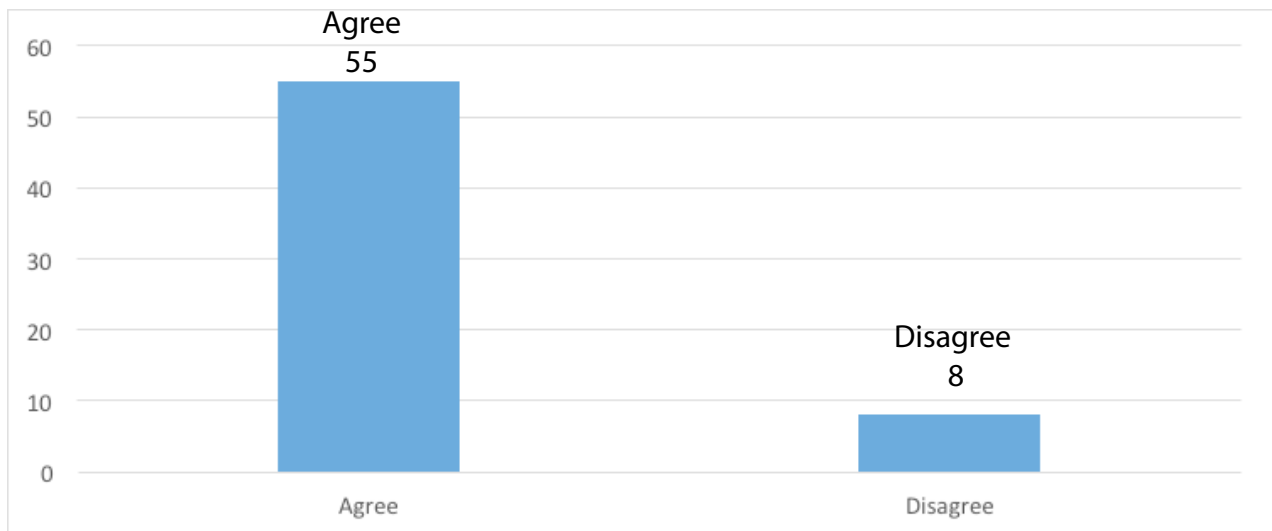
a) I would feel safe to go walking in my neighbourhood after dark



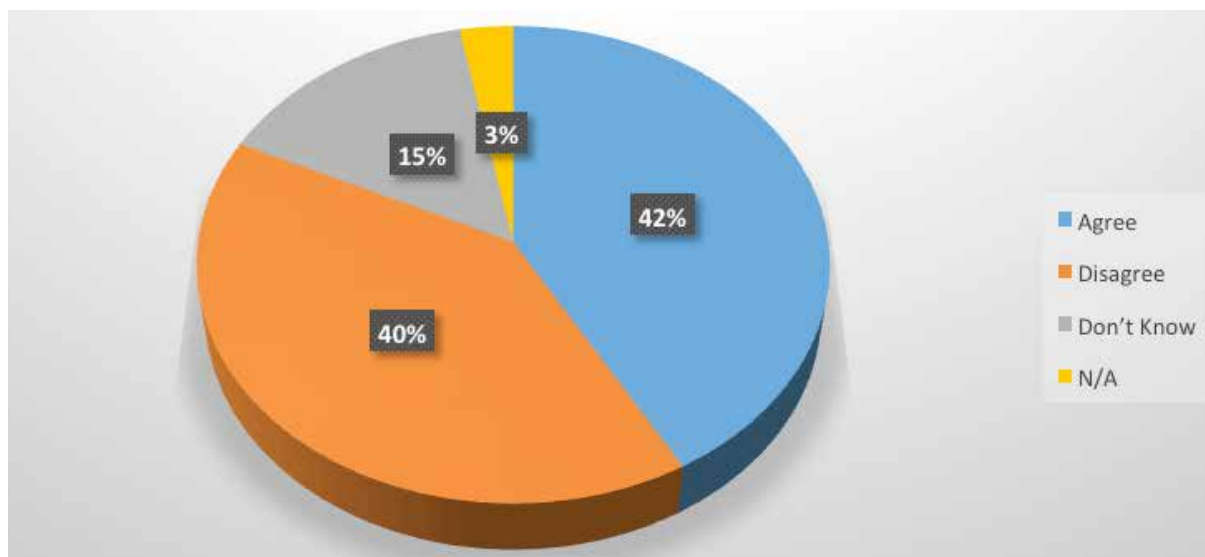
b) I am happy with the Garda presence in this area



