

Village Profile

Population

The population of Rockcorry has grown incrementally since 1996, the village experienced a large increase between 1996 and 2002, and again between 2006 and 2011, however population growth was low between 2011 and 2016, and fell between 2016 and 2022.

Year	1996	2002	2006	2011	2016	2022
Population	260	287	292	310	316	302
% Change		10.4%	1.7%	6.2%	2.0%	-4.4%

Housing

There were 32 permanent private households constructed between 2001 to 2010. The cumulative increase in population between 2002 and 2011 coincided with the construction of these homes (Population increase of 8% from 287 to 310 persons).

Occupancy is predominately owner occupier 68%, and the remaining 32% comprising dwellings rented from a private landlord (6%) or rented from a Local Authority (26%) in 2017 in Rockcorry (Source CSO). The 2022 Census figures indicate that the tenure profile in Monaghan comprises 71% of households owned their own home, with a further 24% renting. This compared with 66% of households owning their home nationally and 28% renting. Accordingly, the tenure profile in Rockcorry in 2016 aligns with the current national tenure profile.



The Census 2022 small area population statistics for Rockcorry are currently not available. Based on planning permissions granted, and those commenced, there little evidence of any substantial increase in the number of recently constructed homes in the village centre since 2016. It is noted from a review of planning history of the area that a total of 214 dwellings were granted permission between 2005 and 2010, but none of these commenced.

Year	Reg Ref	No. Dwellings	Status
2008	081281	50	Not constructed- Expired
2010	109013	25	Not Constructed - Expired
2006	06187	60	Not Constructed - Expired
2006	061768	58	Not Constructed - Expired
2005	051366	10	Not Constructed—Expired
2004	04218	11	Not Constructed—Expired
Total		214	

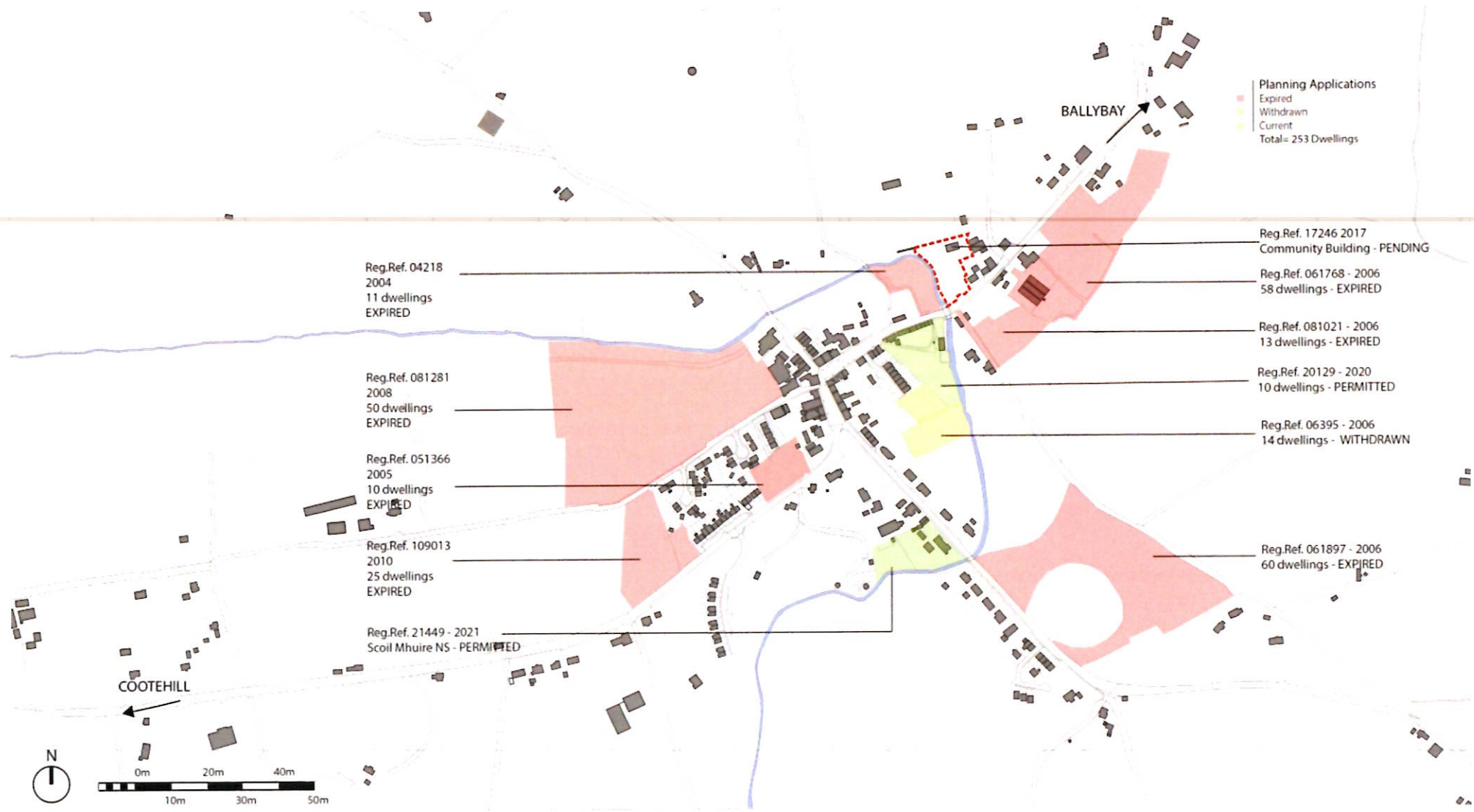
More recently planning permission was granted in the village centre for a primary care centre, shelter care accommodation, apartments, and single storey dwellings at Tea Pot Row, and the Mill building . The implementation of this project would significantly enhance the visual character of the area through adaptation and reuse of historic structures, and would add to the social and economic regeneration in the village, with potential added benefits.

