

## 2(H) Sports and Recreation

While it is not possible to document or indeed define all sports and recreational activities and facilities a variety of the major facilities are reviewed in this section.

### 1. Libraries

There are nine libraries well distributed throughout the County and occurring in all major towns. Overall there were 39,900 registered readers and 610,879 books issued in 1998, 42,852 registered readers and 621,661 books issued in 1999 and 42,552 registered readers and 643,778 books issued in 2000.

### 2. Cinemas

There are four cinemas in Co. Kerry located in Tralee, Killarney, Listowel and Dingle. The cinema in Killorglin closed in 1998.

### 3. Youth Activities

For the young the Kerry Diocesan and Youth Service organise discos and clubs.

Sporting organisations take on a special significance as social organisations in the county especially in the rural areas.

In South Kerry Cappanalea, the Kerry Education Services innovative outdoor pursuits centre is an important resource not only in the immediate area but county wide. Killorglin has the only community - oriented leisure centre in South Kerry.

### 4. Parks

Killarney National Park is also a very important recreational area for the county for both its residents and tourists.

Tralee's Town Park covering 80 acres and located in the heart of the town provides a quiet haven which allows resident and visitor to relax and enjoy the outdoors. The park contains a rose garden and a modern children's playground and pets corner.

Residents and visitors alike can relax in the 40 acre town park in Listowel, which contains a children's play ground, two tennis courts, sports complex and pitch and putt course. The Garden of Europe, is also located in the town park and contains more than 2,500 trees and shrubs from all European countries.

### 5. Walking Routes/Cycling

Kerry is a haven for the walker with four long-distance walking routes to choose from, the Kerry Way, Dingle Way, North Kerry Way and the Beara Way, which is shared with Co. Cork.

'Go Ireland' new year walking festival held in the County in January, Kenmare walking festival in April and May. Kerry is described in 'Kerry Insight' as the cycling Mecca of Ireland. There are specific mapped routes on the Ring of Kerry and the 'Cycling Trails of Ballybunion'. There are 8 cycling tour operators under Irish cycling safaris and 8 bike hire outlets all targeting the Tralee and south Kerry area.

## 6. Sport Complexes

### • TRALEE REGIONAL SPORTS AND LEISURE CENTRE

The centre provides opportunities for approx. 300,000 individuals to participate in many of its programmes and activities throughout the year.

**Facilities include:** a 25metre swimming pool and a kiddies pool (which is the only public swimming pool in the County), a fully equipped gymnasium which consists of a fitness suite, weights room, resistance room, and aerobics room. The centre also comprises of an indoor sports hall, which is used for many sports such as basketball, indoor soccer, badminton, gymnastics, boxing, judo and tennis. It also has indoor squash, handball and racquetball courts. The centre also comprises of three outdoor pitches and two outdoor tennis courts. Other facilities include a sauna, café, crèche, changing rooms, meeting rooms, toilets and showers.

**Opening hours:** Monday - Friday 7.30am - 11pm, Saturday - Sunday 10am - 9pm. The centre is open to both members and non-members.

**Future developments:** Tralee sports and leisure centre is poised to undergo a major development of its facilities and services. Under the Swimming Pool Programme, which is administered by the Department of Tourism Sport and Recreation, Tralee Town Council have submitted plans in the order of €3.6m for the upgrade and development of pool and ancillary facilities at the Centre. Further developments will include the development of the dry facilities under the sports Capital Lottery Programme in partnership with 'private partnership' and may include the addition of a first floor area incorporating an extended 'state of the art Fitness Suite', additional changing rooms, small hall and the recruitment of a sports development officer. Outdoor it is proposed to construct four seven aside AstroTurf floodlit pitches.

### • THE AQUA DOME

The Aqua Dome accommodates approx. 220,000 people per annum This includes clubs, groups, families and individuals.

**Facilities Include:** a swimming pool, fully equipped gymnasium, sauna and steam room, water slide, Jacuzzi, hot tubs, toilets, showers and a cafe. The centre also consists of an outdoor 18 hole mini golf course and coin operated remote control trucks and boats.

**Annual membership:** Family €570, Adult €317, student, junior, OAP €190, monthly membership also available. Opening hours: 10am - 10pm Monday to Sunday.

**Future developments:** new gym, family changing rooms, and outdoor hot tubs.

**Catchment Area:** Tralee and surrounding towns, domestic holiday market, and foreign tourists in Kerry and Shannon Region.

