

Chapter 10 Carrickmacross Town Development Plan 2013-2019

10.1 Introduction

The Carrickmacross Town Development Plan 2013-2019 is the successor document to the Carrickmacross Town Development Plan 2007-2013, and any previous plans. The plan relates to the administrative area of Carrickmacross Town Council and relevant lands within Monaghan County Council area, as identified on the attached map CKDP1. This plan should be read in conjunction with the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019.

This Town Development Plan has been prepared concurrently with the Plans for Monaghan County and the four other towns of Monaghan, Castleblayney, Clones, and Ballybay, in an attempt to provide a more comprehensive and cohesive blue print for the development of the county as a whole.

As such the land use zoning map contains zoned lands within the environs of the towns that are located within the functional area of Monaghan County Council. For the sake of clarity and to avoid repetition, these maps have not been reproduced elsewhere. They will however, in so far as they relate to lands zoned for a particular land use within the functional area of the County Council, form part of the County Development Plan 2013-2019.

It should be noted that many objectives and policies contained within the Monaghan County Development Plan will also be applicable to the Carrickmacross Town Development Plan. In order to avoid repetition, common objectives and policies have not been repeated in each plan, but have in many cases, been highlighted and cross referenced by paragraph numbers and policy references. In all cases however, objectives and policies contained within the Monaghan County Development Plan that relate to urban development shall apply and be considered to form part of the Carrickmacross Town Development Plan, unless otherwise stated. Similarly, objectives and policies contained within the Carrickmacross Town Development Plan will be applicable to all zoned lands identified on the attached map CKDP1 and shall form part of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019 unless otherwise stated.

The Carrickmacross Town Development Plan 2013-2019 sets out the Council's vision for the development of Carrickmacross and contains objectives which it seeks to implement over the period of the plan. These objectives relate to a range of topics including road and traffic, provision of services, preservation and conservation of buildings, and protection of sites of scientific, historic or cultural importance. The plan will also address current and future plans for the development of Carrickmacross Town through the provision by means of zoning of appropriate areas of land for residential, commercial, industrial, open space and recreational areas, etc.

10.1.1 Location and Context

Carrickmacross is the main town in the south of the County located on the Dublin to Derry (N2) National Route. It is strategically located close to the M1 Motorway link at Ardee, approximately, 80 km north of Dublin, 35 km south of Monaghan Town and 21 km west of Dundalk.

The town services the economic needs of a large rural hinterland, which extends into counties Cavan, Meath, Louth and Armagh. Like all towns located close to the border with Northern Ireland, Carrickmacross suffered socially, economically and physically as a result of the Troubles, throughout the 1970's and 1980's. However the town has a firm commercial and industrial base and its strategic location along the N2 Dublin-Derry National Primary Route, proximity to Dundalk, the gateway for the North-East Region, and easy access to the M1 Motorway and Dublin has attracted significant inward investment resulting in a buoyant local economy, strong growth and demand for residential and retail development, and expansion of the town.

10.1.2 Historical Context

Historically, Carrickmacross has always been regarded as the gateway to County Monaghan and South Ulster. The Irish name for Carrickmacross is 'Carraig Mhacaire Rois' which translated means 'The Rock of the Wooded Plain'. It derives its name from a large white Limestone Rock, which was visible near the Bridge up to the end of the 17th Century. A noted market town since the 16th century, it housed the principal pig and butter market for the region. The town itself is over 350 years old and owes its origins to the Earls of Essex. The 3rd Earl erected a castle here in the 1630's and the town developed accordingly. At the end of the 18th century and at the beginning of the 19th century, Carrickmacross had a distillery, a tannery, and also manufactured goods such as tobacco, candles, soap and nails. The town was heavily affected by the Great Famine and the population dropped from 2,711 in 1841 to 1,779 in 1891. This period saw the construction of the Workhouse and the Fever Hospital on the Shercock Road.

