**Something for everyone in busy community**

Small but mighty is certainly a phrase that seems to sit well with the community of Ballinahown.

With a population of just 75 people within the immediate village, the community is really home to hundreds of people who live in the vicinity.

This thriving community caters for hundreds with a variety of weekly activities on offer and the community hall and sporting facilities are central to these gatherings.

Earlier this year, refurbishment works were carried out on the village hall, with a new state-of-the art catering standard kitchen installed. This was the first phase of refurbishment works that will be carried out in the coming years.

The busy hall serves the community daily, with Pilates classes held on Mondays; Irish dancing on Tuesday afternoons and line dancing Tuesday nights; dance exercise class on Wednesday nights; cards on Thursdays and the local parent and toddler group using the hall on Fridays.

The group of people playing cards on Thursdays has been meeting at the hall for almost 40 years and currently there are about 50 members of the group.

As well as the regular classes, the hall is used for meetings by various committee and a number of community events are held there throughout the year.

The community and its hinterland is also well served by sporting facilities and last year Ballinahown FC had 228 children registered with the club, who come from all over Westmeath and Offaly.

Chairperson of Ballinahown Community Development, Helen Conneely, explained that the group’s raison d’etre since its establishment over 30 years ago has always been serving the entire community – young and old – and having these facilities and classes on offer helps to cater for everyone who calls Ballinahown home.

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