### • BALLYLOUGHRAN CENTRE

The Ballyloughran centre has a wide range of conference, indoor and outdoor recreational facilities.

**Facilities include:** Indoor - full size basketball court, squash court, 4 badminton courts, 2 climbing walls, volleyball court, short tennis court, netball court, indoor soccer pitch, shower/changing rooms, shop, canteen and viewing area. Leisure Complex - swimming pool, jacuzzi, gymnasium, steam room, showers/changing rooms and tea room. Outdoor - canoeing lake, crazy golf, pitch and putt, basketball court, volleyball court, orienteering course, playing pitch, tennis courts, assault course and camping area. The centre is open to members and guest of the members. Over 800 people use the leisure centre.

**Annual Membership:** Family €680, Adult €380, and OAP €285.

**Opening Hours:** 7.30am - 10pm (Monday to Friday), 9am - 9.30pm (Saturday - Sunday).

**Catchment Area:** North Kerry.

• KILLORGLIN SPORTS AND LEISURE CENTRE

**Facilities include:** a large multipurpose sports hall, squash and racquetball courts, health and fitness suite, sauna, steam room and a fully equipped gymnasium. The centre is open to members and the public. Over 80 people currently use the health and leisure suite, 20 groups use the hall.

**Membership:** €19 for families, €9 for seniors, €1.27 for juniors and students. Visitor's fee is €1.27 per visit.

**Opening hours:** 9.30am - 11.30 pm.

**Catchment Area:** Killorglin, Glenbeigh, Milltown, Beaufort, Cromane, and Listry.

• KERRY DIOCESAN YOUTH SERVICE

There are two youth service centres in Kerry, one based in Tralee and the second based in Killarney.

The Tralee Centre comprises of a multipurpose sports hall which accommodates indoor soccer,

Tae Kwon Do, badminton, unihoc, volleyball, hurling, kick boxing, karate, self defence and basketball.

The centre also comprises of a youth theatre space, a café and meeting rooms. Killarney youth centre

has a youth Arts facility, meeting rooms and a café. A sports hall is in the process of being developed.

The youth centres are open to members and public.

**Opening hours:** 9.00am - 10.30pm.

**Catchment Area:** Tralee and environs, Killarney and South Kerry.

**Future Developments:** New Youth Centre to be opened in Killarney. This will have meeting rooms, sports hall, café, crèche and a youth Arts facility.

• LISTOWEL SPORTS CENTRE

**Facilities include:** A fully equipped gymnasium, an indoor sports hall, indoor courts, outdoor courts, pitch and putt pitches and a playground.

The table on the next page identifies the Sport and Leisure Centres in Kerry and the sport facilities of the centre. The following are the leisure centres in the County:

<i>Aqua Dome</i>	<i>Tralee</i>
<i>Killorglin Sports Centre</i>	<i>Killorglin</i>
<i>Listowel Sports Centre</i>	<i>Listowel</i>
<i>Tralee Regional Sports and Leisure Centre</i>	<i>Tralee</i>
<i>Ballyloughran Leisure Centre</i>	<i>Lisselton</i>
<i>Youth Centre KDYS</i>	<i>Tralee</i>

FACILITIES	CENTRE					
	Aqua Dome	Ballyloughran Centre	Killorglin Sports Centre	Listowel Sports Centre	Tralee Regional Sports Centre	Kerry Diocesan Youth Service
Swimming Pool	•	•				•
Toilets	•	•	•	•	•	•
Showers	•	•	•	•	•	•
Gym	•	•	•	•	•	
Sauna	•	•	•		•	
Steam Room	•	•	•		•	
Changing Rooms	•	•	•	•	•	•
Jacuzzi		•			•	
Café	•	•			•	•
Meeting Rooms		•	•		•	•
Crèche					•	•
Indoor Sports Hall		•	•	•	•	•
Indoor Court		•		•	•	
Golf Course (18)				•	•	
Golf Course (9)				•	•	
Crazy Golf	•					
Pitch and Putt		•		•		
Outdoor Courts		•		•		
Pitches		•		•	•	
Accommodation		•				
Playground		•		•		
Walking						
Fishing					•	
Outdoor Water Sports		•				
Parking	•	•		•	•	
Cycle Rack				•	•	
Disability Access	•	•	•			•

