

Part C Our Parish Community's Initial Thoughts and Ideas about the Future

Based upon the wide consultation and reflection that has taken place in completing parts A and B of this questionnaire, please use this section to provide an indication of your parish community's initial thoughts about its future. You are also asked to provide information about the consultation process that has taken place to inform these views.

a) Our initial thoughts and ideas

Based on everything you have prayerfully and carefully considered so far please set out below the initial thoughts and ideas from your community about the way forward for your parish. You may also wish to provide a view about anything that is emerging regarding the ability of your parish to flourish into the future – either on its own or in conjunction with another community.

- The Parish will need to build upon what structures it already has in place to support the Parish Priest and cultivate the life of the Parish community as a whole. We will need to develop groups and teams to provide functions that have yet to be determined and articulated in full. In so doing liberating time for the Parish Priest to go about his duties.
- To this end a training and development programme for volunteers providing various functions, leading groups and teams within the parish community will need to be organised. We see this, in part, as a function at Diocesan level so that not only economies of scale can be achieved but also a common 'standard' may be achieved with participants.
- The Youth of our Parish are today's hope for tomorrow. We need to focus upon their continuing spiritual development and encourage them to play an active part in the life of the parish community. We can put in place groups to support this but it would be a considerable advantage if we had access to an appropriate Youth Worker. Other Parishes within our Deanery may feel the same. Explore the possibility of engaging a full /part time Youth worker across the Deanery
- As a whole Parish community we need to continue developments with adult formation and deeper understanding of our faith by running appropriate courses. Our youth element has suggested that older members of the parish share with them the individual's faith journey. They have named it 'Grill a Granny'
- In many respects, we have underused human resources within our parish community. Seeing that well over half our congregation consists of women, some felt that women should be deacons or priests. Also, there was the view that married men who have a 'calling' to ordained ministry in the church need to be considered especially when we already have married priests in the church.

b) The Consultation Process

Please describe the process used within your parish to consult widely with the community on your responses to this question. Please include the dates of meetings and other activities you have held, their purpose and the numbers attending. Thank you.

- The process started with the Steward meeting the Parochial Parish Council (PPC) in July 2016. The Steward was elected to Council and members were enthusiastic and very supportive of the task ahead. The Steward has attended all PPC meetings between now and then.
- A CORE Group of four members was formed to manage a way forward with this project. The group comprised the Steward, the Parish Priest, the Parish Treasurer and the Chair of PPC. We have met several times in the course of this process and have communicated regularly.
- Most of the Steward's time until December 2016 was taken up with collecting data to populate Section A of the Questionnaire.
- Over the weekend of 4th / 5th of February 2017 a small questionnaire was given to ALL PARISHIONERS to fill in. The questions were based on the Diocese Questionnaire
- There were 245 responses and 1,960 questions processed.
- Feedback was presented as a 'single sheet' to the whole Parish over the weekend of 18th / 19th March 2017
- On 22nd February 2017 the Steward working jointly with the Headteacher of the Parish Primary School arranged for a simplified version of the questionnaire used on 19th February to be completed by Year 6 pupils and members of School Council.
- Feedback was given to the school on February 23rd 2017
- On Sunday 19th February a FOCUS group looked in depth at a further range of questions from the Diocese Questionnaire.
- The composition of the FOCUS group ranged from our youth preparing for Confirmation to parish members of an unspecified vintage.
- Feedback from this group was presented to the parish over the weekend of 1st/2nd April 2017
- The Steward has endeavoured to involve the 'whole' parish community in this process. Now the exercise is complete, it has been a worthwhile reflective and evaluative process.
- It has given the parish a realisation of not only what is 'good' about our parish but also what areas of parish life we need to work upon and develop as an active worshipping community in the future.
- The process has given us the basis for putting together a 'Parish Development Plan' which will be the next phase in our development.
- This may appear to be the end of 'the process' but it is not. The work has only just started.