Year	Reg Ref	Description	Status
2021	20129	Shelter care accommodation adaptation and re use and primary care centre at Teapot Row and Mill building	Granted Permission – Not Commenced

It is noted, that the Census 2022 preliminary population increase recorded in Monaghan was 6.4%, which is at the lower spectrum of population growth in the country, and lower than the adjoining counties of 7.3% increase in Cavan, and 9.8% in Leitrim.

In the context of the above, there is scope and capacity for the village to accommodate growth within the village centre. Given the demand for new homes throughout the country and opportunities to support home working, **Rockcorry can readily accommodate population growth.** Population growth in the village would contribute to the revitalisation of the village core.

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Recent Planning History of the Village

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Residential Vacancy

The 2016 Census records 122 permanent dwellings in Rockcory, 29 of which are vacant (23.7%), and excluding temporarily vacant and one unoccupied vacant home (Source: CSO). The preliminary 2022 Census results indicates that the national vacancy rate fell from 9% to 8%, excluding holiday homes.

The 2016 levels of vacancy in Rockcory is very high. Based on a visual survey, vacant/derelict properties are clearly evident at Tea Pot Row and the Almshouses at the village green, as well as incidental vacant dwellings and commercial spaces on the main street. These properties are of architectural and cultural value, and contribute to the character of the village. As vacant properties they detract from the visual amenity and vibrancy of the village core. There is potential for these properties to come back into use.