Table 3

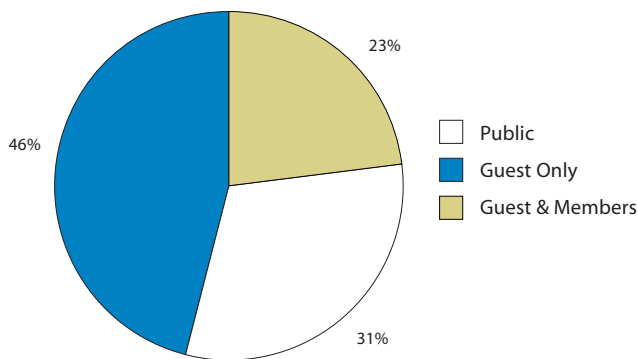
<b>HOTELS WITH SWIMMING POOL AND LEISURE CENTRE</b>					
<b>Hotel</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Facilities</b>	<b>Guest only</b>	<b>Guest and Members only</b>	<b>Public Use</b>
<b>Sheen Falls Lodge</b>	Kenmare	Swimming Pool, Gym, Sauna/Steam room, meeting rooms, Jacuzzi, fishing		•	
<b>Great Southern Hotel</b>	Killarney	Swimming Pool, Gym, Sauna/Steam room, meeting rooms, Jacuzzi, tennis courts		•	
<b>Randles Court Hotel</b>	Killarney	Swimming Pool, Gym, Sauna/Steam room, meeting rooms, Jacuzzi,		•	
<b>Brandon Hotel</b>	Tralee	Swimming Pool, Gym, Sauna/Steam room, meeting rooms, Jacuzzi,		•	
<b>Holiday Inn</b>	Killarney	Swimming Pool, Gym, Sauna/Steam room, meeting rooms, Jacuzzi, cafe			•
<b>Killarney Towers Hotel</b>	Killarney	Swimming Pool, Gym, Sauna/Steam room, meeting rooms, Jacuzzi, playground			•
<b>Three Lake Hotel</b>	Killarney	Swimming Pool, Gym, Sauna/Steam room, Jacuzzi,	•		
<b>Castleross Hotel</b>	Killarney	Swimming Pool, Gym, Sauna/Steam room, Jacuzzi, golf course			•
<b>Ryan Hotel</b>	Killarney	Swimming Pool, Gym, Sauna/Steam room, Jacuzzi, indoor sports hall, crèche, outdoor pitch, crazy golf, play ground			•
<b>Parknasilla GSH</b>	Killarney	Swimming Pool, Sauna/Steam room, Jacuzzi, golf course, fishing, walk ways	•		
<b>Gleneagle Hotel</b>	Killarney	Swimming Pool, Gym, Sauna/Steam room, Jacuzzi, indoor sports hall, create, outdoor pitch, crazy golf, play ground		•	
<b>Dingle Skellig</b>	Dingle	Swimming Pool, Gym, Sauna/Steam room, Jacuzzi, indoor sports hall, crèche, outdoor pitch, crazy golf, play ground, café, watersports		•	
<b>Aghadoe Heights</b>	Killarney	Swimming Pool, Gym, Sauna/Steam room, meeting rooms, tennis courts	•		

Table 2

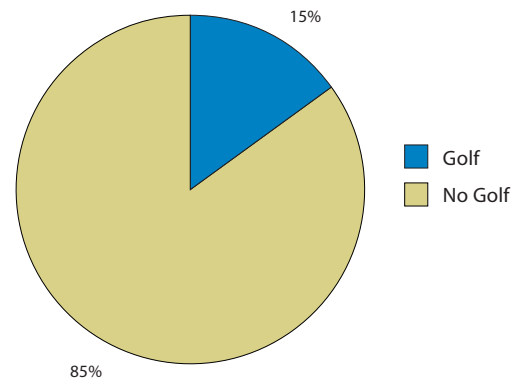
**Hotels:**

Hotels with leisure centres were surveyed in an effort to determine what facilities were available to the general public. In total, there are sixteen hotels in County Kerry with leisure Centres. Thirteen of which have both a swimming pool and a leisure centre, two of which are seasonal and open to guests only and one hotel which has a gym facility and also only open to guests of the hotel. Of the thirteen hotels which have both a swimming pool and a leisure centre, three of them are open to guests only, six of them are open to guests and members only and the remaining four hotels are open for public use. Therefore, only twenty-five percent of the sixteen hotels with leisure facilities in Kerry are open to the public (all of which are based in Killarney). Findings from the research of the thirteen hotels with both a leisure centre and a swimming pool are illustrated in the graphs below.