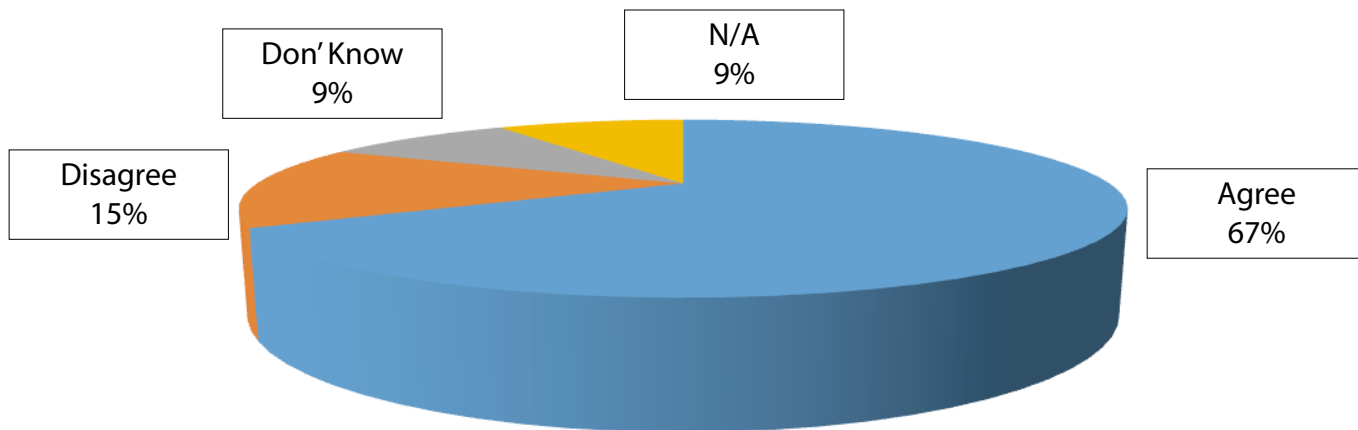
c) I know what to do to stay safe in my own home