Tea Pot Row—Prior to falling into dereliction



Almshouses at the Village Green

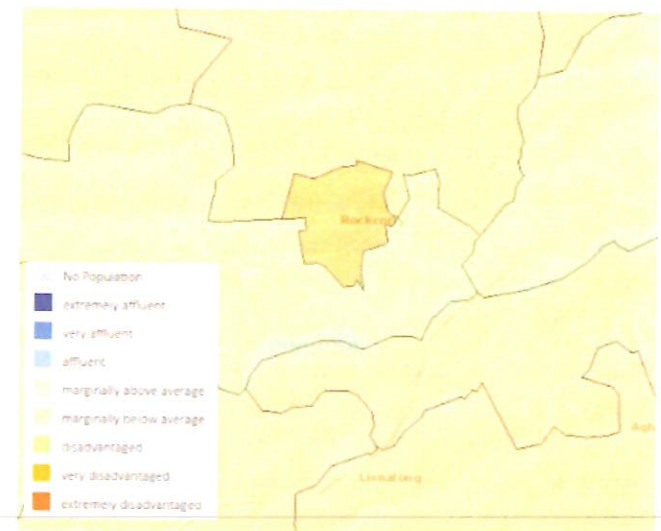
The level of vacancy seriously detracts from the vibrancy of the village and results in low footfall to support village shops and services. This data corresponds with the communities' discussions and ambition to bring vacant and derelict properties back into use, and also to bring life back into the village as a place to live and work.

Health and Well being

The proportion of people who reported their health was good or very good in 2016 in Rockcory was 84%, which is generally consistent with the national average. A total of 47 persons are identified as being disabled, which comprises 15% of the population. This is marginally above the national average in 2016 of 13.5% of the population. The age profile in the village in 2016 comprised 33% of the population below the age of 24, and 51% of the population aged over the age of 65 (Source CSO).

There are high young and aging populations, which would suggest a need for services and facilities to meet the needs of both cohorts.

Deprivation levels are derived from the Pobal maps, Rockcory is categorised as disadvantaged in 2016, with an age dependency ratio of 40%, lone parent ratio of 25%, and the population with primary education only of 28%, third level of 17.86%, local authority rented accommodation level of 26%, and unemployment rate ranging from 30% (male) to 23% (female) (Source Pobal).



Extract from Pobal Map illustrating Deprivation level in 2016 and legend inset indicating Rockcory is classified as Disadvantaged

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Community and Recreational Facilities

Community services and facilities include the local Rockcorry medical centre, adjoining Rockcorry Childcare services in the village centre. Also, the preschool at Rockcorry National School, Dartrey, Cootehill Road, as part of the Rockcorry National School. In addition is Scoil Mhuire, and proposed new school to replace the existing to include additional sports facilities. Rockcorry GAA grounds and changing rooms provide a valuable community resource adjoining the village centre.

The existing Community Hall on the Ballybay Road has provided an important community facility in the past, however it is limited in size. The Community Hall adjoining the entrance to Dartrey Forrest is also limited in size and requires upgrading. This building is of architectural interest, and retains significant character.

Given the need for a variety of community spaces, the existing hall should be reviewed regarding its suitability for use by particular community organisation or potential use for commercial or enterprise use.

Rockcorry would benefit from additional community services for all age groups, to support the population profile and to create opportunities for that population to participate in community activities as well as enhanced access to sports and recreational facilities for all. This corresponds with the communities' discussions on the need for a range

of additional community facilities. With an identified need for youth community services, enhanced community facilities would improve the quality of life for residents, and would also increase the desirability of Rockcorry as a place to live for potential new residents.

Rockcorry GAA provides very important recreational facilities in the heart of the village. It is noted that Rockcorry GAA have been granted planning permission for a community centre, containing a multi purpose room, meeting rooms, social rooms and ancillary spaces..



Community Building on the Ballybay Road



Community Hall at Dartrey also of architectural interest and listed on the NIAH

The proposed Rockcorry Community Centre, and accommodation proposed has potential to meet the current demand for a community centre in the village .

Schools

There are two schools in the village Scoil Mhuire, Boyher (Roll 10429W), and Rockcorry NS (Roll 06028F).

Scoil Mhuire, Boyher (Roll 10429W) The school numbers have gradually increased from 2020—2022, comprising 79, 83 and 84 students respectively. Permission has been granted for a new school, and it is designed to provide 5 classrooms. Assuming each classroom conservatively accommodate up to 20—25 children, the school may have capacity to accommodate 100—125 children. As such the school will have capacity to accommodate a growing population



Scoil Mhuire Boyher

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Rockcorry NS (Roll 06028F) has also gradually increased in numbers from 2020 to 2022, increasing from 26, 33, 32. The school has relocated from the village centre to the south west of the village adjoining the entrance to Dartrey.