During the 19th Century the town not only established itself as a market town, but also as a place for public meetings. The Catholic middle classes of the town were able to attract many prominent speakers and towards the end of the 19th century the town hosted several rallies and processions. In the same period, the arrival of the Sisters of St. Louis established education for girls at primary and secondary levels. The sisters were associated with the revival of Carrickmacross lace after its decline in the mid 19th Century.

Throughout the 20th Century the town developed as a market town and industrial centre, with the establishment of new industries throughout the 1970's and 1980's offering stable employment. Today the town of Carrickmacross is an expanding town with a prosperous commercial centre and vibrant industrial base. The town centre has a wide main street enclosed by the Courthouse to the north and St. Finbarr's Church at the top of Castle Street, to the south. There are a number of historical buildings in the town, which complement the range of bustling shops on Main Street. The town is noted for its Carrickmacross lace and also for its achievements in the Tidy Towns competitions.

10.1.3 Carrickmacross Today

In recent years the town has expanded to the south and west. The residential development of the Convent Lands to the south of the town centre, by Monaghan County Council, created new opportunities for growth and development of the town. In November 2011 new civic offices, comprising Carrickmacross Town Council, Monaghan County Council's Area Engineer Office and Carrickmacross Branch Library were opened at Convent Lands. The N2 Carrickmacross by-pass to the east of the town has relieved the town centre of the traffic congestion that was limiting its function and attractiveness as a retail and commercial centre.

Carrickmacross is a popular residential town with an expanding population. Census 2011 figures state that the town and environs population is 4925. The town seeks to further develop and expand its housing and industrial base in order to accommodate the growing demands of the town within the regional context. The continued development of the Convent Lands will allow the town to expand further. The town's proximity to the Dublin - Belfast corridor will further help Carrickmacross Town to develop to its full potential as a commercial and residential centre.

Strategy and Vision

10.2 Strategy and Vision

Chapter 8 of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019 contains strategic objectives for Carrickmacross Town. The purpose of this plan is to set out the shared vision of how the sustainable and co-ordinated growth and development of Carrickmacross Town can be shaped in a planned manner which will also act as a catalyst for the economic, physical, cultural, and environmental development of the town. Carrickmacross is the residential, retail, industrial, employment, educational and tourist centre for the south of the County. The Town Development Plan aims to give direction to the town's expansion while encouraging an inclusive, transparent and accountable approach to future development during the plan period of 2013-2019 and beyond. The plan shall be a reference manual for all investors including public, private, voluntary sectors, etc., who intend to invest in the town's future.

Land Use Planning**10.3 Land Use Planning**

The Carrickmacross Town Development Plan is fundamentally concerned with promoting growth and development while protecting the natural and built environment of the town. The primary tool to implement this strategy is through its land use zoning policies. The land use zoning relating to Carrickmacross is detailed on Map CKDP1.

Land use zonings indicate the purpose for which particular areas of land may be used, and outline policy with regard to the approximate location and distribution of land uses and activities. The purpose of such zonings is to allow for the rational use of land, protect the amenity of the town and to allow adequate space for current and future developments. Carrickmacross Town has been zoned with a variety of land uses within a development limit which should provide compatible land uses and sufficient lands for the sustainable development of the town over the plan period 2013-2019. Details of land use zonings are contained within Chapter 8 of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019. The land uses applicable to Carrickmacross are as follows:

- Town Centre.
- Existing Residential.
- Proposed Residential.
- Strategic Residential Reserve.
- Industry, Enterprise and Employment.
- Existing Commercial.
- Community Services/Facilities.
- Recreation and Amenity.
- Landscape Protection/Conservation.
- Local Area Action Plan – Area A1 Lands to the rear and west of Market Street and Area A2 Lands to the rear and east of Market Street.

Natural and Built Heritage

10.4 Natural and Built Heritage

10.4.1 Natural Heritage

Lough Naglack (and its environs) is an Area of Secondary Amenity (Refer to Map 4.7 and Appendix 1 of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019). It is also a designated Proposed Natural Heritage Area. It is an invaluable natural resource that has helped shape the development of Carrickmacross and should be afforded the highest degree of protection. Lough Fea Demesne, an important limestone grassland, located to the immediate south of the town, is also a proposed Natural Heritage Area.

