

Independent food shops - the beating heart
of vibrant local communities in towns,
villages and cities.



Tara Buckley, Director General

Irish Retail Grocery sector 2026

- Strong independent retail grocery sector – 30%+ of the market
- All areas of the market – supermarket, convenience, forecourt outlets
- Symbols very strong – SuperValu/Centra; SPAR; MACE; Costcutter; Londis; Gala/XL
- Food/Convenience is an extremely competitive marketplace
- International Retailers – Tesco/Lidl/Aldi plus Irish owned multiple Dunnes Stores
- No statutory price controls
- No barriers to entry



Irish grocery market share stats from Kantar Worldpanel

Market Share



Dunnes 24.8

Tesco 24.4

Aldi 10.4

Lidl 13.2

SuperValu 19.4

Independent Grocers 7.8

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FAMILY ENTERPRISES • LOCAL JOBS • VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

Cead Mile Gansaithe

Vibrant
communities
need food
shops at
their centre.



Vibrant Food shops = strong town centres, connected communities

- Vibrant, healthy, engaged communities have independent food retailers at their core (Prof Kevin Leyden, National University of Ireland Galway)
- Independent retailers create character and diversity in retail offering – not clone towns
- An independent food/convenience store is a key daily footfall driver
- Grocery retailers are major generators of footfall – daily/weekly shop & top ups
- Future of Town Centre Retail is Bricks & Clicks
- People still want to shop for food locally and buy from someone they know and trust



The Nolan's of Clontarf
50 Years and Three
Generations of Family
Grocers



Local Shops
The  **of Your Community**

- A unique independent supermarket
- Established by Paddy & Una Nolan in 1958
- Now run by Richard Nolan
- Huge focus on fresh food.
- Post Office.
- Hardware store & garden centre run by Richard's brother Paul.
- Third Major Revamp completed 2024



Local Shops
The ❤️ of Your Community

Locally owned shops are best!

- Locally owned shops contribute more to the local economy*
 - €100 spent in a locally owned shop generates €250 for the local economy
 - €100 spent in a multiple generates €140 for the local economy

*(Jim Power Economist – Local Heroes Report)

- Locally owned shops are greater supporters of local communities. They invest more, create more jobs, sponsor and support more local causes and engage in the community.



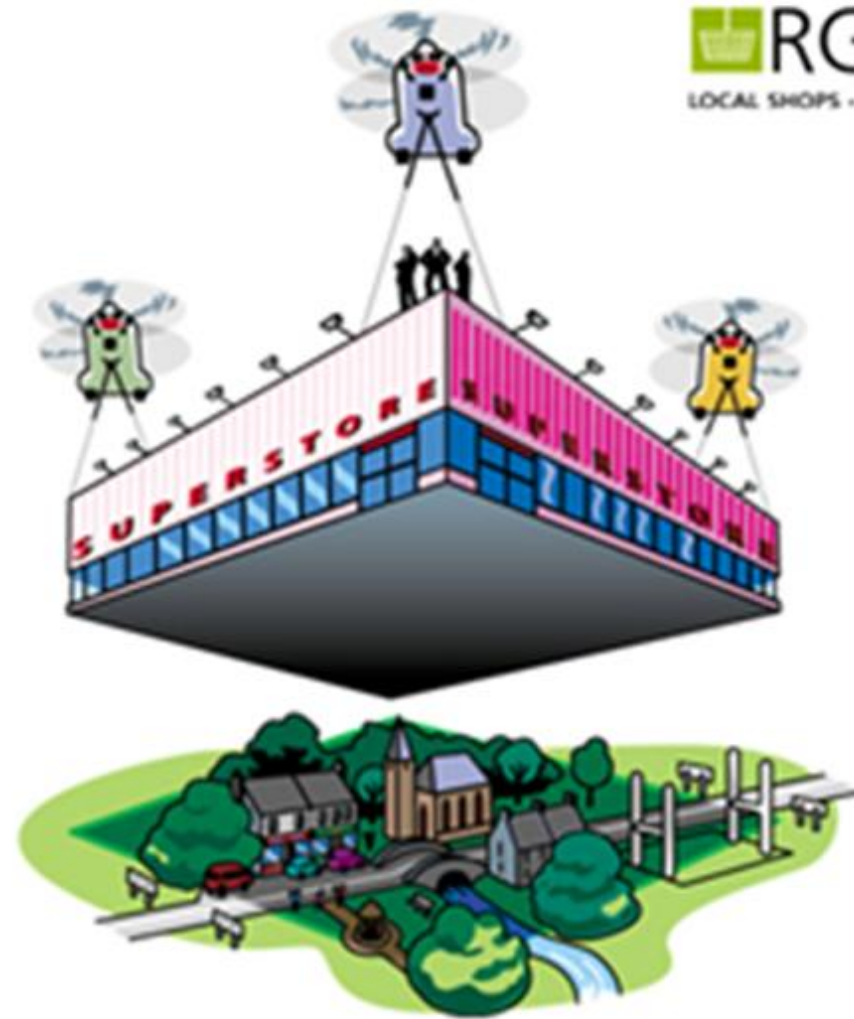
Vibrant Cities,
Town and
Villages-
essential for
engaged,
connected
communities

