

Convent Future Use Survey Results

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Contents	
Background	2
Executive Summary	3
Result Details.....	5
Appendix: Convent Future Use Survey	26

Background

The Convent Future Use Survey gave the Rathkeale community an opportunity to express their opinions about the future use of the facility. The desire to see the facility used to help the parish of Rathkeale and for it to generate income, so it is not a financial burden (financially feasible), was clearly stated. The format precludes interpreting most answers as a vote.

The 15-question survey was conducted between the 6th and the 27th of September 2020. It was available online and on paper. Paper visions were available at the Church, Post Office, Community Centre, and Charity Shop. The survey was promoted by the priests in church, on the Rathkeale Rising Facebook page, in the Weekly Observer newspaper, on 102FM Radio with posters and other ways.

Questions included uses categorized by business, visitor attraction, education, accommodation, social gatherings and other. Renovation costs were stated at possibly topping several hundred thousand Euros and respondents were asked where 80% of the funds should come from. It was also stated that renovating a large property and managing its tenants requires skill and time so respondents were asked to rank what approach would be most successful. Respondents were given the opportunity to say how they could help renovate and open the facility as well as the opportunity to say anything they liked about the future of the facility.

Analysis Notes

Most responses were online.¹ Those submitted on paper were entered online to consolidate all the data and take advantage of computer-based analysis. There were no known duplicates. The online survey controlled the way the user could answer so we asked respondents to enter “none” if they wished to skip a question. These “none” responses are removed from the lists. Some spellings and formatting issues have also been corrected when such edits did not change the intended response. For some questions, the open-ended answers were grouped into categories.

Author’s Comments

David Lamont, the author of this report stresses:

- The survey should not be interpreted as a vote. The question format allowed respondents to express the same opinion in multiple places, so the frequency of a comment does not necessarily mean every mention was from a different individual. Additionally, some people answered questions as if campaigning (e.g. “Like I said above ...”)
- Most of the suggested uses could easily and correctly be relabelled. For example, an attraction that is a museum or café is a type of business. Similarly, rented accommodation (hostel, apartments, B&B) is also a business.
- No account is made to qualify the expertise of the respondents or market conditions that would make a particular use viable or not. For example, Rathkeale already has a hotel and the market may not be able to support two. If you could charge to enjoy nice gardens the crowd capacity and number of sunny days cap the annual revenue below the cost of maintenance.
- Support or dissent expressed in a survey may change when additional details, such as costs and effort required, become apparent. Very few respondents would have had first-hand knowledge of the condition or layout of the facility, freeing them to think about the possibilities without focusing on damage in particular spaces.

¹ The paper survey indicated that online responses were preferred, likely making the paper version a reminder to those who had access to computers.

Executive Summary

- There were 160 responses counted and 1 response that was not because it arrived by post after the analysis had started.
- 90% of respondents indicated that they were 25 years of age or older. Therefore, Rathkeale's adult population was used to estimate a $\pm 7\%$ margin of error².
- 63% of respondents indicated they reside in Rathkeale all year and 93% indicated that they reside in Limerick County (including Rathkeale.) The responses from the 12 respondents who do not reside in Limerick were not removed because the survey sought opinions and was not a vote.
- Special interest respondents such as the Rathkeale Scout Group, who appeared to be campaigning, were not separated.

Most respondents (26%) believe that the convent should be used for businesses that pay for its upkeep, bring jobs and customers to the town. Uses as a social gathering place, an education facility, and/or an attraction were favoured by 17% or more respondents. Accommodation or other uses were favoured by less than 9% of respondents.

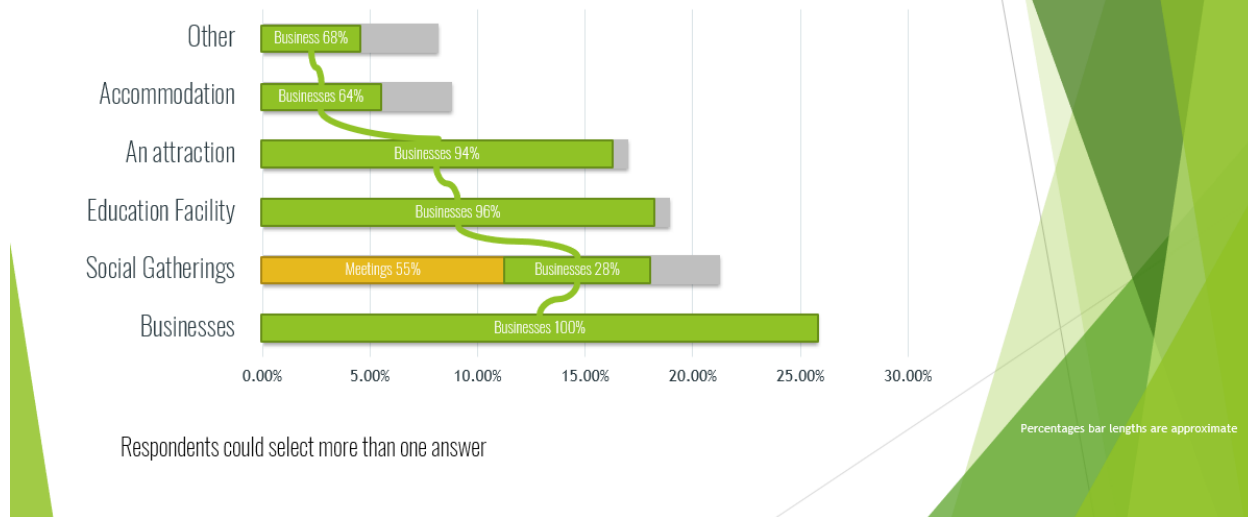
However, when the "What type of..." opinions are categorised businesses dominate every category except Social Gatherings where the Meetings category dominated (enlarged by the Rathkeale Scout Group's campaigning.) From the perspective of managing a financially feasible facility most of the uses translates into tenants.

Same thing, different perspective



² With a Confidence Level of 95% 167 responses were required with a margin of error of 7% when using a population of 1,181 adults above 18 years of age (last census.) The margin of error (confidence interval) is the plus-or-minus figure usually reported in newspaper or television opinion poll results. For example, if you use a confidence interval of 4 and 47% percent of your sample picks an answer you can be sure that if you had asked the question of the entire relevant population between 43% (47-4) and 51% (47+4) would have picked that answer. [Calculator](#).

Most opinions can be categorised as businesses



When it comes to funding of future uses 47% of respondents favoured grants for 80% of the money. Investors, a cooperative, and fundraising events were favoured by 15% to 17%. Donations were favoured by just 2%. This might be interpreted as use other peoples' money, not mine.

63% of respondents favoured letting a business professional manage any renovations and tenants.

When given the option to say anything they like about the future of the facility the answers frequently reflected affection for the Convent, a desire to save the facility and to put it into use for use the community.

When it comes to those who believe they could help renovate and open the facility most respondents favour donating time/skills and/or up to €500. A few indicated they would invest €5,000 or more, expecting a return. The responses indicated that some desire to help but the resources to complete the project are unlikely to come from donations and small investors.

Fast action was preferred by 63% of respondents who would partly or fully open the facility as soon as possible. 21% favoured opening when everything is perfect and the whole town agrees, a scenario likely to result in no opening at all.

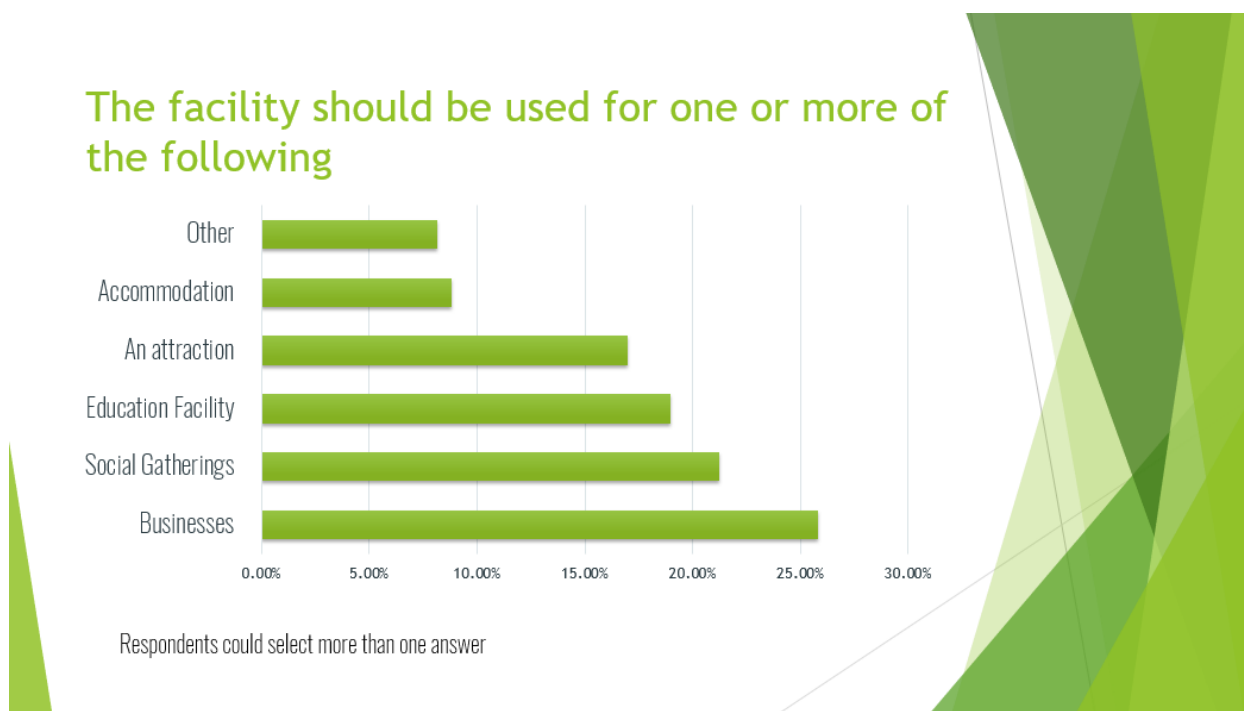
Recommendations

- Understand that most people interact with retail shops and therefore do not think of business-to-business uses that are equally viable, if not more so because pedestrian access is not a prerequisite.
- Understand that the opinions of entrepreneurs and those who may fund uses of the facility need to carry more weight than the general public who have “no skin in the game.” Additionally, the potential of a business tenant to bring in new money, rather than redistribute existing money, should be considered.
- Contact and learn from other parishes that have repurposed their convents, especially Abbeyfeale, Ballingarry, and Ludgate Hub (Skibbereen).