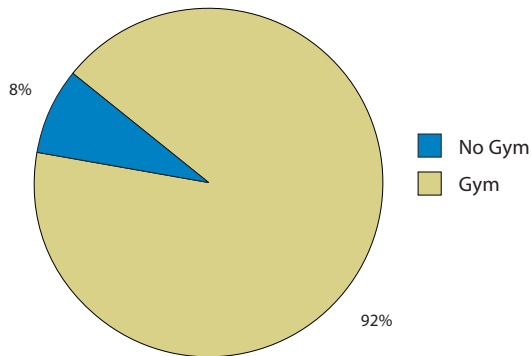
**HOTELS WITH SWIMMING POOLS AND LEISURE CENTRES**



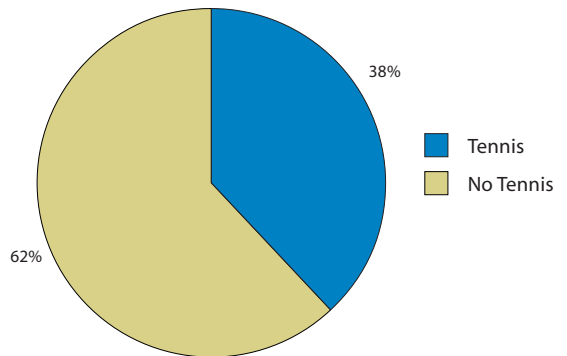
**HOTEL LEISURE CENTRES WITH A GOLF COURSE**



**HOTEL LEISURE CENTRES WITH A GYM**



**HOTEL LEISURE CENTRES WITH TENNIS COURTS**



## SPORTS AND RECREATION CLUBS IN THE COUNTY

Type of Club	Number
Athletics	21
Badminton	12
Basketball	16
Boating	1
Boxing	5
Camogie	1
Chess	1
Community Games	45
Cricket	1
Cycling	8
Equestrian	5
Flying	1
Gaelic Football	61
Girl Guides	19
Golf	17
Gun Clubs	1
Handball	3
Horse Racing	3
Hurling	8
Judo	11
Ladies Football	20
Ladies Soccer	1
Motor Rallying	2
Mountaineering	9
Pitch and Putt	5
Racquetball	1
Riding Club	1
Rowing	6
Rugby	5
Sailing	1
School Boy Soccer Clubs	23
Snooker	2
Soccer	37
Special Olympics	2
Surfing	1
Swimming	1
Tae kwon do	2
Tennis	1
Wheelchair	1
Youth Clubs	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>391</b>

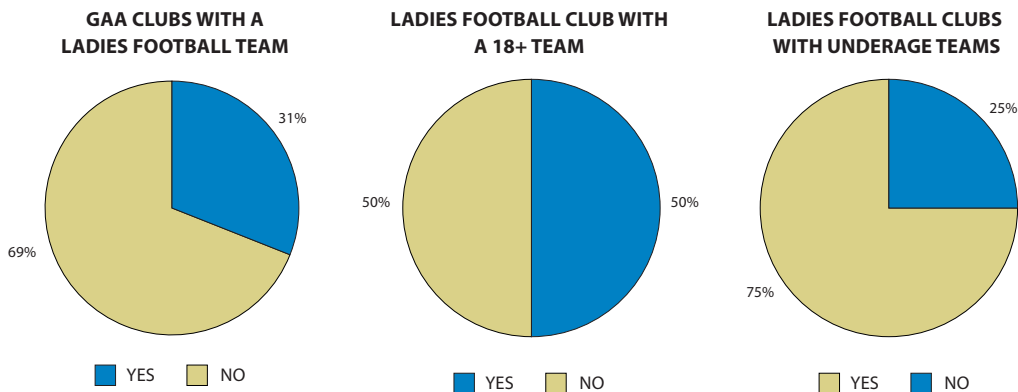
### Sports and Recreational Clubs

• **GAA Clubs:** In total, there are approximately seventy GAA clubs in County Kerry. There are sixty-four football clubs and thirteen hurling clubs. From the research conducted it was found that ninety-nine percent of clubs have dressing rooms, ninety-nine percent have toilet and shower facilities, seventy-four percent have public toilets, fifty-nine percent have covered spectator accommodation, seventy-six percent have a score board, fifty-three percent have a separate juvenile pitch, and fourteen percent of the clubs have a second playing pitch.