10.4.2 Built Heritage

Carrickmacross was a noted market town from the 16th century. Its broad Main Street facilitated the holding of various markets e.g. pork, cattle, butter, hay, corn and fowl. Today, Main Street has many splendid buildings such as the Bank of Ireland, The Allied Irish Bank, The Ulster Bank, the Shirley Arms Hotel and the Garda Barracks, which date from the 19th Century. At the north end of Main Street a considerable portion of the original Market House and Square remains, with its cast iron colonnade, pediment and cupola. Sadly, little of the matching western side of the Market Square remains; save for the little cut stone Tollhouse with its fleur-de-lis crest and Shirley Coat of Arms.

At opposite ends of Main Street, a number of fine buildings close off the vista. At the southern end of the Main Street, St. Finbarr's Church (1779), (on its raised site) dominates the scene, while at the northern end of the street is the Courthouse (1844). The Courthouse is an excellent example of a fine five bay Georgian building with entrance doors at either end (an unusual feature which emphasises the good proportions of the building).

Other buildings of note throughout the town are the Fever Hospital and the Workhouse on the Shercock Road, the stone cottages with the Bath Crest in St. Joseph's Terrace, St. Joseph's Church, with its soaring slender spire, and the castellated Convent of St. Louis.

10.4.3 Archaeology

From the earliest days of Christianity in Ireland a monastic establishment was sited in the town. It is referred to as "Cell Rois" and probably occupied the area around the ruined church in Magheross. On the earliest known map of the area, Thomas Raven's survey of the Essex Estate 1634, Essex's Castle and bawn indicated a prominent mound at the southern end of the Main Street. Taking into consideration its strategic location overlooking the monastic settlement, and the point where the ancient route from the south crossed the small river at the foot of the hill, this could well have been the remnants of a Norman Motte and Bailey.

Essex's castle was destroyed in the Williamite Wars but was partially rebuilt as a lodge for Lord Bath's land agent. The St. Louis nuns acquired this in turn, and beneath the Convent and its immediate environs may lie the foundations of the extensive fortification that was the castle and bawn. The remains of 18th Century industries are to be found in various parts of the town. At one time the town had three distilleries, a brewery, a tanyard, tobacco manufacturers and bakeries.

There were water mills in operation at the bottom of Castle Street by the river, powered by water from the town dam or lake that extended westwards through Mullinary. Water from this pond was brought to the distillery in the Convent grounds by way of a “mill race” part of which is still to be seen.

On the perimeter of the town there are two features of historical importance. They are the fort on Lurgan Hill and the Crannog on Lisanisk Lake. The Lurgan’s fort was the seat of the McMahan’s of Farney, and on occasion the seat of the ruling chieftain of Monaghan. Towards the end of the 1500’s the McMahan’s moved their residence to the crannog on Lisanisk Lake, and it was there that the leaders of the 1641 rebellion planned the rising. The old famine graveyard called “Bully’s Acre” is considered worthy of preservation.

The planning authority may place restrictions or conditions on developments, which may include the preservation of all or part of any archaeological remains within a site or may also require the applicant to employ a competent archaeologist to monitor, test or excavate within the area covered by the application.

All those undertaking development work should be aware of their obligation under the National Monuments Act to report the discovery of archaeological objects to the National Museum.

General objectives and policies for the protection of natural and built heritage in Carrickmacross are provided in Chapters 4, 8 and 15 of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019.

Specific objectives for the protection of heritage in Carrickmacross are as follows:

Objectives for the Protection of Natural and Built Heritage	
CKO 1	Ensure that all plans and projects relating to natural and built heritage within Carrickmacross Town are subject to policies AAP1-AAP5 contained within Chapter 4, Environment and Heritage, of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019.
CKO 2	Protect and conserve the Proules River and Lough Naglack and its environs from inappropriate development.
CKO 3	Prohibit development within the environs of Lough Naglack, unless in exceptional circumstances, where it has been proven to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority that the integrity of the Lough and its surrounding landscape will not be threatened.