Result Details

The facility should be used for one or more of the following (select one or more)

Respondants were allowed to choose one or more options and most selected multiple answers.



Most respondents (26%) believe that the convent should be used for businesses that pay for its upkeep, bring jobs and customers to the town. Uses as a social gathering place, an education facility, and/or an attraction were favoured by 17% or more respondents. Accommodation or other uses were favoured by less than 9% of respondents.

Opinion - The facility should be used for ...		
Businesses that pay for its upkeep, bring jobs and customers to the town		26%
Social gatherings (e.g. a park, cafe, community hall) that allow people to meet		21%
An education facility to educate the people in the town and beyond		19%
An attraction (e.g. a Heritage Centre) that brings visitors and their money to the town		17%
Accommodation (e.g. a hostel or apartments) that allow more people to stay in the town		9%
Other		8%
1.	I would like it to be used as part of the primary school, as some of the classes are in pre-fabs. I would like to see the oratory kept in the facility	
2.	Accommodation for the 3 priests with separate apartments and safe secure apartments for the elderly	
3.	Retired nuns and priests of the diocese	
4.	The convent in Abbeyfeale was given over to the people of the parish. 10 years later - lots of problems.	
5.	Rathkeale Scout Group currently uses the Convent Garden for outdoor meetings, training, etc. At a minimum, the group requires access to Toilets and running water to ensure a safe environment for all. Access to indoor meeting space would also be desirable.	
6.	I know that the Rathkeale Scout Group uses the convent garden for outdoor meetings & training (which is essential for their youth members) & also for camping for youngest members. The group also needs access to at least one toilet & running water for health & safety reasons. It would be fantastic if the Scout Group also had access to an indoor meeting space	
7.	Indoor farmers market, hot desk office space for remote workers, scout hall.	
8.	Rathkeale Scout Group currently uses the Convent Garden for outdoor meetings, training, etc. At a minimum, the group requires access to Toilets and running water to ensure a safe environment for all. Access to indoor meeting space would also be desirable.	

9.	Rathkeale Scout Group current users of outdoor area for training and outdoor meetings with 60 youth members from Rathkeale and surrounding areas. Access to toilets and running water essential going forward while an indoor area for meetings would be great.	
10.	Rathkeale Scout Group currently uses the Convent Garden for outdoor meetings, training, etc. At a minimum, the group requires access to Toilets and running water to ensure a safe environment for all. Access to indoor meeting space would also be desirable.	
11.	Outdoor area for scouting activity and education	
12.	Scouts, cubs, beaver's facility	
13.	Youth space	
14.	Retreat Centre for people of all ages including the local schools	
15.	Photography and art gallery	
16.	Rathkeale <u>Scouts</u> have used outdoor space for many years	
17.	Retirement apartments.	
18.	A public funded nursing home or a hospice	
19.	School playgrounds/sports facilities	
20.	Remote working hub	
21.	Also, for Cathicases classes, prayer group	
22.	A retreat centre with meditation rooms that is non-denominational	
23.	A voluntary community group, not Community Council	
24.	Wi-Fi office space hub	

If the facility were to house **businesses** what type of businesses would you like to see there?

There were 125 opinions on what type of business. Using broad categories that overlap:

- 45% of opinions related to Retail type businesses. Labeled in the table as Retail.
- 22% related to Hospitality/Social/Tourism type businesses. Labeled in the table as Hospitality.
- 14% related to Health/Medical/Fitness type businesses. Labeled in the table as Health.
- 11% of opinions related to Education-type businesses. Labeled in the table as Education.
- 7% related to Other businesses or comments unrelated to the question. Labeled in the table as Other.

Opinion - what type of businesses would you like to see there?	Category
1. Educational facility for Travellers. e.g. How to run a proper tarmacadam business.	Education
2. FAS training facilities in the building	Education
3. Education training days/evenings like computer skills, art, photography....	Education
4. Training or resource centre	Education
5. Works shops that could help the unemployed reskill.	Education
6. Training courses, parenting courses, marriage courses, counsellors. Café.	Education
7. Workshops for handicrafts i.e. woodwork painting crafts etc	Education
8. Educational and Office Administration.	Education
9. Educational	Education
10. Education centre	Education
11. Grind school. Central location where students from the locality can go for extra tuition in small groups to prepare for Leaving Cert Exams	Education
12. College	Education
13. Businesses offering courses of different types, like West limerick resources	Education
14. Further level Education, evening classes etc. Even horticulture classes seen as the grounds are available	Education
15. Some sort of Medical centre, with dentist, doctors, chiropodists, opticians... just a proper centre with all in one place. A yoga centre, even for outside on the gardens when the weather is nice.	Health
16. Fitness classes	Health
17. Holistic therapy	Health
18. Gym/Cafe/Yoga Centre	Health
19. Gym	Health
20. A gym maybe	Health
21. Alternative medicine / holistic healing centre. Each practitioner rents a space by the hour.	Health
22. Gym, fitness centre	Health
23. Health Awareness meetings. Baby groups.	Health
24. Gym	Health
25. Physiotherapist	Health

26.	Sports nutritionist	Health
27.	Classes for the winter art yoga etc	Health
28.	Gym	Health
29.	I would like to see become a gym it be great for the people of the town specially the 1s suffering from depression and overweight would help a lot every town have 1	Health
30.	Night classes or plc courses woodwork, handicraft etc or a cafe wine bar with air bnb style accommodation	Health
31.	Offices	Health
32.	Respite care centre with possible stepdown housing for people with restricted mobility to assist them to be in closer proximity to the church, post office, pharmacies, and supermarket.	Health
33.	Heritage centre with cafe/restaurant, bookshop, information point, local crafts or produce (i.e ..farmers market in the gardens)	Hospitality
34.	Community based one's i.e. fitness <u>scouts</u> anything to benefit the local community	Hospitality
35.	Why doesn't the community parish church make it into a living history archive for all the mother and bay homes industrial school mary magdelanes. Have a heritage centre that shows Ireland's history and can be used to educate new generations and as a living archive to the memory of those who died	Hospitality
36.	Tourism of some sort	Hospitality
37.	To accommodate people who are visiting Rathkeale, to have a tourist attraction for people to learn about history of Rathkeale	Hospitality
38.	Outdoor cafe to provide social distancing	Hospitality
39.	cafe and a place for holding meeting. hostel so people don't have to rush of after a meeting	Hospitality
40.	Cafe and meet up cater	Hospitality
41.	Cafe	Hospitality
42.	Cafe or a crèche	Hospitality
43.	Cafe	Hospitality
44.	Cafes and shops	Hospitality
45.	Coffee shop, and other small businesses or charity shops. Or rooms for physiotherapy/physical therapy business that would benefit the community	Hospitality
46.	Hotel	Hospitality
47.	How about a community Hub? Connecting communities	Hospitality
48.	Cafe, hostel, community space , one could visit for meeting people fir chats and coffee	Hospitality
49.	Bookshop/cafe	Hospitality
50.	Restaurant or cafe or another supermarket or food place	Hospitality
51.	Cafe with events planned for toddlers and small kids, exercise classes for parents also	Hospitality
52.	Hospitality, finance,	Hospitality
53.	Chiropractors- Holistic practitioner- Meals on wheels- A dedicated outdoor and indoor bench area for those living alone to sit and chat- small local businesses	Hospitality
54.	A garden centre with cafe/restaurant?	Hospitality
55.	Cafe/ bakery	Hospitality
56.	Dentist, cafe, maybe a Internet cafe, something for the old folk to meet up, nothing ever done for them, they have to go to N. C. W	Hospitality
57.	Something for kids	Hospitality
58.	Bed and Breakfast. Would Be Good For Town.	Hospitality
59.	A modern friendly cafe, tourist centre and outdoor seating area in garden	Hospitality
60.	Citizens Information	Hospitality
61.	Any that would bring jobs and revenue to the town.	Other
62.	More nuns	Other
63.	Any	Other
64.	No business	Other
65.	Convent could be divided into units of varying size.	Other
66.	Circular economy initiatives	Other
67.	Also, possible to retain small area as Parish Office	Other
68.	Non-profit, artistic endeavours	Other
69.	would love to see Rathkeale <u>scout</u> group keep access	Other
70.	Meeting rooms.	Retail
71.	Hot desk for remote workers. Craftspeople.	Retail
72.	Local independent business who do not already have a premises to showcase or advertise their product or services. Small and medium businesses who are self-employed who offer a personal service no provided bigger companies.	Retail
73.	Small enterprise offices or perhaps a craft group to share equipment and knowledge	Retail
74.	Hot desk office facility. A hub (e.g. various medical offices). A heritage museum with fave and shop.	Retail
75.	Units to help people start up a business.	Retail
76.	Start-ups	Retail