ANALYSIS OF G.A.A. CLUB GROUNDS		
Number Of Grounds Surveyed	70	
Number of Grounds with Dressing Rooms	69	99%
Number of Grounds with Toilet and Shower Facilities for Players	69	99%
Number of Grounds with Public Toilets		
(A) Ladies	52	74%
(B) Gents	52	74%
Number of Grounds with a Referees Room	62	89%
Number of Grounds with a Referees Toilet	35	50%
Number of Grounds with a Referees Shower	36	51%
Number of Grounds with Covered Spectator Accommodation	41	59%
Number of Grounds with a Score Board	53	76%
Number of Grounds with a Wired-In / Enclosed Pitch	44	63%
Number of Grounds with a Separate Juvenile Pitch	16	23%
Number of Grounds with a Second Playing Pitch	10	14%
Number of Grounds with Dug-Outs	49	70%
Number of Grounds with a Car Park	56	80%
Number of Grounds with High Nets Behind Goal Posts	45	64%

Table 4

Of the sixty-four football clubs, only thirty-one percent have a ladies football team. Of the twenty Ladies Football Clubs in County Kerry, fifty percent have 18+ teams and seventy-five percent have underage teams. Findings are illustrated in the graphs below.



In Kerry, there is only one Camogie team. This means that the camogie team plays in the Cork camogie competitions.

#### • Soccer Clubs

In total, there are thirty-seven soccer clubs in County Kerry. Seventy percent of the clubs participated in the research. Findings were as follows:

- Forty-six percent owned their own soccer pitch
- Fifteen percent rented a soccer pitch
- Nineteen percent use the Kerry district league soccer pitch
- Four percent use a field
- Sixteen percent had no pitch
- Only one club had a purpose-built dressing room
- Nineteen percent of clubs use a container as their dressing room
- Seventy-seven percent have no dressing rooms
- There is only one ladies soccer team in Kerry

#### • Golf Clubs

In total, there are eighteen golf clubs in County Kerry. A hundred percent of the golf clubs participated in the research. It was found that fifty-three percent of the golf clubs have an 18-hole course and the remaining forty-seven percent have a nine-hole course.

#### • Basketball Clubs

There are sixteen basketball clubs in County Kerry. Forty-four percent of the basketball clubs participated in the survey. **It was found that none of the basketball clubs have their own facilities. The clubs pay to use local halls, Community Centres and gymnasiums.**

#### • Badminton Clubs

There are twelve badminton clubs in County Kerry. Forty-two percent of these clubs participated in the survey. **It was found that badminton clubs have no facilities of their own**, and they have to pay to use their local Community Centre or local school facilities.

#### • Boxing Clubs

There are five boxing clubs in County Kerry. Eighty percent of these clubs participated in the survey. **It was found that none of the boxing clubs have their own facilities** and that they have to pay to use their local Community Centre or sports centre.

#### • Athletic Clubs

There are sixteen athletic clubs in County Kerry. Fifty percent of these clubs participated in the survey. **It was found that only one club have their own running track and that is the Castleisland athletic club.** The remainder of the clubs have to use their local Community Centre, sports hall, school facilities and local GAA pitches.

#### • Judo Clubs

There are eleven Judo clubs in County Kerry. Nineteen percent of the clubs participated in the survey. **It was found that the clubs used the facilities of their local sport centres and school.**

**• Sailing Club**

There is one sailing club in County Kerry. This club is located in Fenit. The club has approximately 200 members with activities ranging from sail training for juniors and adults in dinghies, dinghy and cruiser racing, power boating and water-skiing. Facilities include a new marine building incorporating the harbour office and showers, toilets, telephone and laundry room. Cranes are available to lift boats into or out of the water. The 110-berth marina has berths for all sizes of boats from 6m to 15m.

**• Golf Courses**

Golfers are welcomed at six championship courses and ten 9-hole and eight 18-hole courses. Green fees vary from €21.50 - €120, on average green fees cost about €51, 9-hole fee is €12.70 on average

Golf courses have a wide geographical spread, the majority of the 18 hole courses are situated in the west and south of the county.

**• Shooting**

Clay pigeon shooting ground on the Limerick Road, Castleisland.