d) I worry a lot about being a victim of crime

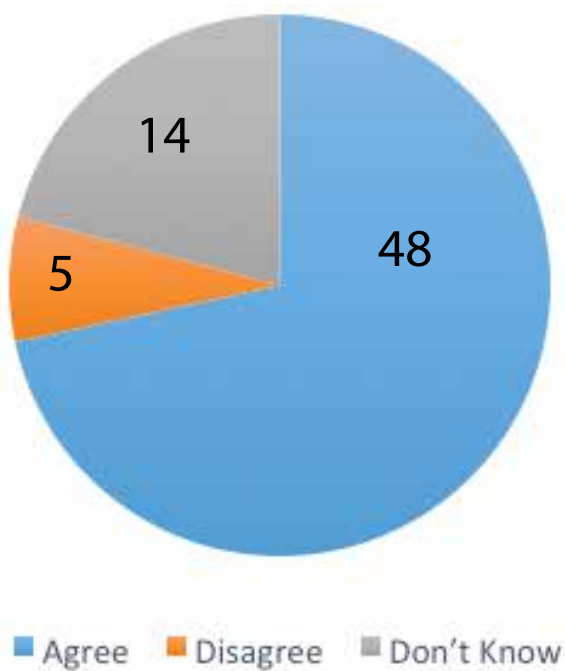


e) I feel safe alone in my home at night

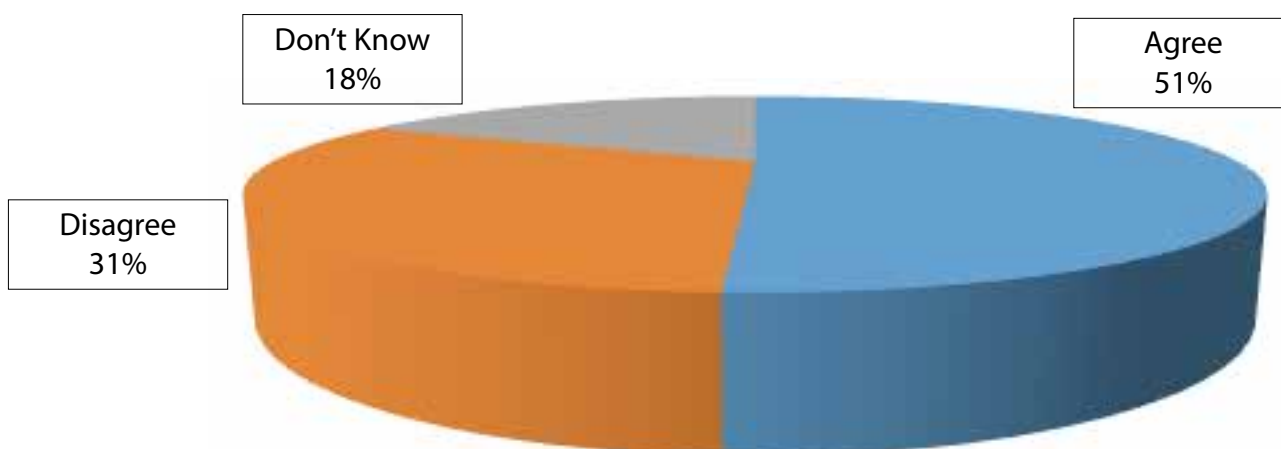


### 13. Have the information we need to live full lives. (Communications and Information)

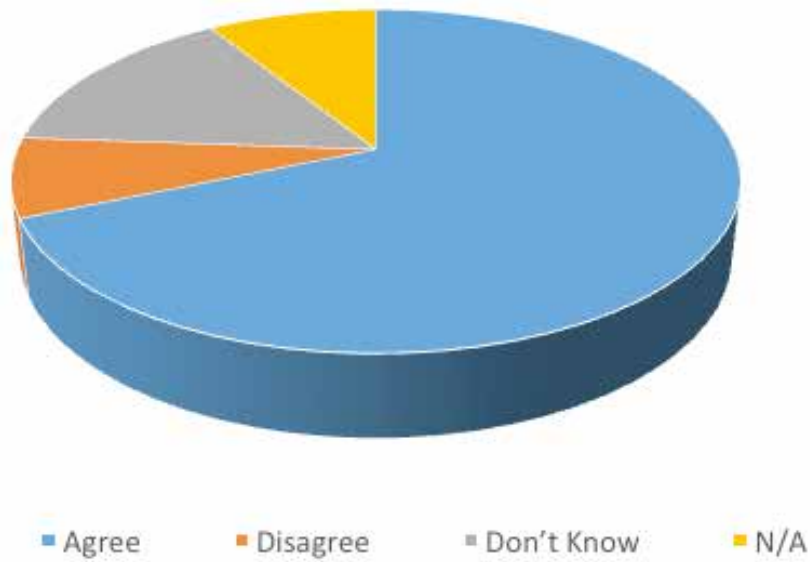
a) If I wanted to I would find it easy to find out about local events that are happening