The school currently comprises 3 classrooms. Assuming each classroom conservatively accommodates up to 20—24 children, the school may have capacity to accommodate 60—72 children. As such the school will have capacity to accommodate a growing population.



Rockcorry NS adjoining Dartrey Forest

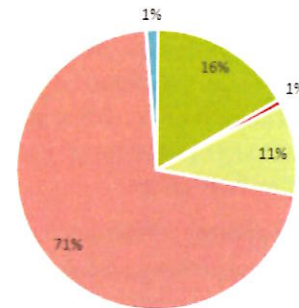
Travel, public transport, and car ownership

The village is located along the Regional Road network, there is no train service, Rockcorry railway station (opened in 1860) closed for passenger and goods traffic on 10 March 1947, and closed altogether on the 20 June 1955. The Rockcorry rail was on the Cootehill Branch of the Dundalk and Enniskillen Railway. The station was located to the south of the village.

Bus routes servicing the village include the Bus Eireann route 175, which operates daily, linking Rockcorry with Monaghan, Cootehill and Cavan. There is also a Local Link service, ‘Door to Door’ routes, which is demand driven.

The 2016 Census indicates that the means of travel to work, school or college commuting to work for the population over the age of 5 comprised 16% by foot and 1% by cycle, 11% by bus or coach, and 71% by motorbike, car, passenger or van. The journey time to work, school or college for under 15 minutes as 32%, and between 15 to 30 minutes as 34%.

- On Foot
- Bicycle
- Bus, minibus or coach
- Car Driver/Passenger/Van/Other
- Work mainly at or from home



Population aged 5 years and over by means of travel to work, school or college

These figures would suggest that a greater proportion of the population could potentially opt for walking or cycling to work, school or college with the infrastructure to support the modal shift to more active travel for short trips.

In 2016, 76.6% of households in urban areas owned at least one car compared with 91.0% of households in rural areas nationally. In Rockcorry 85.3% of households own one or more cars (45.9% of households owned one car, 34.5% owned two cars, while 4.9% owned three cars). Enhanced opportunities to walk and cycle, as well as the potential to provide car sharing opportunities may facilitate a reduced need for more than one car per household.

Employment

A total of 110 persons were in employment in Rockcorry SAP. Rockcorry is located in the Dawsongrove Electoral Division (ED). The total number of people working in the ED comprise 364, a total of 47 live and work in the same ED, and 198 commute outside the ED, and 317 commuters travelling into Rockcorry from outside the ED. Those in employment in Rockcorry SAP are employed primarily in professional services (31.8%), followed by commerce and trade (23.6%), manufacturing industries (13.6%), and equal percentage in public administration (9%) and building and construction(9%).

There are employment opportunities locally, including Campbell Foods in the village centre, and Rockcorry medical centre, and local schools, Fitzpatrick’s public house, and Rockcorry’s Filling Station and shop. Employment opportunities are primarily located in proximate towns, Monaghan, Castleblayney, Ballybay, Clones, and Cootehill and Cavan outside the ED.

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In order to support a sustainable and resilient community, it is appropriate to enhance employment opportunities in the village, particularly noting the high level of unemployment in the 2016 census of 23% female unemployment rate and 30% male unemployment rate recorded in 2016 (Source Pobal).

Given the number of those employed in professional services that are most likely located outside the village, there may be opportunities to facilitate remote facilities for these professional service employees in the village, or alternatively to support remote micro businesses in existing vacant properties on the main street.

It is also noteworthy the high number of commuters / employees entering the wider ED. This presents an opportunity for the village to provide services to cater for those visitors. Also from discussions with the existing community, there is a lack of café and lunch time opportunities for employees in the village, also parents dropping and collecting children. There is an opportunity to support a community or local enterprise to provide a community café for the existing community demand as well as capturing the potential demand from commuters to the ED, as well as visitors to the Dartry Forest and local attractions.