**• Rowing Clubs**

There are four rowing clubs. One club co-operated with the research. This club was the Fossa rowing club. **Again this club has no facilities of its own; it uses the old church in Fossa.**

**• Handball Clubs**

There are three handball clubs in County Kerry. One club co-operated with the research. This was the Glenbeigh handball club. This club uses the Glenbeigh Community Centre. **It has no facilities of its own.**

**• Equestrian**

There are five equestrian centres in County Kerry. Only one centre participated in the research. The Listowel Equestrian Centre. This centre has an indoor arena as well as an outdoor trek.

**• Youth Clubs**

There are thirty youth clubs in County Kerry. Twenty percent of these clubs participated in the research. **A hundred percent of these clubs use the facilities of their local Community Centre.**

**• Cappanalea Outdoor Education Centre**

Cappanalea Outdoor Education Centre is a purpose built Outdoor Centre. The centrally heated buildings provide all the necessary facilities. Separate dormitories with hot/cold wash hand basins; separate showers and toilets make the centre suitable for mixed groups. The fully equipped kitchen, where meals are prepared daily for all those engaged in the outdoor activities, and a spacious common room add to the comfort. A drying room where wet clothes will dry overnight is available. The Day Visitors Centre at Cappanalea O.E.C. is available for non resident course participants.

*Cappanalea O.E.C. provides a variety of courses in adventure sports and outdoor education. These activities range from field studies to the more physical demanding outdoor sports: CANOEING; LEADERSHIP TRAINING; SAILING; HILLWALKING; WINDSURFING; TEAM BUILDING; and ROCK CLIMBING.*

Courses are held at either introductory or at more advanced levels of proficiency.

#### • Hillwalking/Mountaineering Clubs

1. **Killarney Mountaineering Club:** This club was founded in 1983. It has over 70 members. Membership is open to over 18's. There is day membership available. The club has its own climbing wall. The club meets every Sunday.
2. **Laune Mountaineering Club:** This club was founded in 1966. It has over 80 members. Membership is open to both adults and children. The club meets every second Sunday for a walk.
3. **Tralee Mountaineering Club:** The club was founded in 1954. The club has over 100 members. Membership is open to adults only. There are three different grades with outings on alternate Sundays.
4. **Caherciveen Outdoor Club:** The club was founded in 1992. There are 29 members at present. Membership is open to all. The club meets every Sunday.
5. **Cumann Sleibhteoracht Chorca Dhuibhe:** The club was founded in 1994. There are 12 members at present. Membership is open to over 16's. The club meets every Sunday.
6. **DATLOO Hillwalking Club:** Membership is open to all. At present, there are 23 members. Main activity is hillwalking. In recent years, rockclimbing and alpine climbing have been included in the club's activities.
7. **Kenmare Leisure Club:** The club was founded in 1988. There are over 100 members. Membership is open to all walkers. Hillwalks and general walks take place every second Sunday. There is also a walking festival at Easter time.

SOURCE: SPORTS FACILITIES REPORT KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL 2001

## Summary

- In 1998 there were 203 Traveller families resident in County Kerry.
- Kerry has the highest dependency ratio in the region reaching 37.67%.
- 10% of the population have a disability.
- 521 families in receipt of FIS.
- 1,692 in receipt of lone parents payment in 1999.
- 3,343 Local Authority houses in County Kerry.
- In 1996, 39.5% (49,836) of the population in Co. Kerry were under 25, there were 29,832 between 0 - 14 yrs (23.63) of the population.
- In 1996 28,160 persons were covered by medical card, 37.26% of population.
- 65 - 85 age group in Kerry represents 14% of population. National figure is 11%. Southern Health Board region is 12%.
- 5,579 old age pensioners are in receipt of non-contributory pension.
- There are 1,481 people over 85 years of age in Kerry.
- Lone parents have increased by 20.6% since 1997.
- There was a large increase in the demand for MABS budgetary service. In 1998 a budget of £88,815 was provided. In 1999 this increased by £47,074 to a total of £135,888, a 53% increase.
- In 1996 there were 49,836 people under 25 years old of these 29,832 were between 0 - 14 years.
- There are nine libraries in the County.
- Over 317 clubs, low numbers of female clubs within GAA clubs.
- 4 Sports Centres and one Water World.
- One public swimming pool in the County.
- 15 Hotels with swimming pools in the County. 11 in Killarney, of the eleven in Killarney
  - 3 are open to guests only
  - 3 guests and members only
  - 4 open to public
  - 1 open if booked in advance (clubs/groups)
- 4 other hotels in the County with swimming pools are not open to the general public.