Town Centre

10.5 Town Centre

New development in Carrickmacross Town Centre shall be compliant with the objectives and policies contained within Chapters 4, 5, 6, 8 and 15 of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019. Specific objectives for Carrickmacross are as follows:

Objectives for Town Centre	
CKO 4	Ensure that all plans and projects relating to town centre development within Carrickmacross Town are subject to policies AAP1-AAP5 contained within Chapter 4, Environment and Heritage, of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019.
CKO 5	Prepare and implement Local Area Action Plans (LAAP) for lands identified on map CKDP1, between Main Street and Mullinary Street, and lands between Chapel Lane and O'Neill Street.
CKO 6	Carry out environmental improvement schemes on O'Neill Street and Farney Street.
CKO 7	Support the existing town centre use along Main Street while developing an expanded town centre on the Convent Lands.

Retailing

10.6 Retailing

Carrickmacross prospers as a service and retail town, functioning as a district centre for South Monaghan. In terms of turnover and selling space, the town ranks second in the County with most commercial activity located on Main Street and O'Neill Street. This is concentrated primarily on the Main Street, however O'Neill Street and Farney Street have seen some additional developments.

With the increased commercial significance of the town of Monaghan and the growing influence of Dundalk, there is a need for the retail sector to look at expanding the commercial base of the town to meet the needs of an increasing population by looking to redevelop backland areas and expand the retail sector onto other streets while protecting the built heritage of the town and adding value to the town's shopping image. By enhancing the experience of the shopper and improving the facilities on offer the town will undoubtedly retain its current standing as a quality shopping town with the added attraction of a high class built environment.

A Retail Development Strategy for County Monaghan for the period 2013-2019 is currently being drafted. Until this has been completed, retailing proposals within Carrickmacross shall have regard to the Retail Development Strategy for County Monaghan, October 2003. New retail development within Carrickmacross shall be compliant with the objectives and policies contained in Chapters 5, 6, 8 and 15 of the Monaghan County Development Plan, 2013-2019.

Population and Housing

10.7 Population and Housing

10.7.1 Population

The preliminary figures from 2011 Census shows that the population of Carrickmacross urban area increased in the period 2006-2011 by 0.2% from 1,973 to 1,976 persons. Census 2011 figures state that the town and environs population is 4,925, an increase of 12.3% from 2006.

Carrickmacross rural area experienced a population increase during the same period with a 37% rise from 12,804 to 17,563 persons. There is a general trend in County Monaghan where there is a desire to live on the edge of settlements and in rural areas. This is quite apparent in and around Carrickmacross. Current trends now indicate that the population of Carrickmacross and its environs are likely to continue to increase due mainly to the extension of the M1 motorway and the By-pass of Dundalk. Carrickmacross is just over an hour's journey from Dublin and will increasingly appeal to people working in Dublin because of the journey time and comparatively cheaper land values.

As stated in Chapter 3 of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019, population trends are central to the planning process. Changes in population, household patterns and spatial distribution form the basis on which decisions on land use, service provision, housing, employment, retail, community and recreational needs are determined.

The Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 introduced the requirement to include a core strategy within all development plans. The core strategy must show that the development objectives in the development plan are consistent, as far as practicable, with national and regional development objectives set out in the National Spatial Strategy and the Regional Planning Guidelines. As a consequence the quantum of residential land use zonings must be commensurate with population growth targets set out within Chapter 3 of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019. In this Settlement/Core Strategy, Carrickmacross is identified as a Tier 2 town which provides an extensive range of services including health, community, financial, employment and retail. Sustained growth in this settlement is required.

10.7.2 Housing Strategy

Section 95(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 requires that a development plan shall set out a strategy for the purposes of ensuring that the housing needs of the existing and future population of the area in terms of tenure are provided for. Monaghan Local Authorities adopted a Housing Strategy in 2007. A review of this strategy has been undertaken and is presented in Chapter 16 of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019.