 **RGDATA**
LOCAL SHOPS - LOCAL COMMUNITIES



Committed to sustainable communities

- RGDATA has consistently championed vibrant town centres
- Campaigned for the Town Centre First policy adopted by Government in 2020.
- Campaigned for the Retail Planning Guidelines which address:
 - Unsustainable Out of town development
 - Hollowing out of Town centres
 - Town Plans; retail zones; sequential test



Today the challenge for towns, cities and villages is vacancy, dereliction & poor traffic management



RGDATA

LOCAL SHOPS - LOCAL COMMUNITIES



Irish Government and the independent retail sector

- Minister for Retail appointed
- Retail Forum established within Department of Enterprise – clearing house for policy and regulatory issues.
- SME test mandatory for new measures
- Cost of Business Forum to report later this year
- Strong engagement by RGDATA with Government and Opposition.
- Programme for Government includes commitments to Town Centre First policy implementation; Retail Crime Strategy, Cost of Business Forum and SME test, VAT reduction for food service businesses.
- RGDATA membership very active in their communities – important local stakeholders.
- Recognition of the importance and value of local independent retail.



Key Policy areas

- Sustainable retail planning policies since 2000
 - Retail Planning Guidelines
 - Focused on vitality and viability of town centres
 - Sequential approach to development
 - Presumption against out of town retail development
- Town Centre First Policy
 - Regenerate towns and villages
 - Collaborative Town Centre Health Checks
 - New Town and Village Renewal Scheme
 - Encourage town and village centre living
 - Places shops at the heart of vibrant towns
- Sustainability/Circular Economy
- Retail Crime Strategy
- Business costs
 - Forum established to address rising business costs and suggest reforms
 - Cross Government remit



Town Centre First Policy

- Government, Local Authorities, wider public sector, business and communities put the health of town centres at the heart of all decision-making.
 - Target resources to prioritise town centres
 - Deliver best local outcomes
 - Align policy and investment decisions
 - Encourage vibrancy, equality and diversity
 - Invest in placemaking
 - Repurpose City, Town and village centres
 - Works in concert with sustainable retail planning policies



The
Alternative is
Grim



Padraig Broderick SPAR Croom

- Independent shopkeeper, Padraig Broderick, one of the founders of Croom Development Association – brought a community together to focus on revitalizing the town of Croom Co Limerick.
- Extension of Broderick's Spar on main street Croom - €2m revamp – 46 jobs.
- Collaboration in Croom has delivered a New civic centre the development of a Town park , a primary health care centre and new hospital wing and an enterprise hub.
- Continuing to encourage mix of investment including retail and residential in the town centre.





Field's of Skibbereen

- Field's SuperValu Skibbereen, West Cork
- Town centre retailer
- Strong local investment and commitment – employs 200 people
- Recognized need to facilitate town to adapt and grow
- Founder of the Ludgate Hub – donated old bakery building for new centre
- A smart working hub in the centre of the town
- Worth €4.2m to the local economy
- Ruth Field a member of the Skibbereen Town Team working on a Town Plan.



Thank you

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