Existing Broadband Infrastructure

A sustainable future for our towns and villages is dependent of Broadband infrastructure. The government places a strong emphasis on the provision of Broadband services. The government's policy states:

In the area of communications, the government's goal is to provide a world class communications network with high quality services, supporting connected communities and enabling citizens to embrace digital opportunities, in a safe environment.

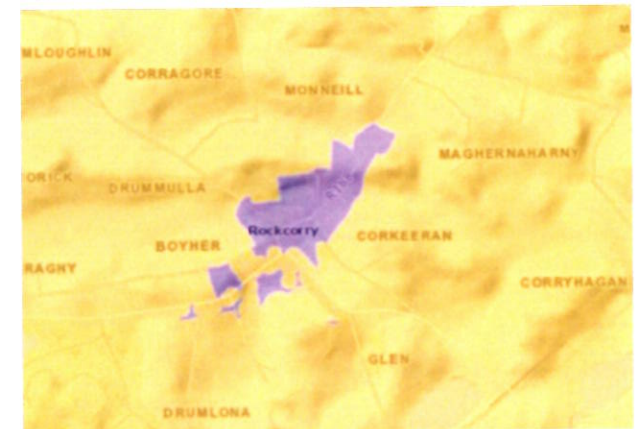
The government supports economic growth, jobs, competitiveness and social inclusion through a range of policies and regulation designed to facilitate a more digitally connected economy and society. It is focused on ensuring the availability of high quality broadband to every premises in Ireland, balanced regulation to foster investment and innovation, as well as protecting and empowering individuals, communities and businesses in their use of digital technologies.

Government policies and regulations in this area are centered on achieving the following objectives:

- universal access to high speed broadband
- better connected communities
- strengthened cyber security
- enhanced engagement with younger audiences

Ireland's international and national digital connectivity is vitally important to maintaining and enhancing our competitiveness in global markets and in the knowledge and information economy.

The National Broadband Plan Map from the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications updated on the 15th of March 2023 sets out the extent and quality of the broadband Infrastructure for Rockcorry, see The High Speed Broadband Map and Legend below:



Highspeed Broadband Map Areas

Amber Areas: The target areas for the State Intervention under the National broadband Plan.

Blue Areas 0 Where commercial operators are delivering or have indicated plans to deliver high speed broadband services. Operators are continuing to enhance their services in these areas to improve access to high speed broadband.

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BCP: School -BCP School -Indicates the National School is identified as part of the National Broadband Plan to deliver connectivity to Primary Schools

The High Speed Broadband Map indicates that Rockcorry village is located in a BLUE area representing those areas where commercial providers are either currently delivering or have plans to deliver high speed broadband services. In these areas operators are continuing to enhance their services in these areas to improve access to high speed broadband. However, the wider hinterland resides in the target area only for the State intervention under the National Broadband Plan.

The existing Broadband infrastructure available in Rockcorry is a major asset to the community and this is a vital service that supports economic growth, jobs, competitiveness and social inclusion. This asset must be fully utilised for the future regeneration of the village.

Water Services Capacity Rockcorry

Wastewater Services

Uisce Éireann’s Annual Environmental Report 2020 for Rockcorry Wastewater Treatment Plan indicates an as constructed Capacity of 1000 (PE= Population Equivalent) and a Remaining Capacity of 667(PE). This with an average family size of 3 persons would support 222no. dwellings approximately.

Therefore, there is a significant capacity to accommodate future development in Rockcorry Village., especially when considering the conservative design principals indicated by Uisce Éireann. This is a major asset for the growth potential of Rockcorry, offering a sustainable and environmentally friendly location for rural development.

Water Supply Services

Uisce Éireann website indicates that the Lough Eglsh Regional Water Supply Scheme benefits approximately 12,000 consumers in Co Monaghan including Ballybay, Rockcorry and Castleblaney, and notes that there is available capacity in Rockcorry to support 2031 population targets.