The Planning Authority shall, in accordance with the requirements of Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 and the policies identified in the Housing Strategy, continue to require developers of all private housing developments on zoned housing land in the five towns to provide 20% of units for social and affordable housing needs.

10.7.3 Residential Developments

All new residential housing in Carrickmacross shall be required to comply with the objectives and policies contained within Chapters 3, 4, 8 and 15 of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013–2019. Specific objectives for new residential development in Carrickmacross are as follows:-

Objectives for Residential Development	
CKO 8	Ensure that all plans and projects relating to residential development within Carrickmacross Town are subject to policies AAP1-AAP5 contained within Chapter 4, Environment and Heritage, of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019.
CKO 9	Require developers of residential lands along the by-pass to provide and employ appropriate buffers to protect the residential amenity of proposed dwellings, and to protect the visual amenity of the setting of the town. The design, scale, form and detailing of the buffer shall be dependant on the likely impact of the road or the development on amenity.
CKO 10	Acquire sufficient lands to meet the needs of the Council's Housing Construction Programme.

Industry, Enterprise and Employment

10.8 Industry, Enterprise and Employment

Carrickmacross has a number of industries, which have provided constant employment, both in the skilled and unskilled sectors notably in the food industries. The major employers in the town are Rye Valley Foods, Farney Foods, Bose (who manufacture hi-fi equipment), and C&M Coldstores. These industries provide a substantial amount of work for the local working population and a large number of people who come to live and work in the town.

According to the 2006 Census, a total of 1,648 people aged 15 plus were located within the Carrickmacross Town Urban area. Of that number 964 people were at work and 82 were unemployed. In Carrickmacross Town Rural area 2,440 people aged 15 plus were located, 1,539 were in employment and 96 were unemployed.

The main employment sectors in Carrickmacross are manufacturing (27%) and commerce and trade (21%) commercial sectors with 26% and 25% respectively.

Approximately 55 hectares of land has been zoned for industry, enterprise and employment development in Carrickmacross as indicated on Map CKDP1. This is considered sufficient to accommodate the anticipated level of industrial development in the town during the life of the plan. These lands will provide sufficient capacity for the development of the town's industrial base during the plan period. With the improved roads network, Carrickmacross should be accessible and attractive to new businesses as journey times to Dublin, Drogheda and Dundalk are shortened, and there is likely to be a comparative advantage in land values when compared to the aforementioned city and towns.

Development proposals for industry, enterprise and employment in Carrickmacross will be subject to relevant objectives and policies contained within Chapters 5, 8 and 15 of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019. Specific policies for industry, enterprise and employment in Carrickmacross are as follows:-

Objectives for Industry, Enterprise and Employment	
CKO 11	Ensure that all plans and projects relating to industry, enterprise and employment within Carrickmacross Town are subject to policies AAP1-AAP5 contained within Chapter 4, Environment and Heritage, of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019.
CKO 12	Promote Carrickmacross as the key industrial centre in the south of the County.

Infrastructure and Services

10.9 Infrastructure and Services

10.9.1 Roads and Traffic Management

The Carrickmacross Town (N2) By-pass has removed most north-south bound through traffic from the streets of Carrickmacross, particularly Main Street. The by-pass also reduced traffic use on roads through residential areas that offered alternative routes around the town centre at peak times. The reduced traffic flows through Main Street has improved the quality of life within the town and has a positive impact on commercial activity in the town.

East-west traffic must continue to access the town centre, but a key objective of this plan is to relieve traffic congestion and divert through traffic, particularly commercial traffic and heavy goods vehicles, from residential areas and the town centre by providing alternative routes around the town.