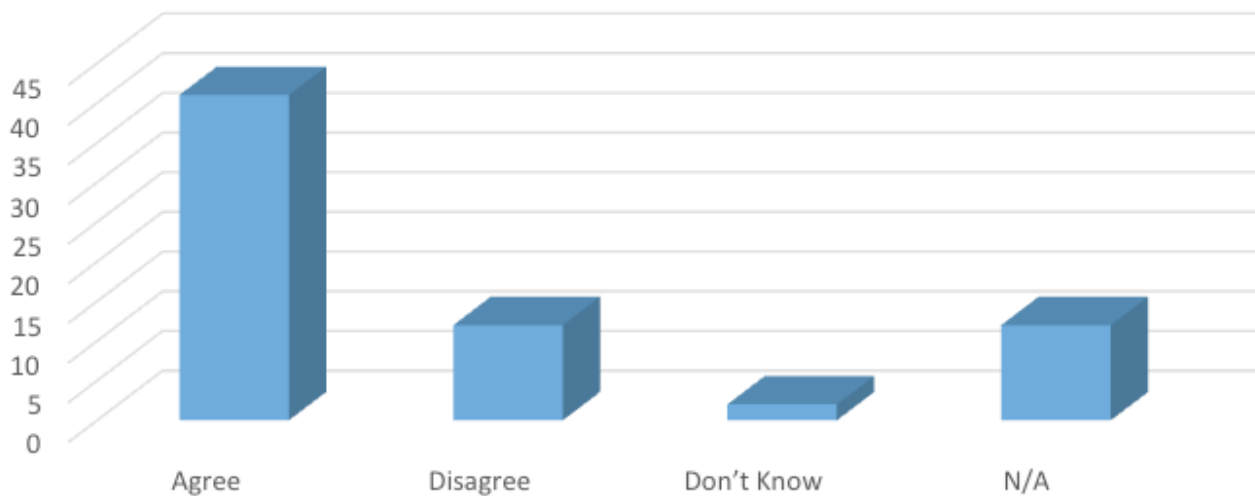
b) I find it difficult to find out what services and entitlements I am eligible for



c) I have used services like the library or Citizen's Information Service to get information in the past