The Capacity available in Uisce Eireann means a level of service (LoS) improvement required = Capacity Available to meet targeted population growth to 2031 although an improvement to the Level of service (LoS) will be required. This again is a major asset for the growth potential of Rockcorry, offering a sustainable and environmentally friendly location for rural development.

2.1.4.2 Treatment Capacity Report Summary - Rockcorry WWTP - 2020

Treatment capacity is an assessment of the hydraulic (flow) and organic (the amount of pollutants) load a treatment plant is designed to treat versus the current loading of that plant.

Rockcorry WWTP - 2020	
Peak Hydraulic Capacity (m ³ /day) - As Constructed	681
DWF to the Treatment Plant (m ³ /day)	227
Current Hydraulic Loading - annual max (m ³ /day)	482
Average Hydraulic loading to the Treatment Plant (m ³ /day)	123
Organic Capacity (PE) - As Constructed	1000
Organic Capacity (PE) - Collected Load (peak week) ^{Note 1}	333
Organic Capacity (PE) - Remaining	667
Will the capacity be exceeded in the next three years? (Yes/No)	No

Nominal design capacities can be based on conservative design principles. In some cases assessment of existing plants has shown organic capacities significantly higher than the nominal design capacity. Accordingly plants that appear to be overloaded when comparing a collected peak load with the nominal design capacity can be fully compliant due to the safety factors in the original design.

Extract from Uisce Eireann Annual Environmental Report Rockcorry Water Treatment Works 2020

Strategic Planning Context

Planning Context

A range of local, regional and national strategies and policies establish the context within which the Rockcorry Vision Plan 2030 is shaped.

While the Rockcorry Vision Plan sits within many strategies, those with particular relevance are described below:

Project Ireland 2040 National Planning Framework

This is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for our people, and to protect and enhance our environment.

The Rockcorry Vision Plan 2030 brings together the interests of the residents, community groups and businesses in Rockcorry to work together on common goals and a planned vision for a vibrant and sustainable Rockcorry. Rural areas play a key role in defining our identity, in driving our economy and creating high-quality built and natural environment must be a major part of our country's strategic development to 2040.

As a rural village, Rockcorry functions as the local economic and social driver for the surrounding areas. Creating the environment to support job creation in rural areas will be a key enabler to rejuvenating rural towns and villages, sustaining vibrant rural communities and reversing population decline.

Enhanced Amenities and Heritage will ensure that our cities, towns and villages are attractive and can offer a good quality of life.

Rockcorry has a wealth of heritage assets both natural and man-made which can be sympathetically promoted to preserve and conserve the history and heritage.

At the same time this is an important element in maintaining a good quality of life for residents and attracting visitors to the area for the benefit of the village economy. This framework is aligned with the National Planning Framework's principles of compact growth and sustainability.

<p style="text-align: center;">NATIONALLY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Programme for Government - Our Shared Future 2020 Project Ireland 2040 Our Rural Future 2021-2025 Housing for All 2021 Town Centre First Policy 2022 Fáilte Ireland: Survival to Recovery 2023 National Implementation Plan of the Sustainable Development Goals 2022-2024 Climate Action Plan 2023</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">REGIONALLY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy (RSES) 2020-2032 North East Regional Enterprise Plan – Cavan Monaghan and Louth 2024 Northern & Western Region Assembly Report - Region in Transition, The Way Forward Failte Ireland: Ireland's Ancient East Regional Tourism Development Strategy 2023 – 2027</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">LOCALLY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 Monaghan County Council Local Economic & Community Plan 2015-2021 (Currently under Review) Monaghan Biodiversity and Heritage Strategic Plan 2020-2025 A Digital Strategy for County Monaghan 2021 – 2025 Health Ireland Healthy Monaghan Action Plan 2019 - 2022 Monaghan Destination Experience Development Plan Cultural and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027 Monaghan County Walking and Cycling Strategy 2021-2026</p>	