The following list of proposed roads will, when completed relieve traffic congestion, contribute towards improved traffic and pedestrian safety, provide greater and safer access to all parts of the town and open up lands for development:

- Completion of Industrial Link Road (R178 to R180)
- Link from Kingscourt Road (R179) to Shercock Road (R178)
- Link from Shercock Road (R178) to Ballybay Road (R180)/Castleblayney Road (N2)

These potential links are identified by indicative lines on Map CKDP1. As these new potential links will be subject to detailed design and will be taken through the relevant consent procedures, these indicative lines represent the centre line of a 100 metre wide preliminary corridor.

The completion of this road programme, together with environmental improvements as outlined in the proposed Local Area Action Plans in the town centre will make a significant contribution to the continuing development and prosperity of the town.

Road proposals in Carrickmacross will be subject to the objectives and policies contained within Chapters 6, 8 and 15 of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019.

10.9.2 Parking

Currently there are 138 spaces provided by the car parks at Shirley Lane, at Deery's on Main Street and at the car park behind Shirley Arms Hotel. Further car parking for 130 cars are provided at O'Duffy's on Main Street. More recently additional car parking has been provided at Chapel Lane (60 spaces), in an extension of the public car park at Drummond Etra (total of 200 spaces), and in an underground car park at the O'Gorman's Shopping Centre.

In addition to the above parking, any new development within Carrickmacross Town Centre shall comply with car parking requirements identified in Chapter 15 of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019.

Parking proposals in Carrickmacross will be subject to the objectives and policies contained within Chapters 6, 8 and 15 of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019.

10.9.3 Water Services

Monaghan County Council is currently the sole Sanitary Authority for County Monaghan and is responsible for the provision of Water Services (Water and Waste Water) throughout the county.

10.9.4 Water Supply

It is proposed to carry out the necessary improvements to the Carrickmacross Water Supply Scheme in order to provide an adequate water supply for the town for the next twenty years. Eight production wells have been constructed, two at Donaghmoynne, two at Monany, two at Spring lake and two at Nafferty. Provision of a new rising mains from Donaghmoynne and from Spring Lake to a new headworks at Nafferty, and construction of a water treatment plant and 5000m³ storage reservoir at Nafferty are also proposed. The treatment plant (and possibly the storage reservoir) will be procured under a design/build/operate contract. All other works will be procured under a traditional type construction contract.

10.9.5 Waste Water Collection and Treatment

The capacity of the waste water treatment works in Carrickmacross is shown in the table below.

Table 10.1 Capacity of Waste Water Treatment Works in Carrickmacross

Town/Village	Existing Design P.E.	Current Loading P.E.	Treatment Type	Proposals
Carrickmacross	12,150	12,143	Secondary	New storm holding tank. New inlet and outlet pumping station, new 3.35km long outfall pipeline, new inlet works.

The current Water Services Investment Programme 2010-2012, provides for major investment in waste water supply infrastructure. The contracts planned during the current programme includes the Carrickmacross Sewerage Scheme (Contract 3 – Treatment Plan Upgrade and Outfall) at a cost of €5,500,000.

The contract for Carrickmacross main drainage will complete in 2012 at a cost of almost €20 million, consisting of a new foul water collection system and associated pumping stations.

Objectives and policies in relation to Water Services are contained within Chapters 4 and 6 of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019.

10.9.6 Power and Telecommunications

The Carrickmacross Metropolitan Area Network was completed in 2006, providing a fibre ring around Carrickmacross. In addition, both DSL and Wireless broadband is available in and around Carrickmacross.

Carrickmacross Town Council will continue to co-operate with statutory and regulated bodies in the provision of power and communication facilities throughout the town. Chapters 6 and 15 of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019 contain the relevant objectives and policies for telecommunications throughout County Monaghan.

10.9.7 Education

The Town Council in conjunction with Monaghan County Council will ensure that adequate provision is made for educational infrastructure within Carrickmacross during the plan period. Carrickmacross has four national schools and three secondary schools. The number of students attending each school is shown in the table below.

Table 10.2 Numbers Attending Schools in Carrickmacross

School	No. of Students
St. Joseph's National School	243
St. Louis National School	580
Scoil Rois	221
Bunscoil Louis Naofa	260
Patrician Brothers High School	388
St. Louis Convent Secondary	570
Inver College (V.E.C.)	519

Objectives and policies in relation to development for education purposes are contained in Chapter 7 of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019.

Recreation and Amenity

10.10 Recreation and Amenity

Recreational facilities in Carrickmacross are adequately catered for throughout the town. Apart from the facilities provided by the local hotels, other facilities within the town include the existing Gaelic and football grounds on the Ballybay Road and the soccer grounds on the Shercock Road. Carrick Fitness Centre, located on the Mullinary Road caters for individual or group training sessions with facilities including a fully equipped gym and treatment rooms, whilst the Phoenix Sports Centre, which is located on Chapel Lane provides high quality indoor facilities. Carrick Aces running track and sports field is located at Drummond Otra. The facility includes a basalt surfaced running track and a central sports field incorporating two long jump pits, a pole vault area, a shot putt and a high jump area. The majority of the available indoor facilities are connected to schools and/or limited to members only thus limiting their accessibility.

Golf is adequately catered for with facilities available at Mannan Golf Club outside the town in Donaghmoynne and at the local golf club facility attached to the Nuremore Hotel.

The hotels in the town, namely the Nuremore and the Shirley Arms have some recreational facilities on their premises including ballrooms, swimming pools, gymnasium and golf.

Coarse fishing is a popular activity in the area and is a recognised fishing destination for a large number of anglers. Several guesthouses in the town provide angling facilities for their visitors.

Bath Avenue, also known as the Convent Walk, a tree lined walkway through the Convent Lands, and the town park at Lisanisk Lake provide important recreational amenities close to the town centre. In addition there are several lakes located in or close to the town including Lough Naglack with its wooded shoreline and Lough Fea, which is of scientific value.

Objectives and policies in relation to development for recreation and open space are contained in Chapters 7 and 8 of the Monaghan County Development Plan, 2013-2019. Specific policies for recreation and open space in Carrickmacross are as follows:-

Objectives for Recreation and Amenity	
CKO 13	Ensure that all plans and projects relating to recreation, amenity and open space within Carrickmacross Town are subject to policies AAP1-AAP5 contained within Chapter 4, Environment and Heritage, of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019.
CKO 14	Develop lands at the Ardee Road as the primary location for active recreational development in the town.
CKO 15	Develop and expand the town park at Lisanisk Lake.
CKO 16	Protect Bath Avenue from intrusive development.

Tourism

10.11 Tourism

Carrickmacross situated on the N2 is a recognised tourist destination. Within the town there are a number of high quality hotels and guesthouses, many with recreational facilities attached. There are also a number of tourist amenities close by, namely the Carrickmacross Lace gallery and the Patrick Kavanagh Centre in Inniskeen. The town is a suitable venue for anglers who avail of the good coarse angling lakes dotted around the local area.

The town has a rich cultural and architectural history and also an appealing social life. The townscape of Carrickmacross is a noted attraction for many visitors to the area. The Tidy Town’s organisation in Carrickmacross has received national recognition through its work in enhancing the town’s environs.

Golf is increasingly becoming an important recreational amenity and the town has a number of courses in close proximity namely the golf course at the Nuremore Hotel, Cabra Castle Golf Course and Mannan Golf Course at Donaghmoyne. There is also a pitch & putt course and a golf driving range located close to Inniskeen.

Objectives and policies in relation to tourism development are contained in Chapters 5 and 8 of the Monaghan County Development Plan, 2013-2019. Specific objectives for recreation and open space in Carrickmacross are as follows:-

Objectives for Tourism	
CKO 17	Ensure that all plans and projects relating to tourism development within Carrickmacross Town are subject to policies AAP1-AAP5 contained within Chapter 4, Environment and Heritage, of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019.
CKO 18	Promote and facilitate the development of Carrickmacross as a tourism centre in co operation with the public and private sector.
CKO 19	Accommodate sustainable tourism related projects in and around Lough Naglack which are compatible with objective CKO 3 of the Carrickmacross Town Development Plan 2013-2019.

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