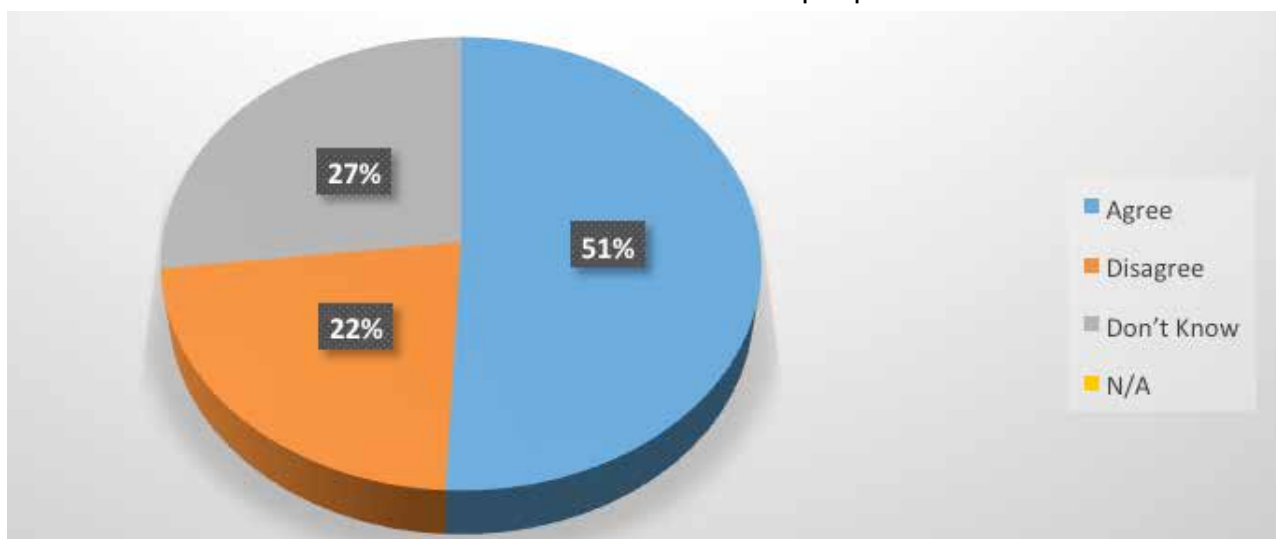


d) I use the internet to find information

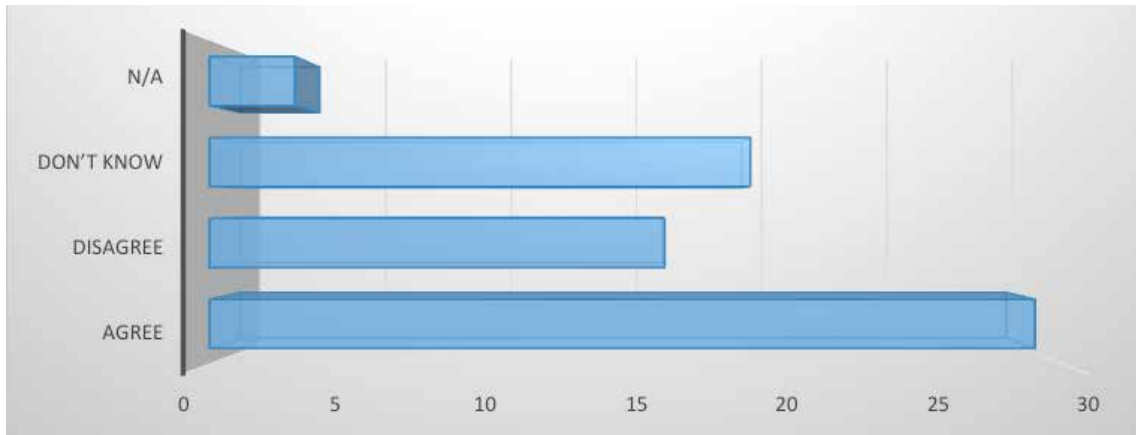


## 14. Be truly valued and respected (Respect and Social Inclusion)

a) I think businesses in town make an effort to make older people welcome

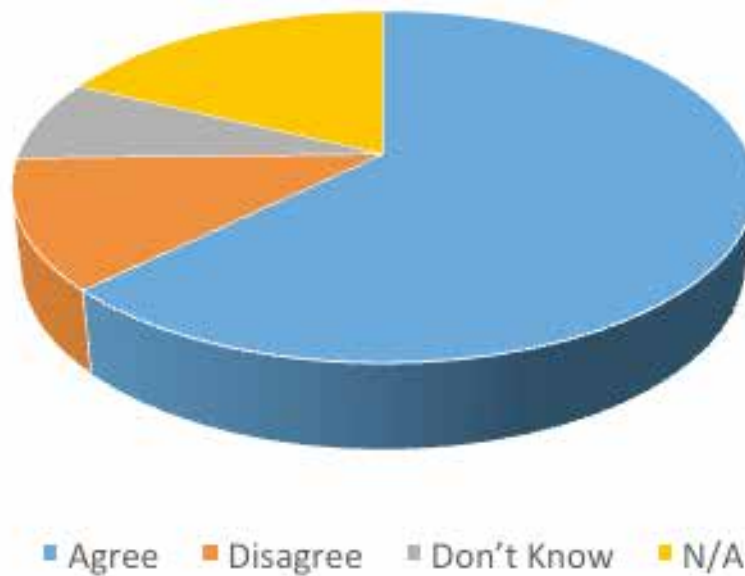


