

Castletroy: a thriving city suburb with a unique history of its own

CASTLETROY (Irish: Caladh an Treoidh) is a rapidly-growing, and predominantly middle-class suburb of Limerick, Ireland.

Historically, the district was entirely separate to Limerick, and consisted of little development aside from the Annacotty village and Monaleen. With the creation of the University of Limerick, as well as the growth of Limerick itself, this began to change. Castletroy is one of the fastest-growing residential areas in Ireland and has now completely engulfed the village of Annacotty

and Monaleen - "Móin a lín" - The field of the flax. Monaleen parish has one of the most beautiful buildings as its main landmark; Monaleen Church.

Castletroy includes three primary schools Milford NS, Monaleen NS and a Gaelscoil, the secondary school, Castletroy College, and a number of hotels including the Kilmurry Lodge Hotel and Castletroy Park Hotel. It is also host to both Milford and Monaleen Gaelic Athletic Association Clubs.

The population in of Castletroy is now approximately 32,506 people,

of which 16,573 are students. Castletroy Golf Course is well known and divides Monaleen and Castletroy itself. Kilbane, Castletroy Heights, Monaleen Heights and Monaleen Park were the original housing developments are were once surrounded by farmland. These houses are the oldest and most sought after properties in the area.

Recent developments include numerous sprawling housing estates, Newtown local shopping centre, the main Castletroy shopping centre extends to some 90

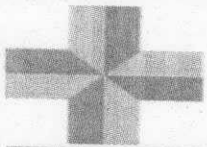
thousand square feet is located off Dublin road at Kilmurray roundabout and includes Superquinn supermarket and 24 mall shops, McDonalds restaurant and an 8-screen cinema, "Storm", which opened its first screen on 19 May 2005.

So why not avail of its services this Christmas

Several attempts have been made by the Limerick City Council to expand its area of control to include Castletroy, which is currently registered as being in County Limerick. The National

Technology Park is home to some major business in Castletroy such as 'Vistakon', a contact lens division of Johnson & Johnson and O2, a major mobile phone operator.

Also in Castletroy is a small and little known Jewish graveyard. It dates from the late 19th century when Limerick had a sizable Jewish community. However they were driven from the city in what was called the "Limerick Pogrom" (see History of Limerick, History of the Jews in Ireland). In 1990 the site was renovated and reopened by Chief Rabbi Mervis.



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