77.	Hot desk facility	Retail
78.	Flexible, affordable hot-desks, co-working, conference and training facilities for residents, visitors, and entrepreneurs	Retail
79.	Office space for meetings- hot desks	Retail
80.	Rent an office space - people w/small businesses could use the space to run their business alongside other. Farmers/craft market?	Retail
81.	offices	Retail
82.	start-ups,	Retail
83.	Meeting room with high speed WiFi, could be used for business meetings, students with projects etc	Retail
84.	Sale of local produce, GP or dental practices, professional services such as Accountancy, Solicitors; e-working hub facility	Retail
85.	Local crafts, handmade products, maybe from youth or crafty local people?	Retail
86.	Local crafts... Cafe. Pound shop. Nothing that is too expensive, gift shop etc	Retail
87.	Computer /research	Retail
88.	Office space, yoga, Pilates, alternative medicine	Retail
89.	Arts and crafts etc	Retail
90.	Somewhere with quality office space and good broadband	Retail
91.	Some sort of energy production to share with residents - solar power?	Retail
92.	Start-ups/incubation space for knowledge- based companies	Retail
93.	Any business e.g. workshop units would be welcomed	Retail
94.	Dress making or a place to create new personalised occasion wear	Retail
95.	Incubation, small or start-ups.	Retail
96.	Possible business hub. Fibre broadband is readily available.	Retail
97.	Administration, clerical, accounts.	Retail
98.	Something similar to The Ludgate Hub in Skibbereen where there is high speed fibre broadband available and businesses or individuals can rent facilities/meeting rooms/hot desks.	Retail
99.	Companies to create jobs in local community, healthcare space to create jobs, hotel, restaurant, cafe	Retail
100.	Digital and technology	Retail
101.	offices	Retail
102.	Anything to create revenue/rent/jobs	Retail
103.	Start-up/incubator businesses for those on BTWEA. Ye are next to Great Southern Line too so a related business. Shared office space. Civil wedding venue.	Retail
104.	Local start-up businesses that provide useful services to the community	Retail
105.	A mixture of businesses such as solicitors, accountant's, social welfare offices.	Retail
106.	Somewhere with good WiFi access so people could hire a desk and work from there instead of Cork, Dublin etc. for people who can work from home.	Retail
107.	Garden be used for plots for veg etc. Small local business coffee shops... Arts..... Produce from the garden.....	Retail
108.	The building & property could be an amazing asset to the entire community. If a business is to be housed there, I would like to see something that is community based. Just for example if an arts group needed somewhere, they could sell their product and perhaps run workshops for both kids & adults.	Retail
109.	An income for them. Also, a place to do night courses/PLC courses. There isn't anywhere in Rathkeale currently.	Retail
110.	Some sort of government funded organisations, i.e. FAS, VEC, Taxation, West Limerick Resources, (We need an income for upkeep.)	Retail
111.	Retail Businesses	Retail
112.	Local craft producers, food producers, pop up shop for home businesses.	Retail
113.	Small clothes shop occasional stalls with handmade items stalls with local produce small cafe serving light refreshments with outdoor seating area	Retail
114.	Restaurant. Cafe. Bike hire.	Retail
115.	Indoor Agri / Craft market	Retail
116.	Restaurant, cafe, offices	Retail
117.	Retail	Retail
118.	Cinema or games area	Retail
119.	Retail outlets, cafes Etc	Retail
120.	Pop up markets, for local produce and crafts.	Retail
121.	Gift shop music DVD store	Retail
122.	Pound shop, handmade items, gym, health food shop	Retail
123.	Artisan style local crafts and produce almost like the milk market in limerick	Retail
124.	Bike Rental	Retail
125.	In Rathkeale travellers are a major source of income for the town as much as we don't like to admit it. We need to accommodate for both. People from outside the town are fascinated by their culture and	Retail

really want to see it and hear the stories, also places Like clothes [shops](#) for both travellers and settled, [cafe also tanning salon](#), this would definitely bring in money. There are 2 beauticians in the town, and they go on holidays but leave the salons open, it still brings in

If the facility were used for [social gatherings](#) what type of gathering spaces would you like to see there?

There were 107 opinions on Social Gatherings Spaces.

- 55% of these opinions can be classified as Meeting space ideas.
 - 19%³ of these 59 opinions mention scouting, indicating a campaign approach to the survey. Without all but one scouting-use opinions, the meeting opinions falls to 46% of the responses to the Social Gathering Space question.
 - The preponderance of other club-type or park-type get-togethers should be explored further considering the financial feasibility goal for the facility's use. Rathkeale clubs already have facilities (the Scouts use the ground floor of the Creamery building.) The Community Centre, Parish Hall and Arts Centre have available meeting space. Therefore, the underlying demand may be for free space that the Parish maintains.
- 28% of these opinions can be classified as Business space ideas. A café and classes are frequently mentioned.
- 7% of these opinions are not classified as meeting or business ideas and are in the Other category.

Opinion - what type of social gathering spaces would you like to see there?	Category
1. Line dancing- Traditional Irish music sessions- Reading groups - Pottery - Painting classes - Bingo	Business
2. Food	Business
3. Music hub! Badly needed! Somewhere for art classes and book club.	Business
4. Outdoor/indoor cafe in the garden	Business
5. Dancing lessons health and fitness	Business
6. Café or restaurant	Business
7. Family friendly area. Small intimate concerts. Area for dance clubs/studio. Small fitness club. A shop providing light refreshments (nothing that may impact locally established business. I.e. shop restaurants service providers)	Business
8. Maybe a dancing lesson, a dancing competition, serving food,	Business
9. Open air cafe in back garden	Business
10. Rentable meeting rooms. Landscaped grounds (and car park) with access to cafe.	Business
11. Youth club, mother and toddler, stitching classes etc	Business
12. Cafe , small meeting rooms	Business
13. Cafes and small shops	Business
14. Cafe meetings	Business
15. Weddings	Business
16. Local market?	Business
17. Indoor sport facilities for bad weather days	Business
18. If there was room for skating classes, the closest skating rink is in the city, that would be a great social activity. Also, if rooms could be rented out for birthday parties and a bouncy castle in the green area	Business
19. Nightclub	Business
20. Bingo, cards night, night classes , dance and drama	Business
21. Cafe , youth, elder gatherings	Business
22. Day centre for the elderly	Business
23. Drop in cafe where all sectors of community could meet. Perhaps a facility where people could get advice/help with form filling, tax queries etc	Business
24. Cafe- restaurant	Business
25. Cafe	Business
26. Night classes.	Business
27. Restaurant	Business
28. Sit down eat chat about everyday life especially in these difficult times	Business
29. Cafe. Pool hall	Business
30. Restaurant	Business

³ Scouting mentions = 11 of 107 opinions.

31. Gym	Business
32. Community cafe	Business
33. Cafe bar /film club	Business
34. Dementia friendly Tea rooms	Business
35. Restaurant	Business
36. It could have a café, a place for people to meet up and talk and to play board games or for bingo	Business
37. A community cafe	Business
38. Cooking classes	Business
39. Maybe tea etc. after Mass	Business
40. Tea rooms? Would be lovely to use the garden space outside, place people could go after mass/school/work for tea.	Business
41. Plays, local group meetings for groups that can't get the CYMS EVER!	Meetings
42. Arts and cultural and sporting gatherings	Meetings
43. Who knows with Covid but maybe local story tellers' poets' musicians	Meetings
44. Art and Culture including Music	Meetings
45. Somewhere teenagers could hang out in the evenings/weekend	Meetings
46. Art, music, bingo cards, the usual community stuff.	Meetings
47. Not every meeting has big numbers so if a number of meeting need small space so it could get a lot of small groups in for meetings in any given day	Meetings
48. Ideal for elderly to meet have a chat dance it's safe with garden and I'm sure the kitchen is still there also	Meetings
49. Community events	Meetings
50. I think something for the youth and a meeting place for the elderly. we have no place in Rathkeale for elderly to meet and they could show the youth some skills i.e. baking or anything and the youth could interact with the elderly also a great facility to show off local products we have great artists in our town why not show their work ..but definitely a place for elderly to meet and stop loneliness	Meetings
51. Scouts youth club elderly get together	Meetings
52. Scout house	Meetings
53. Could be a space where local clubs could use for meeting	Meetings
54. Areas for meetings of small community groups.	Meetings
55. A place for older people to meet . Also, local clubs could use it for meetings etc	Meetings
56. Men's shed, woman gatherings. Shows. Catholic retreat groups for retreats	Meetings
57. Community meetings	Meetings
58. Elderly events	Meetings
59. Community space	Meetings
60. Local clubs, societies & groups. Activities for children.	Meetings
61. Generation house, gatherings of young and old.	Meetings
62. Gathering for young and old	Meetings
63. Social outlet for seniors, with activities suitable for all levels of mobility/ability like chair exercises, card games, book clubs etc	Meetings
64. Local sports club meetings, in fact any type of local group/club could request use of rooms at the convent	Meetings
65. Youth	Meetings
66. Give the youth a place to meet friends and have fun	Meetings
67. Card Games: Bridge, Billiards for Men, Craft Gatherings for Women	Meetings
68. Youth, sport, clubhouse for cub scouts or community games	Meetings
69. Wednesday club, men's shed	Meetings
70. Seniors club/Youth Club	Meetings
71. Summer BBQ. Picnic for kids. Tea and coffee morning for moms and dads. Maybe host birthday parties outdoors in the summertime.	Meetings
72. COMMUNITY BARBECUE	Meetings
73. Meeting room for parish committees	Meetings
74. A hub for elderly and people	Meetings
75. A community hall	Meetings
76. Community affairs	Meetings
77. Park kids' entertainment	Meetings
78. Parish Meetings, Pastoral Council Meetings, etc.	Meetings
79. To occupy youth and other age groups	Meetings
80. Old folks club, youth club and a ladies casual meeting group. Information evenings on various topics could also be held.	Meetings
81. Senior citizen, family resources, mother & baby, teen, etc	Meetings
82. Meetings for parish	Meetings

83.	Used for gatherings of active retirement, tidy towns or fundraising events e.g. cake sales sale of work etc	Meetings
84.	Outdoor social gatherings with appropriate shelter	Meetings
85.	community hubs	Meetings
86.	<u>Scouts</u> training,	Meetings
87.	Small local or community meetings and functions	Meetings
88.	Youth groups and elderly social groups	Meetings
89.	Scouting	Meetings
90.	<u>Scouts</u> , bingo, fairy garden	Meetings
91.	Community meetings, community information/education	Meetings
92.	<u>Scout</u> groups, voluntary organisations	Meetings
93.	<u>Scouting</u> , camping, BBQ	Meetings
94.	Rathkeale <u>scout</u> group	Meetings
95.	The <u>Scout</u> Group is a very social activity group for 6 to 18+ year olds & I would like to see them getting preference for use of the space. At the moment they have use of the downstairs of the boxing club building which I know they are extremely grateful for but It would be fantastic if they had an area that is better fit for purpose	Meetings
96.	You have lots of public halls and spaces already. Book launches, art exhibits, etc. Civil wedding ceremonies. Nice pics in an upgraded garden after.	Meetings
97.	Continued use for Rathkeale <u>Scouts</u> of the Convent Garden and outdoor storage shed with additional access to toilet facilities and running water.	Meetings
98.	Outdoor over the summer	Meetings
99.	Religious Formation/Bible Study (David Breen)	Meetings
100.	Local group meeting places.	Meetings
101.	Hard to see it generating much profit after all bills would be paid	Other
102.	There are so many rooms you could use for a variety of things	Other
103.	Any type	Other
104.	Not sure about possibly displacing what's happening in the hotel and community centre?	Other
105.	None. Adequate supply of such spaces already	Other
106.	None. As we have enough facilities for this purpose	Other
107.	People that live alone, the elderly, people suffering from mental illness that need to talk to people suffering like them and would understand	Other

If the facility were used for educational purposes what type of education/ classes would you like to see there?

There were 130 opinions on Educational Purpose Spaces.

- 96% of these opinions can be classified as Business ideas on the assumption that any class, other than expanding the neighbouring school or a VEC takeover of the facility, would be privately run and not run by the Parish Council. Even if the education was provided by a public institution, the facility would not be made available without charge due to the Parish financial feasibility requirement.

Opinion - what type of education/ classes would you like to see there?	Category
1. Mostly technical - nobody would be refused ed. improvement due to lack of money.	Business
2. An adult education facility as Rathkeale currently has none.	Business
3. Computer	Business
4. Reading classes for travelling community, I have many women come into my work asking me to read letters for them. Computer classes and maybe a music room to learn instruments. All that is outside of Rathkeale. It's ridiculous	Business
5. FAS Training, computer skills, art, photography, fitness classes	Business
6. cooking, sewing, education people on different issues and illness. budgeting.	Business
7. upskilling for the unemployed in the area	Business
8. The town has enough mainstream educational facilities. If it was to be used for education/classes it should be adult night classes in areas that may be identified in the locality...ie new companies need someone in computers or basic DIY or first aid or whatever is identifies as being needed.	Business
9. Youth reach type centre run by LCETB possibly? Also facilitating day and evening adult education classes.	Business
10. Computer, cookery, and very important the issue of drugs	Business
11. Youth training	Business
12. Maybe a school for when the travellers come home at Christmas, so the classes are not as packed	Business

13. Adult business skill training.	Business
14. Well could run classes for community during day and have youth club and <u>scouts</u> in evening	Business
15. Adult Education and hobby classes.	Business
16. traveller awareness . Local primary schools could use gardens	Business
17. Holistic that promotes mindfulness and wellbeing. Craft. Cookery school promoting sustainability using garden for organic veg	Business
18. Adult education/FETAC/Music school	Business
19. make the room an open space, multipurpose, with for education for all ages,	Business
20. PLC courses for students who need help developing their interests and learning something that will set them up for future employment or third level college	Business
21. Healthcare. Beauty. Hairdressing first aid. Tourism flower arrangements. Cathicases. Trauma & attachment. Parenting courses. Couples courses dance lessons music lesson. Prayer group. Choir	Business
22. Night-time courses	Business
23. Extend primary school into convent building & save building new extension to the school	Business
24. Adult Education	Business
25. Adult education, upskilling or retraining, something that could be integrated into a community cafe or art and craft space	Business
26. animal welfare	Business
27. Adult night classes	Business
28. Reading and writing for adults	Business
29. Classes that offer people the chance to better themselves	Business
30. Fitness, well-being classes. Art, craft, storytelling, children authors visits. Art/craft classes for children & adults.	Business
31. Community run classes / meetings /	Business
32. HSE educational classes antenatal	Business
33. Night classes for adults	Business
34. Yoga/Pilates	Business
35. Special education courses, courses to help people to get jobs	Business
36. Adult courses	Business
37. Computer Classes - Music Classes	Business
38. The VEC are currently renting portacabins across from the Palatine Museum. If they could be re-housed to the convent it would be a constant source of income.	Business
39. Perhaps an adult education training facility. Run night and evening courses for upskilling and training.	Business
40. Evening/Night classes	Business
41. Art , so many good artists in the town	Business
42. Lcfe	Business
43. Childcare special needs assisting teaching business	Business
44. Evening classes suitable times for people working	Business
45. Art & Craft	Business
46. Evening classes, facilities for sports clubs including training and meeting rooms	Business
47. All types too help the people of Rathkeale better themselves. I would love this	Business
48. Sporting facilities	Business
49. VEC financed second level /life skills education	Business
50. Sewing, Crafts, upholstery, DIY,	Business
51. Pottery classes	Business
52. Evening classes	Business
53. Traveller education centre	Business
54. A different range of educational courses/classes	Business
55. Part time classes for adults, possibly dance and leisure classes	Business
56. Night classes. A place where the elderly could meet and do sowing classes, art etc	Business
57. High speed WiFi, could be rented hourly/daily conference calls, grinds etc	Business
58. History of the darkness of Ireland	Business
59. Pilates, yoga, alternative medicine. Classes to help older members of community to keep up to date with technology.	Business
60. Adult education day and evening classes to help rural residents get a chance to meet and make friends	Business
61. Evening classes or linked to one of the 3rd level institutions	Business
62. Mental health.	Business
63. Cooking/life skills/ money management/mindfulness and meditation	Business
64. Art sewing beauty	Business
65. Computer classes	Business
66. Small business owner qualification classes	Business
67. Training centre. Local business, manual handling courses. Online courses facility	Business
68. Adult education.	Business

69.	There are a lot of classes to choose from	Business
70.	History of Rathkeale	Business
71.	Adult education classes	Business
72.	Flower arranging wellness courses basic it courses cooking classes pottery painting yoga etc	Business
73.	Evening Classes. Adult Computer courses. Safety courses for companies. Training courses for companies.	Business
74.	Wellness classes for mental health	Business
75.	Grind School/Further Education or possibly a Youth reach or adult education facility	Business
76.	Cookery school and those type of classes and computer studies that might include the eccl qualification to prepare people for employment going forward.	Business
77.	Further education e.g. childcare, special needs, elderly care, horticulture	Business
78.	adult, teen , further education courses, holistic courses , yoga pilates etc	Business
79.	Education training board LCETB or equivalent	Business
80.	adult education and traveller education	Business
81.	Computer and IT assistance for over 65s or those looking to upskill. Night classes that Rathkeale people currently have to travel to Shanagolden and NCW to do. CPR and first aid classes. Public Information evenings e.g. on computer security, town planning from Co Co.	Business
82.	Again Gym	Business
83.	Evening winter classes and summer ones as well	Business
84.	Horticulture	Business
85.	Environment/biodiversity protection	Business
86.	Sustainable development	Business
87.	A town park	Business
88.	Perhaps have a dedicated section reserved for education or fitness classes while allowing the rest to be used for business/businesses	Business
89.	I think upskilling and back to work courses or new courses like bicycle repair and or horticulture some lovely gardens for learning how to live off our land	Business
90.	adult education centre	Business
91.	Gardening or school use	Business
92.	Adult education	Business
93.	Classes for the elderly or retired where fees for classes are reasonable	Business
94.	Night classes	Business
95.	Night classes youth reach after school club	Business
96.	Maybe a private facility which would pay rent and expenses might work	Business
97.	Again, as stated above you could run 3- or 4-day courses in let's say Irish for the foreign students etc.	Business
98.	Woodwork handicraft plc type courses	Business
99.	Life skills, camping, cooking	Business
100.	First Aid	Business
101.	<u>Scouting</u> activity, outdoor education	Business
102.	Adult Education College - IT classes, Further Education courses, Horticulture, Healthcare, Office Administration, Art Craft & Design, Leaving Certification, Junior Cert. Hobby courses. Perhaps some parents could attend courses while their children attend the National School.	Business
103.	Adult Education classes	Business
104.	1) <u>Scout</u> meetings, 2) Adult Education	Business
105.	<u>Scouting</u> , nature, gardening	Business
106.	Computer classes for the older person	Business
107.	Craft / baking and cooking classes for young adults	Business
108.	Rathkeale <u>Scout</u> Group currently uses the Convent Garden for outdoor meetings, training, etc. At a minimum, the group requires access to Toilets and running water to ensure a safe environment for all. Access to indoor meeting space would also be desirable.	Business
109.	For the educational purposes I think that junior certificate and leaving certificate to be held there for people who didn't finish school	Business
110.	Again, if there were a weekly or fortnightly arts & crafts group, I'm sure it would draw a lot of people from surrounding areas.	Business
111.	The Rathkeale <u>Scouts</u> Group are an educational group for the youth members & it would be fantastic if they had more access to the facilities.	Business
112.	Workshops, conservation volunteers, community garden etc	Business
113.	See Celt.org for ideas	Business
114.	Evening classes for crafts/woodwork	Business
115.	Regular commercial accommodation. Upstairs 1/2 ensuite bedroom flats and apartments for workers in town (factory or those commuting to city.) Maybe upstairs could fit 5 or 6.	Business
116.	As the Sisters of Mercy were held in high regard by both communities in Rathkeale I would like to see it used as a centre which would facilitate the needs/interests of both communities. Problems could be aired/debated, education in its broadest sense made accessible, and to include singing, dancing, etc. The lovely garden would be a wonderful amenity in the heart of the town.	Business

117. Further education centre for adults returning to education	Business
118. The history of the local region plus the future of the region	Business
119. Crafts. Internet. Cookery.	Business
120. I would like to see night classes in woodwork metalwork i.e. making traditional gates, doors and furniture	Business
121. Extension to primary schools for special needs and training facilities	Business
122. Educational classes for both populations: Gardening, cookery a book club crafts (essential needlework) Bible Study and Catholic Religious Education with David Breen	Business
123. Education for settled and traveller community - providing education on practical skills that would be useful to them e.g. bills, filling forms, cleaning sewing art, managing finances, running a household. Adult education link in with primary school	Business
124. Adult education	Business
125. University extension.	Business
126. Any	Other
127. All kinds	Other
128. Allow the primary school to develop bigger classrooms and get rid of prefabs.	Other
129. None as we have enough facilities for educational needs	Other
130. This might promote interaction between both groups if a barter system were used between the two	Other

If the facility were to house a **visitor attraction** what type of attraction would you like to see there? (type suggestion or none)

There were 87 opinions on Visitor Attraction Spaces.

- 94% of these opinions can be classified as Business space ideas. Museum, gallery and exhibition ideas are categorised as businesses on the assumption that the Parish would not house them for free and the facility would not be sold to the government (runs museums.)
- 3% of these opinions can be classified as Meeting space ideas and 2% as Other ideas.

Opinion - what type of visitor attraction would you like to see there?	Category
1. Museum Traveller and Nuns Room, Christy Lynch Room. Old Pharmacy Museum. Jack Donovan and John B [Keane] Rooms.	Business
2. A historical information centre with detailed info on local history.	Business
3. An exhibition of local (at a minimum limerick area and maximum Munster) arts craft talent and future talent.	Business
4. History of Rathkeale	Business
5. Heritage museum.	Business
6. Heritage centre with cafe, art museum all in one	Business
7. Local history	Business
8. Local historic information (Sean Finn etc.)	Business
9. Showing the history of Rathkeale.	Business
10. Local history	Business
11. Cultural, history of the travelling community	Business
12. local history	Business
13. A history of travellers in Ireland?	Business
14. Heritage centre, cafes community workshop	Business
15. Museum, historical centre, art gallery, pop up craft/art displays.	Business
16. History of Rathkeale	Business
17. History of limerick not just Rathkeale	Business
18. A welcoming place for our older population to visit like a museum of Rathkeale history. In the gardens a lovely garden for walks, somewhere to sit and relax and smell the flowers and admire the landscape in there.	Business
19. Or give the existing museum more space there and turn the current museum into a superbly positioned greenway hub (and fix up the empty building beside it)	Business
20. Heritage centre, maybe a large map in the building showing people what businesses and attractions are around the town, like the walkway, the church, shops, cafes, hotel, etc	Business
21. Historically relevant artefacts and photos spanning the generations	Business
22. Heritage Museum on the town's history and well-known people	Business
23. Historical information centre about different places in the Rathkeale and surrounding areas	Business
24. Heritage centre	Business
25. Heritage, museum	Business
26. History of Rathkeale and surrounding areas	Business

27.	compliment the history shared in the Palatine museum, maybe the history of travel, railways etc	Business
28.	Historical telling the story of the convent and school	Business
29.	Heritage centre similar to Palatine centre, focussing on local history, people (well known local characters), culture, customs; access to National Folklore Schools Collection focusing on local Rathkeale area (see https://www.duchas.ie/en/src?q=rathkeale)	Business
30.	History of Rathkeale and surrounds.	Business
31.	Traveller heritage museum?	Business
32.	Maybe one that shows old school life and maybe a mimic of some of the rooms in Castlematrix	Business
33.	Visitor experience of local history and culture	Business
34.	Historic items on the town, including how the travelling community became so prominent in Rathkeale	Business
35.	Historical	Business
36.	History of the convent, history of travelling community in Ireland	Business
37.	History of Rathkeale. Maybe about the famine and the workhouse	Business
38.	History of the town (name origin) surrounding town lands and comparison pictures of every decade	Business
39.	Heritage centre for the travellers. Rathkeale is known more for its travellers than Palatine settlers, celebrate both traditions. Explain how they came into existence. Educate people. New communities are coming into Rathkeale & N.C.W. because of the meat factory. Include this. Put a positive spin on it.	Business
40.	Historical	Business
41.	Heritage centre	Business
42.	Heritage centre	Business
43.	Historical tours	Business
44.	Historical information and pics of Rathkeale	Business
45.	Museum, heritage centre	Business
46.	Library	Business
47.	Gardens cafe photography	Business
48.	An Art/ theatre gallery that also has space for a tourist information office.	Business
49.	Historical	Business
50.	Local history	Business
51.	Arts, history of Rathkeale	Business
52.	Social museum of Rathkeale and surrounding area including Settled and Traveller Cultures and traditions	Business
53.	To have tourists who are visiting Rathkeale to learn about the history	Business
54.	Art gallery	Business
55.	Photo library of the town	Business
56.	The Chinaman statue previously located on the main street.	Business
57.	Photography and art exhibit.	Business
58.	Something to remember the holy stump at the church, lots of visitors came to pray to it in 2009 or even something about the cinema	Business
59.	Workhouse and Famine Graveyard , Stoney Man and many of the other sites that might be of interest in the locality.	Business
60.	Experiential	Business
61.	A theatre/arts centre	Business
62.	Escape rooms with a stay over in a haunted accommodation	Business
63.	Cinema, bingo	Business
64.	Walled gardens, allotments	Business
65.	Cafe bar	Business
66.	Apart from a hostel . old meetings and course there on the garden I do a park plus use part of it as growing thing	Business
67.	People can buy the products to keep bills paid for the building and grounds	Business
68.	A well supervised and monitored are for families (play areas indoor and out with light refreshments)	Business
69.	Small local business	Business
70.	Local craft i.e. art, knitwear,	Business
71.	A place to exhibit and sell their handmade products	Business
72.	Hotel with a focus on eBike tours along the Greenway.	Business
73.	Like I said above a Gym	Business
74.	College	Business
75.	Perhaps a hub for the greenway?	Business
76.	Education /services	Business
77.	Bed and Breakfast.	Business
78.	Information about the badly neglected Castle Matrix for one	Business
79.	Not much tourism footfall in Rathkeale and a visitor attraction would not be profitable	Business
80.	Tourism, educational centre	Business

81. From experience I think using this building as a centre with accommodation for courses, like a 4 day cooking course or painting course, if you get the right well known faces to teach it will attract the right clients who will be willing to pay for these courses.	Business
82. Again, I'm sure there are plenty people around the area who make arts & crafts. There is a quite successful arts & crafts centre in Askeaton & I'm sure (as Rathkeale is more central) that if there were similar in Rathkeale it could be a draw into the town.	Business
83. Youth reach	Meetings
84. The youth	Meetings
85. Retreat centre all year round	Meetings
86. Rathkeale has adequate facilities for tourism and visitors, which are not well used. another is no advantage.	Other
87. None - we already have one that's needs better promotion	Other

If the facility were for **accommodation** what type of accommodation would you like to see there?

There were 88 opinions on Accomodation Purpose Spaces.

- 64% of these opinions can be classified as Business ideas. Such ideas included hotels, hostels, appartments/flats, community housing, B&B, and the like.
- Accomodation likely to be provided without charge (23%) for Parish interests (e.g. priest or caretaker housing) were classified as Other. Scouting uses were also careorised as Other.
- 14% of the opinions did not want the facility used for accomodattion.

Opinion - what type of accommodation would you like to see there?	Category
1. A hotel	Business
2. Hostel	Business
3. Bed and breakfast only	Business
4. Youth/religious groups hostel	Business
5. Flats	Business
6. Community living	Business
7. Hostel for cyclists using the greenway	Business
8. Hostel	Business
9. Apartments	Business
10. None, I feel there are sufficient accommodation options available in the town & its surrounds to meet demand.	Business
11. Hotel	Business
12. Hostel or apartments	Business
13. Be ambitious and aim for something like these in Evora, Portugal https://www.travelmyth.com/Evora/Hotels/monastery	Business
14. Apartments to rent	Business
15. Probably B & B	Business
16. Hotel	Business
17. Hotel hostel bar restaurant	Business
18. Hotel	Business
19. Hostel	Business
20. local housing	Business
21. Air B&B	Business
22. Social Housing	Business
23. Top floor apartments for senior citizens	Business
24. Independent living for older people who live on their own in isolation	Business
25. Hostel	Business
26. Proper shelters supported living for those in need elderly vulnerable etc	Business
27. Accommodation for workers in meat factory.	Business
28. Bed and Breakfast.	Business
29. Wellness centre that you could stay for overnight courses. Like a retreat especially with the gardens available.	Business
30. Nursing home	Business
31. Hostel type that would be available to youths coming to use water sport facilities at near by dohile late and develop the grounds into an adventure park.	Business
32. Hotel	Business

33.	Sheltered accommodation for the elderly- particularly for those who are downsizing- could free up housing stock?	Business
34.	Short term hostel stays or boutique hotel	Business
35.	I think air bnb show casing the convent experience	Business
36.	Homeless shelter/ hotel	Business
37.	Apartments for people who want to downsize	Business
38.	the accommodation would be ideal for a dorm type environment you could invite schools or clubs from around Ireland or UK for events to take place in the town like team building events locally, with a hostel type accommodation you would need breakfast only	Business
39.	Air bnb funky hostel	Business
40.	Bed & breakfast	Business
41.	Apartments for people working locally	Business
42.	Nursing home	Business
43.	Self-contained apartments for rent	Business
44.	Office space for rent	Business
45.	Retail Unite for rent	Business
46.	It should be use as a hostel for people passing through and need somewhere to stay	Business
47.	Overnight ghost trips.	Business
48.	Hostel- again, next to Great Southern Trail!	Business
49.	A hostel or a set of apartments	Business
50.	Five star	Business
51.	Retirement apartments - central location close to facilities similar to Emery Close perhaps	Business
52.	I would like to see something along the lines of the cluid housing like they have in NCW i.e. 1- and 2- bedroom apartments	Business
53.	Rent properties - 20-25-year plan/loan all mod cons rent minimum 100,000 per year	Business
54.	Self-contained apartments for young or foreign workers in the locality	Business
55.	Apartments if feasible	Business
56.	Caretaker, visitor apartments.	Business
57.	None, its businesses we need now in the town.	Not
58.	Not accommodation. There is enough flats and houses in Rathkeale. The upkeep would be too much... that's my opinion.	Not
59.	I wouldn't like to see it as accommodation	Not
60.	NOT A HOSTEL	Not
61.	None.....under no circumstances should the building or area be used as accommodation.	Not
62.	none we already have a very good hotel in the town	Not
63.	Don't think it would be suitable for accommodation beside the two schools	Not
64.	A hostel wouldn't be a bad idea as there is none in the area	Not
65.	I wouldn't like to see accommodation as in hostel or anything like this, too close to schools and the church	Not
66.	Prefer none as it's right beside the school	Not
67.	There is enough accommodation in Rathkeale believe me that's certainly one thing WE DON'T NEED!!!	Not
68.	I have no suggestion for accommodation.	Not
69.	Maybe a caretaker to live there on premises. The nuns parlour could be setup for bus tours.	Other
70.	The only accommodation I would agree with is a a proper accommodation for our Priest. Also, we should have a proper Parish Office near our church to facilitate Parish Secretary etc. The original house was the Parish Priest House.	Other
71.	A couple of small private apartments for visiting VIPs or for a live-in caretaker.	Other
72.	Use it for either scouts or youth to bring kids together	Other
73.	Homeless, or people just looking for a place to tie them over.	Other
74.	Ask the tourist office what's most in demand but I feel air b&b apartments of different sizes to suit the green way clientele, storage for bikes and area for wet coats to 'air' after a trek would be great too	Other
75.	Retreat	Other
76.	Homeless shelters	Other
77.	Accommodation for the local priest only.	Other
78.	Visitor centre	Other
79.	A novelty place i.e. haunted convent.	Other
80.	Courses teaching new skills, yoga; photography, things to help with mental health and relaxation, help people de-stress and better themselves	Other
81.	Refuge centre for women and children	Other
82.	Floor space to be rented out for art classes yoga etc	Other
83.	Camping facilities for scouts	Other
84.	The Rathkeale Scout Group could use the accommodation for indoor camps. This would be of tremendous benefit, particularly in the winter months when their outdoor camping activities come to an almost complete stop	Other

85.	<u>Scouting</u> .	Other
86.	Purpose-built-arranged residential accommodation for retired Religious (<u>Priests</u> and Nuns) of the diocese with a housekeeper, caretaker, and gardener.	Other
87.	Separate apartments for the 3 <u>priests</u> of the parish and there is plenty of room for some 2 bed apartments for the elderly.	Other
88.	Priests in the parish and/or retired priests may be accommodated here.	Other

What else might be housed at the facility for the benefit of Rathkeale? (type suggestion or none)

There were 101 opinions on what else might be housed at the facility.

- 68% of these opinions can be classified as Business ideas, especially when the ideas (e.g. cafes, gyms, museums) were similar to those in previous questions that were categorised as such.
- 28% of these opinions can be classified as Meeting Space ideas. 12 of the 28 opinions related to Scouting Group.
- 5% of these opinions can be classified as Other.

Opinion – What else might be housed at the facility for the benefit of Rathkeale?	Category
1. Maybe some local small businesses could be encouraged to rent sections of the convent. i.e. cottage industries.	Business
2. Use the garden space to show a Traveller camp - covered 'Tinkers' wagon - Tin smith workshop.	Business
3. Weddings	Business
4. After school club, flower arranging...	Business
5. Cafe or restaurant	Business
6. Art gallery. General space for rent by clubs' businesses. Men's shed. Small cinema for small groups 10 to 20 people for parties, local exhibitions etc. Kids birthday party centre.	Business
7. I feel another cafe or restaurant	Business
8. Local art and crafts, local small business etc	Business
9. A county-wide or Munster emergency operations centre.	Business
10. There are loads elderly days youth days even to get trades together to show skills	Business
11. Used to help people gain employment and to meet others	Business
12. Free units for small start-up business that can't afford to rent or buy a place.	Business
13. A funeral parlour	Business
14. Respite care facility	Business
15. Wellness centre	Business
16. Allotments in the garden	Business
17. allotments in garden, produce could be used personally or sold in local shops	Business
18. Parts of convent could be used as a heritage site and open for tours whole hosting local craft fairs in other parts simultaneously	Business
19. I think a combination of options would be beneficial. Some permanent <u>office</u> let's, temporary/short term/pop up options for start-ups & home industries. Weekly activities for children, art classes, seasonal crafts, movie days, storytelling sessions etc	Business
20. Aparthotel	Business
21. The rental of temporary office space. Internet Café or something along those lines.	Business
22. Internet cafe with printing/scanning facilities, Study rooms with desks & chairs for junior & leaving cert students.	Business
23. Kids library, dance classes	Business
24. Gym	Business
25. Gym, a community cafe included with it.	Business
26. Seniors needing community care	Business
27. It would make a tremendous remote working hub, with proximity to three schools and central location in town idea. Covid has shown us the need for high quality remote work locations in the regional towns.	Business
28. Lots of old photos of the past	Business
29. Supermarket	Business
30. Community indoor sport facilities for hurling /soccer /badminton etc	Business
31. Nursing home or hospice	Business
32. Offices	Business
33. Citizens advice, counselling, mental health	Business
34. An annual fete maybe? The kids love the school jumble sale at school	Business

35.	A gym. Ireland and UK strongest man pa o Dwyer lives in the town. Why not take advantage of this and get him on board	Business
36.	Build 2 bed houses at new roadside with access to the gardens	Business
37.	Nightclub	Business
38.	Local enterprise	Business
39.	Bed and Breakfast.	Business
40.	An educational area for young traveller girls	Business
41.	Social dance classes.	Business
42.	Indoor sports complex for all	Business
43.	Small gym	Business
44.	After school training	Business
45.	Also, a Money Advice and Budgeting service for these stringent times into the future.	Business
46.	Enterprises	Business
47.	Business hub with support for new opening businesses to give them a chance to develop	Business
48.	sustainability hub as it has a lovely orchard and green house and is protected on all sides.	Business
49.	Gym and Fitness classes	Business
50.	Gallery for local artists and or products	Business
51.	Maybe a future forward IT centre	Business
52.	Local clubs, <u>scouts</u> ' group, snooker club.	Business
53.	Hotel to bring more people to the town	Business
54.	Bike rental for Greenway	Business
55.	Film studio or GM training	Business
56.	Other kids' groups, parents come with kids, community creche, community cafe, bakery	Business
57.	Cafe	Business
58.	Meals on wheels	Business
59.	Gym	Business
60.	Some FDI large manufacturing business that requires low skilled workers	Business
61.	The relocation of a government Dept or local government Dept	Business
62.	The development of a Medical Center rented to HSE	Business
63.	Office space to be rented to HSE as location for Admin services for West Limerick area	Business
64.	Retail space for rent	Business
65.	Country life museum style exhibit? An extension of the Palatine museum incorporating more of the Southwell and Castle Matrix history & Pavee culture, like Native American museums in USA. What about an exhibit on the missionary work of nuns and the reach and impact they had?	Business
66.	Fitness and exercise centre.	Business
67.	Funeral home	Business
68.	It would be nice to see a Men's Shed and also a facility for young women to learn how to sew and knit	Business
69.	Fresh produce for sale from Convent Greenhouses. Books, CDs, DVDs and some clothes for sharing bring and buy, take one, leave one.	Business
70.	Drop-in centre for people that need help or someone just to listen to.	Meetings
71.	Look after our elderly lot live alone and never get to meet people apart from postman so a facility to let them meet have cuppa show their skills reminisce on days gone by	Meetings
72.	<u>Scout</u> centre	Meetings
73.	Local clubs could use rooms to have gatherings	Meetings
74.	Somewhere for the people to learn compassion love & how to live as the Lord wants us to	Meetings
75.	Huge garden...so perhaps a community garden?	Meetings
76.	Used for talks by local businesses, organisations, charities etc	Meetings
77.	Meetings	Meetings
78.	Women centred care	Meetings
79.	Playgroups	Meetings
80.	Youth centre	Meetings
81.	Multipurpose community building	Meetings
82.	Drop-in centre for mental illness or those suffering and needing supports	Meetings
83.	Provide space for clubs, non-profit making groups e.g. Rathkeale <u>Scouts</u> . Community Garden, allotments.	Meetings
84.	Education centre for non-nationals & the Irish, to teach kids about their own culture i.e. History, Geography, Dance, Song.	Meetings
85.	A drop-in centre where people could avail of a counselling service on certain days. A problem shared is a problem halved.	Meetings
86.	The <u>scouts</u> over the years have used the convent garden we would really appreciate if we could continue to do so and include access to the bathroom. The convent garden would support the social, personal cultural & emotional development of local children from 6 to 18 years	Meetings
87.	<u>Scouting</u> outdoor activity centre cookouts, garden skills etc	Meetings

88.	Rathkeale <u>Scout</u> Group currently uses the Convent Garden for outdoor meetings, training, etc. At a minimum, the group requires access to Toilets and running water to ensure a safe environment for all. Access to indoor meeting space would also be desirable.	Meetings
89.	Rathkeale <u>Scout</u> Group currently uses the Convent Garden for outdoor meetings, training, etc. At a minimum, the group requires access to Toilets and running water to ensure a safe environment for all. Access to indoor meeting space would also be desirable.	Meetings
90.	It could be useful for Rathkeale <u>scout</u> group to use as a place when they are camping or doing stuff for <u>scout events</u>	Meetings
91.	Again, Rathkeale <u>Scout</u> Group currently has use of the Convent garden for outdoor meetings & training purposes. At the minimum, the group requires access to running water & toilets for health & safety reasons. Access to an indoor meeting space would be fantastic for the group. Rathkeale <u>Scout</u> Group have members for all over the local parishes & is a fantastic opportunity for their youth members to learn essential life skills & take part in positive social interaction with their peers. It would be great if they had a meeting place that can meet their needs	Meetings
92.	Rathkeale <u>Scout</u> Group currently uses the Convent Garden for outdoor meetings, training, etc. At a minimum, the group requires access to Toilets and running water to ensure a safe environment for all. Access to indoor meeting space would also be desirable.	Meetings
93.	Garden done up and used for walking in, maybe sensory garden, water feature.	Meetings
94.	If it were set up as Respite Care Centre garden area would be beneficial for relatives and patients to relax/socialise.	Meetings
95.	An association like the Brothers of Charity used to support people w/additional needs in society	Meetings
96.	Parking for to wn and greenway. Spiritual meditation space for prayer in chapel.	Meetings
97.	NOT A HOSTEL OR SOMETHING THAT COULD GET RUN DOWN	Other
98.	It needs to be open to view so people can look at it as it's been years that most people have seen the inside of it then you can have more clearer idea what to do with it	Other
99.	Something to mark the contribution of the Sisters of Mercy to the community of Rathkeale.	Other
100.	Not living in Rathkeale, I'll Pass on that one!!	Other
101.	Rathkeale has a large rural span so it's important to include them. The Nuns never did when they lived there so now is the time	Other

Renovation costs may top several hundred thousand Euros. Funding may come from multiple sources but if 80% was from just one source which should it be? (select one):

When it comes to funding requirements that may top several hundred thousand Euros 47% of respondents choose grants for 80% of the money. Investors, a Cooperative, and Fundraising Events were favoured by 15% to 17%. Donations were favoured by just 2%.

Potentially this result represents a “free money” sentiment that may not be practical. Grants are often withheld from piecemeal projects and some require co-funding resulting in the need for cash (20% of €300,000 is €60,000.)

Opinion – Source of 80% of the required funds	
Grants	46.58%
Investors expecting a return on their money	17.39%
A cooperative	16.15%
Fundraising events	14.91%
Donations	2.48%
Other	2.48%
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sell the 2 existing priests' houses. I would expect to get circa 500,000 for them. 2. Cooperatives, grants, donations, beneficiaries from wills 3. Impossible to select one option here. I would think a number of sources would be needed e.g. Grants, Donations, Funding Events. 4. Set up a registered charity and get tax deductible donations. 	

Time is not the friend of any building so the facility should be ... (select one)

Fast action was preferred by 63% of respondents who would partly or fully open the facility as soon as possible. 21% favoured opening when everything is perfect and they whole town agrees, a scenario likely to result in no opening at all.

Opinion - Time is not the friend of any building so the facility should be ...	
Partly or fully opened as soon as possible	62.73%
Opened when everything is perfect and they whole town agrees	20.50%
Opened in time for the completion of the Foynes to Limerick motorway (Adare Bypass) in 2025	16.77%

Renovating a large property and managing its tenants requires skill and time so please rank (1-3) the following in order of what you believe will be most successful

As the respondents ranked their choices where 1 was preferred over 2 or 3. Therefore, a lower average outperforms a higher one.

63% of respondents favoured letting a business professional manage any renovations and tenants. Management by Rathkeale volunteers or the parish ranked second and third.

A volunteer management approach (including the Parish Council) likely attract those who favour a free, no cost to me, scenario. However, it may fail because volunteers are well meaning, but unreliable. They pick the cause rather than the cause picking the skills/experience it needs. Success depends on influence outside of Rathkeale – non-volunteers whose interests need to align. And a fair system equates efforts with rewards is nearly impossible to adjudicate.

Opinion - Most successful approach to managing a large property and its tenants							
	Average	1		2		3	
A business professional business manages it	1.58	96	63.16%	20	14.39%	33	23.40%
Rathkeale volunteers should manage it	2.08	33	21.71%	65	46.76%	45	31.91%
The parish should manage it	2.29	23	15.13%	54	38.85%	63	44.68%

I could help renovate and open the facility by (select one or more)

This question allowed respondents to select more than one option. Possible answers included a friendly do-nothing option, "Wishing Rathkeale well in its rejuvenation." This response is ignored in the table below in favour of tangible help.

When it comes to those who believe they could help renovate and open the facility most respondents favour donating time/skills and/or up to €500. A few indicated they would invest €5,000 or more, expecting a return.

Statements - I could help renovate and open the facility by	Responses	Percent
Wishing Rathkeale well in its rejuvenation	73	36.50%
Investing my time/skills (specify below) without expecting a return	42	21.00%
Investing my time/skills (specify below) and expecting a return	14	7.00%
Time/Skills offered:		
1. Primary school teacher		
2. I am an auctioneer		
3. To a limited degree. Teacher, linguist, willing to listen and learn		
4. Would be willing to help with renovation		
5. Retired teacher.		
6. Man the shop/museum/provide some memorabilia from school, convent, articles and info.		

8.	Should respond to the needs of the community.
9.	Think it would be lovely to see it open and it's right beside both schools take that into consideration for what type of business it should be
10.	It's about time Rathkeale people stopped giving out online about things not happenjnv in the town..now is the time the town needs us everyone should help its our town and its up to us to look after it and our people
11.	Do not let it go under the remit of the community Council, they have put the use of other buildings outside the scope of so many groups
12.	Although it's beneficial to have a community engagement in projects, I think a project of this size is something that would need to be tackled as a professional/business approach.
13.	Practicality trumps wishful thinking and something small is better than nothing at all so be careful of the 'I want it all for free or no cost to me' suggestions.
14.	It is a beautiful place and could benefit everyone
15.	Let's do this before its too late, like at lot more of the buildings in the town.
16.	would hate to see it being destroyed
17.	Please don't repeat the mistakes of the past and use it for new purposes that promote the wellbeing of people of Rathkeale amd its surroundings
18.	It would be lovely to see the building refurbished and being used for any purpose.
19.	Beautiful building, associated with education for all of its time so would be nice to continue that in memory of its predecessors
20.	would be of great benefit to the town but not for accommodation
21.	Get the building open as soon as possible to prevent the building going into disrepair
22.	Bring in outsiders to run it
23.	I think there is an opportunity to turn this historical building into the heartbeat of the town where the benefits trickle down into local businesses. A professional management approach in conjunction with local groups, local authority, local businesses & local people. Buy in from locals from the start is paramount. Rathkeale has a high number of committees with hard working volunteers & their inclusion would be essential. If successful it would be great to think that it may result in other businesses coming to the town & return it to the famous, bustling marketplace it was known as.
24.	It's part of history
25.	I am so pleased to read that Rathkeale is finally getting a face-lift so 'Good Luck' and I do hope it's successful.
26.	It would be good to see the Convent being used to help Rathkeale progress as a town.
27.	It needs to be saved and reopened ASAP a beautiful building in the heart of the town, donated to the people of rathkeale
28.	It's a great building and well located in the town. I would love to see something done with it ASAP to benefit the people of the town and surrounding areas.
29.	I'm delighted that this building will and should be used by the people of rathkeale for what ever is decided
30.	I feel it would be very beneficial to open a gym and measure Centre
31.	should be used as a local training centre for further education to allow the people of rathkeale to obtain qualifications without the cost of public transport
32.	Kept in ownership by the parish
33.	Should be used to revitalise the town for the benefit of the people of Rathkeale
34.	Wishing you all the best in this beautiful town. If I had money to invest I would!
35.	Would be great to see it put to any use for the community.
36.	Exciting. The town really needs this.
37.	It should be turned into a big supermarket with a food hall
38.	It is already set up as accommodation with kitchen, dining room etc and a garden
39.	Possible use for a room would be a mortuary
40.	Good for Rathkeale
41.	It has good potential
42.	It needs to get heating back up and running and renovate it section by section and maybe then it would be habitable for our priest
43.	Benefit the people of Rathkeale and wider community
44.	Safeguard the building so it cannot be sold and left fall into disrepair or knocked down. Make it a living, used fit for purpose building to improve financial well-being of Rathkeale. To bring employment.
45.	When the Nuns lived in this Convent it was behind closed doors. Now is the time for the people of Rathkeale to be allowed to use this beautiful building and gardens
46.	My wish is it doesn't go to waste and helps the town.
47.	Should we investigate if Schools could make some use it ???. Education ??.
48.	A great opportunity for building not to be left in a derelict state and not to go into the hands of others who won't use the opportunity given to make the town a better place
49.	I cannot afford to contribute financially but could volunteer in some capacity to be helpful in such a mammoth project.
50.	Hopefully it is put to good use
51.	Keep & maintain the roof before it goes beyond repair

52.	I would like to see it up and running asap
53.	If the building is to be completely refurbished there may be a way that this can be done with green technology where by the initial investment would pay for itself over time and could be used as a model for education and sustainability. Grants from SEAI are available for deep retrofits.
54.	Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the people of Rathkeale needs a Gym 2 get back 2 them selves and improve the body soul and mind fitness is key
55.	Hope it's not left idle for long more
56.	I think there is huge potential in the future of the building and what it can do for Rathkeale. If we are clever enough to make it work and with a sense of community, we should collaborate our time and effort to see it succeed.
57.	Would just really hate to see the building go to wreck and ruin. I'd happily help out on any venture.... oh maybe a retreat like glenstall... yoga pilates and that kind
58.	Hopefully bringing a more positive attitude towards the area
59.	Parking is an issue
60.	Whole parish need to actively participate in maintaining, preserving, and utilising this brilliant building
61.	Needs to be done
62.	This building is valuable asset which is very well located with all necessary services easily available. It may be possible to find one or more investors to develop it in return for a shareholding in the building and future income.
63.	There is room on the overall site for additional development if necessary
64.	I would like to see some of the furnishings and decor indicating its original purpose retained respectfully in any plan for development
65.	I think this should be renovated soon rather than later, I don't think it should be left to volunteers as I'm sure as good as people are it wouldn't work you need a management team in there to run it. I do think a team building hostel type setting would be ideal, with also other courses running would be a great income not just to the town but the surrounding area too.
66.	A shame to see a good building idle when the town needs something for itself
67.	I hope it's utilised and adds to Rathkeale
68.	It is a shame to see such a fine central building unused, hopefully it will be used up and running soon
69.	Hope it is used before decay sets in.
70.	It just should be used and not left idle for any longer
71.	It would be fantastic to see this amazing building which is part of Rathkeale's history refurbished and used to full capacity for the good of Rathkeale
72.	The building and property can be a fantastic asset to the community of Rathkeale. I would fully support the refurbishment, development and open to use, of the building at the earliest opportunity. Preference should be given to current users Rathkeale Scout Group, who have over 60 youth members with 10-15 adult volunteers, from Rathkeale and surrounding parishes and towns.
73.	This project should be the starting point for the revival of the town
74.	It provides an opportunity for the Community get involved by investing in the project
75.	It offers the facility to attract outside agencies to locate in the town
76.	It offers the facility to attract people to live in good quality accommodation within easy reach of the city or other locations
77.	The building and property can be a fantastic asset to the community of Rathkeale. I would fully support the refurbishment, development and open to use, of the building at the earliest opportunity. Preference should be given to current users Rathkeale Scout Group, who have over 60 youth members with 10-15 adult volunteers, from Rathkeale and surrounding parishes and towns.
78.	I hope it is put to good use
79.	The building and property can be a fantastic asset to the community of Rathkeale. I would fully support the refurbishment, development & opening of the building at the earliest opportunity. Preference should be given to the current users- Rathkeale Scout Group- who currently have over 60 youth members along with 10 - 15 adult volunteers who give tirelessly to their community on a continuous basis. Their members come from Rathkeale & surrounding towns & parishes from Patrickswell to Shanagolden! They offer a fantastic opportunity for their youth members to learn essential life skills & take part in positive social interaction with their peers. Through recreation, Scouting achieves its purpose of helping young people develop physically, intellectually, socially, and spiritually. Scouting is all about building confidence and self-esteem, learning important life skills and leadership skills, team building, outdoor adventure, education, and fun! At a time when many other Scout Groups are closing it is essential that we give our local group, who have a fantastic & positive history in Rathkeale, as much help as possible to enable them to continue on their amazing journey!
80.	Save it fix it. The answer is already in the community. See Cobh and emigration, Portumna and workhouse etc. Church life ruled here for centuries.
81.	**we are working to develop our own village so shared and supported ideas could benefit each other significantly for West Limerick.
82.	The building and property can be a fantastic asset to the community of Rathkeale. I would fully support the refurbishment, development and open to use, of the building at the earliest opportunity. Preference should be

	given to current users Rathkeale Scout Group, who have over 60 youth members with 10-15 adult volunteers, from Rathkeale and surrounding parishes and towns.
83.	Nice to see work/preparation beginning at this big task. Mercy Order motto was always to serve the poor and the community.
84.	This building should be looked after immediately and not left to deteriorate any further.
85.	The building can be used to benefit the people of town and district and so stay true to the ethos of the Sisters of Mercy who devoted their lives to serve others,
86.	Make the best of the facility
87.	Hopefully, we will see it up and running as soon as possible. Such a lovely building
88.	Perhaps look for people to give interest free loans to help finance project
89.	I would like to see the building looked after and preserved for future generations
90.	The convent Thomas Street - 7 or 8 apartments. Big house family. The convent New Roadside - 8-10 sheltered housing units - grants of 70% available.
91.	The facility is beautifully situated in the heart of the town with a glorious chapel and walled garden. Its beauty purpose and usefulness should be grasped.
92.	It is meant for the people of the parish and for their use.
93.	It will take careful consideration as to what the convent can be used for because of close proximity to schools.
94.	The overall decision should consider the future of people living in Rathkeale, draw people to the town not only to boost the towns economy but the lives of people living there

Please select the option that best describes your **location** (select one)

63% of respondents indicated they reside in Rathkeale all year and 93% indicated that they reside in Limerick County (including Rathkeale.) The responses from the 12 respondents who do not reside in Limerick were not removed because the survey sought opinions and was not a vote.

Location	Responses	Percent
I live in Rathkeale all year	101	62.73%
I reside in Limerick County, but not Rathkeale	48	29.81%
I reside in Ireland, but not Limerick County	7	4.35%
I reside outside Ireland	4	2.48%
I visit Rathkeale for the Christmas period	1	0.62%

My age falls within this bracket (select one):

90% of respondents indicated that they were 25 years of age or older.

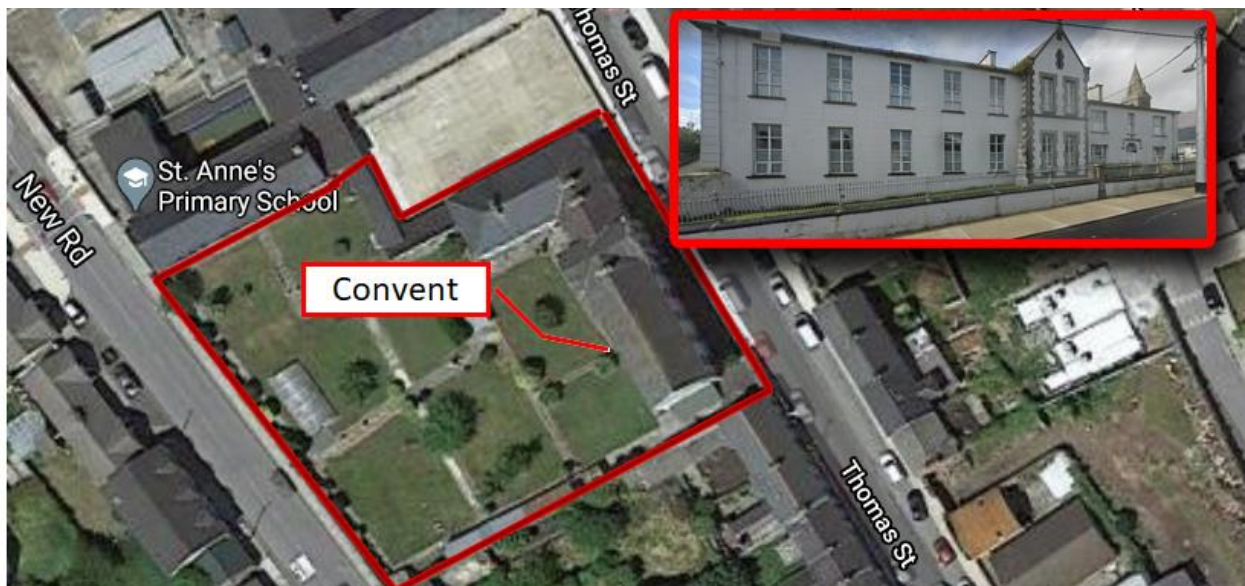
Age Range	Percent
26 to 45 years of age	40.88%
46 to 60 years of age	33.96%
61+ years of age	15.09%
Under 25 years of age	10.06%

Appendix: St. Anne's Convent Future Use Survey

Introduction

This survey gives you the opportunity to express your opinion about how the now closed convent facility might be used for the benefit of the community in Rathkeale, Co. Limerick. It is also available online at: <https://rathkeale.com/convent> (our preferred way of getting your opinion.)

The convent is a large 2 story building with its own grounds just off the N21 between New Road and Thomas street. It is desirable to see the facility used to help the parish of Rathkeale and for it to generate income, so it is not a financial burden.



Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. There are no foreseeable risks associated with this research. However, if you feel uncomfortable answering any questions, you can withdraw from the survey at any point. It is very important for us to learn your opinions. Your survey responses will be strictly confidential and data from this research will be reported only in the aggregate. Your information will remain confidential. If you have questions at any time about the survey or the procedures, you may contact David Lamont at 087 362 7113 or by email at david.lamont@rathkeale.com. Thank you very much for your time and support.

Please return your completed survey by Sunday 27th of September 2020 to one of the following locations:

1. By Post or drop off: David Lamont, Rathkeale Community Council Office, Rathkeale Community Centre, The Square, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick.
2. Drop off: St. Mary's Church Split the Pot Box (near exit.)
3. Drop off: The Community Charity Shop, The Square, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick.
4. Drop off: O'Gairbhi Newsagents & An Post office, Thomas Street, Rathkeale.

Convent Future Use Survey

Also available online at: <https://rathkeale.com/convent> (our preferred way of getting your opinion.)

1. The facility should be used for one or more of the following ...

[Required answer, select one or more answers.]

- Businesses that pay for its upkeep, bring jobs and customers to the town.
- An attraction (e.g. Heritage Centre) that brings visitors and their money to the town.

- An education facility to educate people in the town and beyond.
- Accommodation (e.g. a hostel or apartments) that allow more people to stay in the town.
- Social gatherings (e.g. a park, café, community hall) that allows people to meet.
- Other (please specify) _____

2. If the facility were to house businesses what type of businesses would you like to see there?

3. If the facility were to house a visitor attraction what type of attraction would you like to see there?

4. If the facility were used for educational purposes what type of education/classes would you like to see there?

5. If the facility were used for accommodation what type of accommodation would you like to see there?

6. If the facility were used for social gatherings what type of gathering spaces would you like to see there?

7. What else might be housed at the facility for the benefit of Rathkeale?

8. Renovation costs may top several hundred thousand Euros. Funding may come from multiple sources but if 80% was from just one source which should it be?

[Required answer, select one answer only.]

- Investors expecting a potential return on their money.
- A cooperative.
- Grants.
- Donations.
- Fundraising events.
- Other (please specify) _____

9. Time is not the friend of any building so the facility should be ...

[Required answer, select one answer only.]

- Partly or fully opened as soon as possible.
- Opened in time for the completion of the Foynes to Limerick motorway (Adare Bypass) in 2025.
- Opened when everything is perfect and the whole town agrees.

10. Renovating a large property and managing its tenants requires skill and time so please rank (1-3) the following in the order you believe will be most successful:

[Required answer, rank 1 to 3.]

- A professional business should manage it _____
- Rathkeale volunteers should manage it _____
- The parish should manage it _____

11. I could help renovate and open the facility by:

[Select one or more answers.]

- Investing €5001 or more and expecting a return.
- Investing €1001 to €5000 and expecting a return.
- Donating €501 to €1000 without expecting a return.
- Donating up to €500 without expecting a return.
- Wishing Rathkeale well in its rejuvenation.
- Investing my time/skills (specify below) and expecting a return.
- Investing my time/skills (specify below) without expecting a return.

Skills: _____

12. Say anything you like about the future of the facility:

13. Please select the option to best describe your location”

[Required answer, select one answer only.]

- I live in Rathkeale all year.
- I visit Rathkeale for the Christmas period.
- I reside in Limerick County, but not Rathkeale.
- I reside in Ireland, but not Limerick County.
- I reside outside Ireland.

14. My age falls within this bracket:

[Select one answer only.]

- Under 25 years of age.
- 26 to 45 years of age.
- 46 to 60 years of age.
- Over 60 years of age.

15. I am ...

[* Requested answer.]

First Name:* _____

Last Name:* _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Town of Residence:* _____

Thank you! Please deliver your completed survey to one of the places listed on the first page by Sunday 27th of September 2020.