b) Older people are given opportunities to contribute to the community

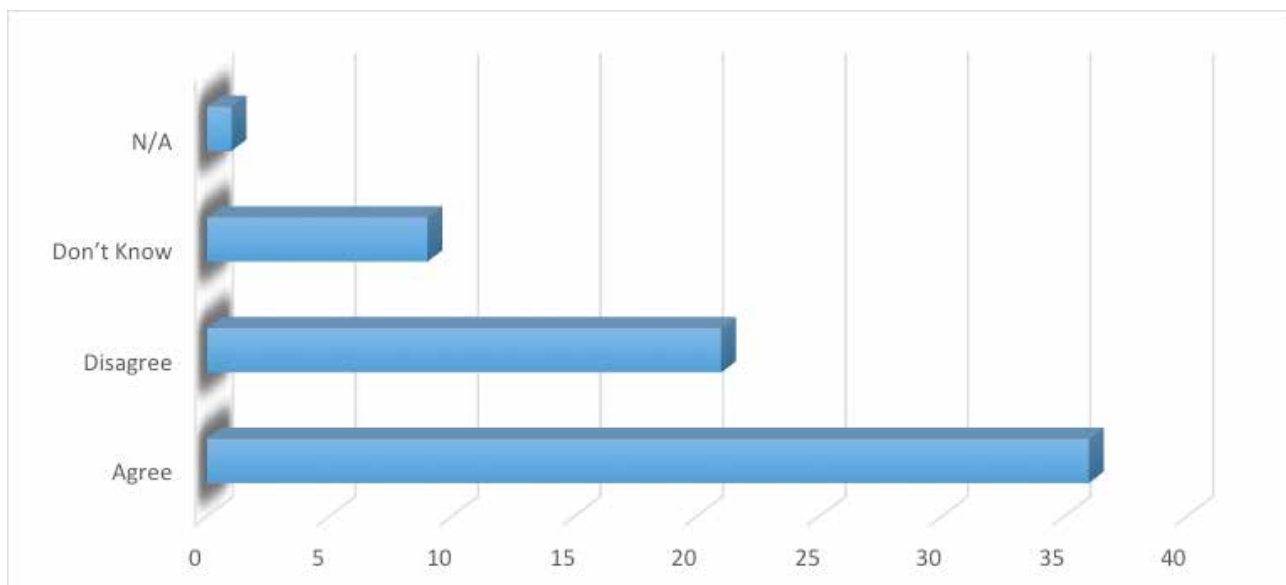


### 15. Participate in social, economic and public life (Social Participation)

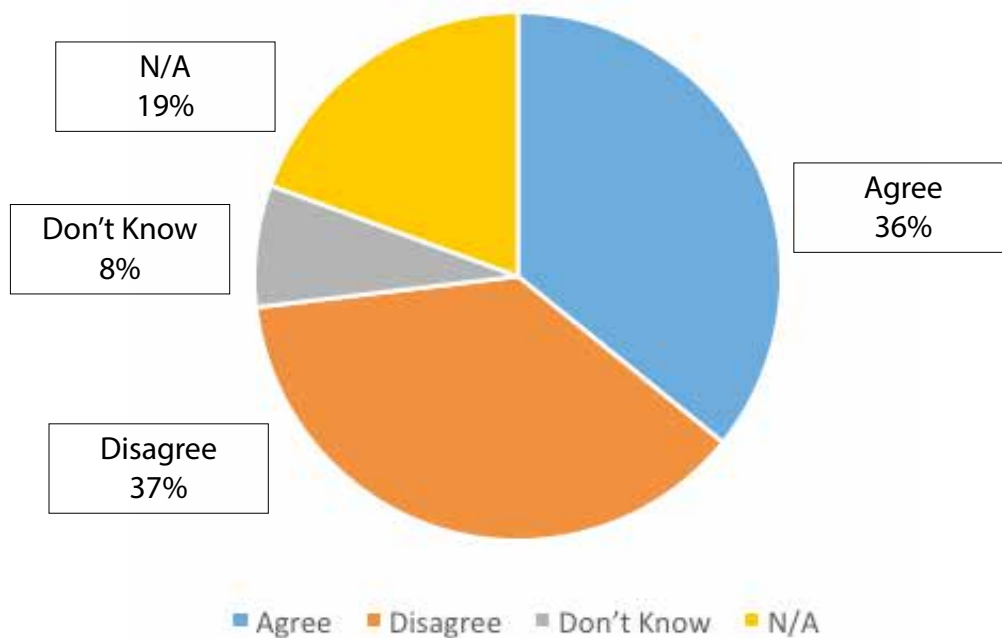
a) There are opportunities for me to volunteer if I want to



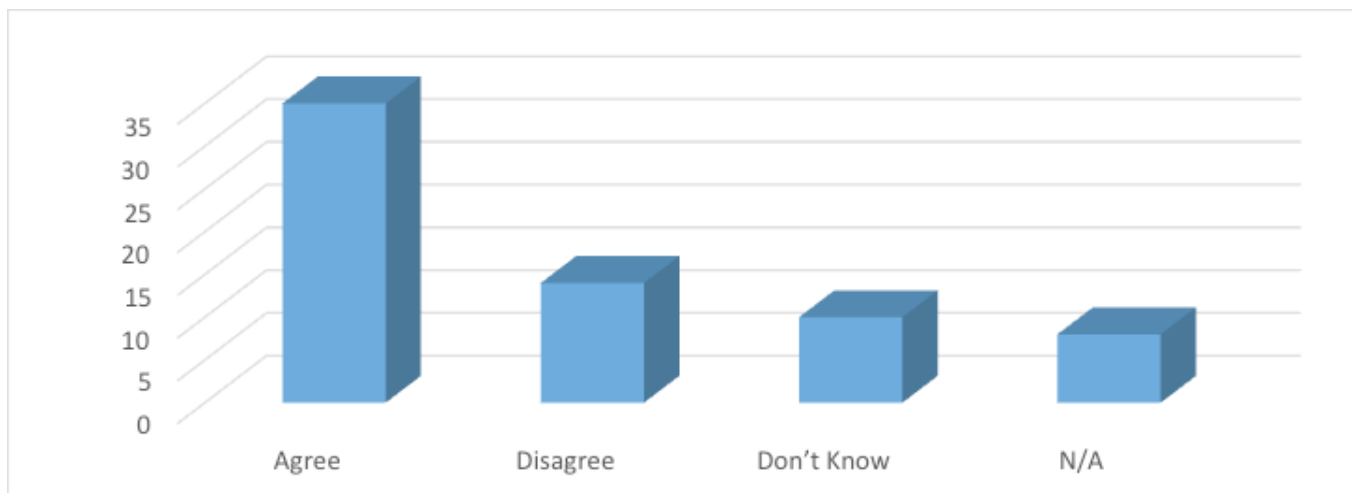
b) The town has most of the shops and services I need



c) This area has enough clubs and societies to participate in

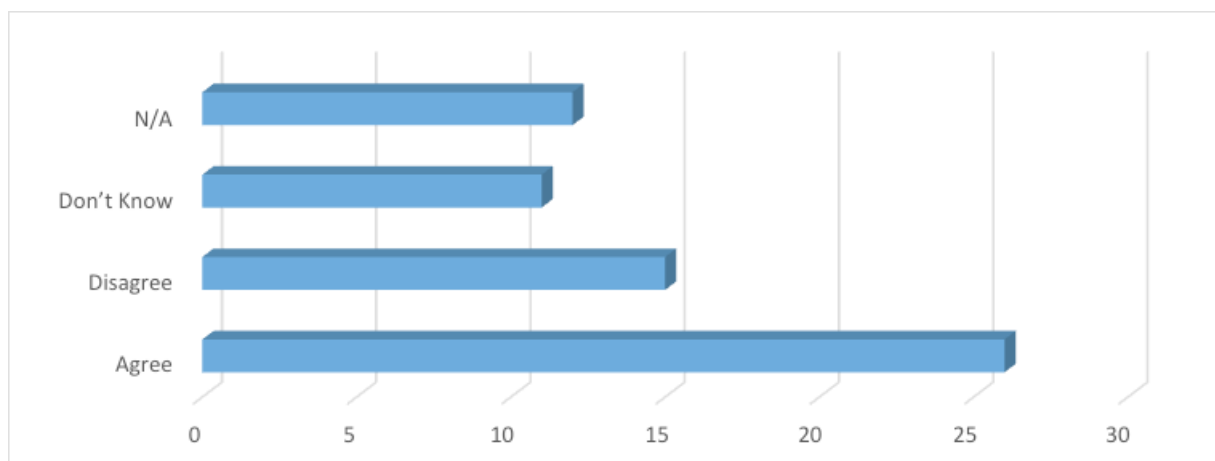


d) There are plenty of possibilities to be able to mix with other people in this town



## 16. Continue to learn, develop and work. (Civic Participation and Employment)

a) If I wanted to continue learning there are courses available to me





# Appendix 2: Walkability Audit Routes

## Boyle Town Centre:

