

# ROSSMORE FOREST PARK MASTERPLAN

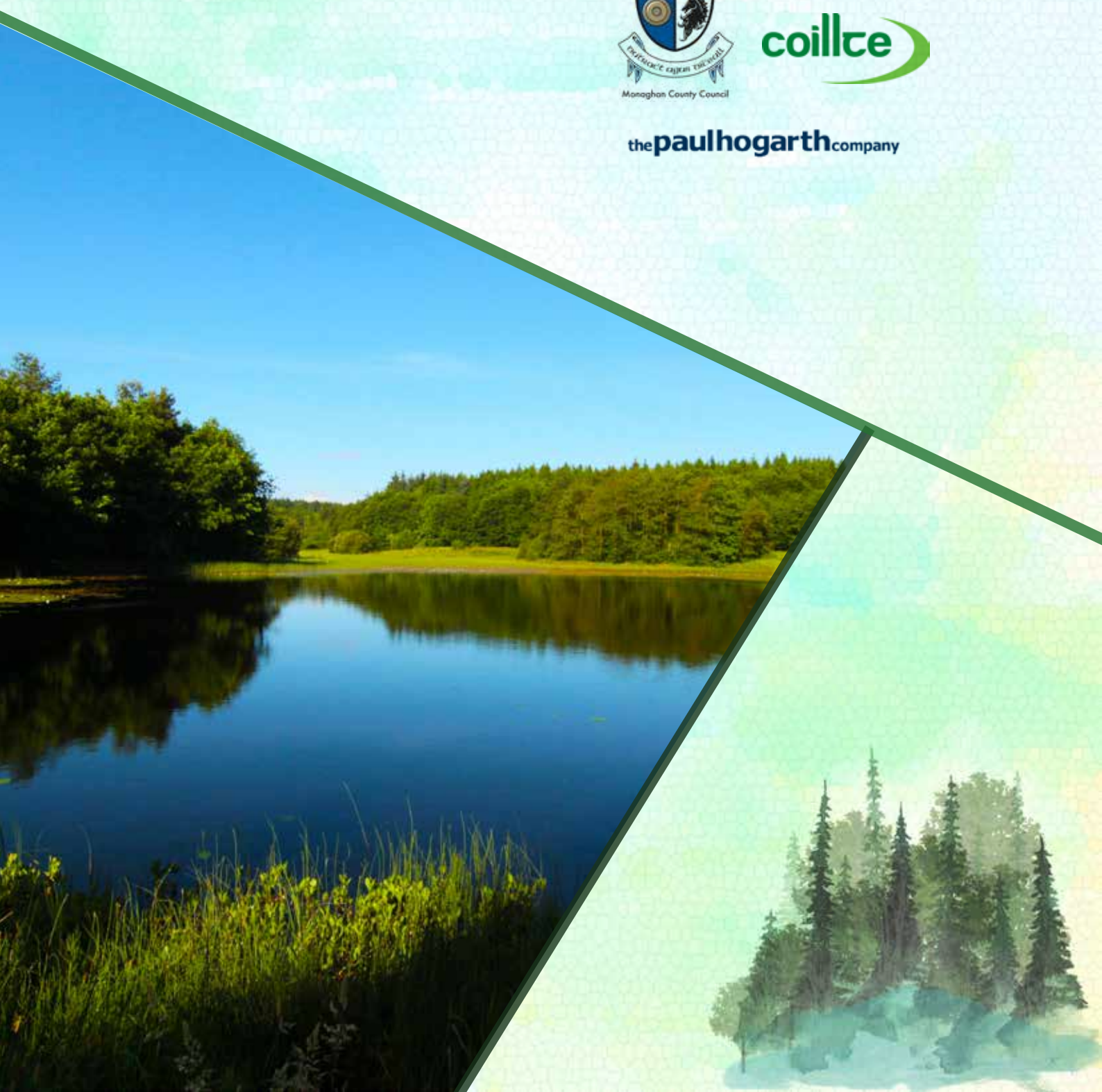
Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin



Monaghan County Council



the **paulhogarth** company



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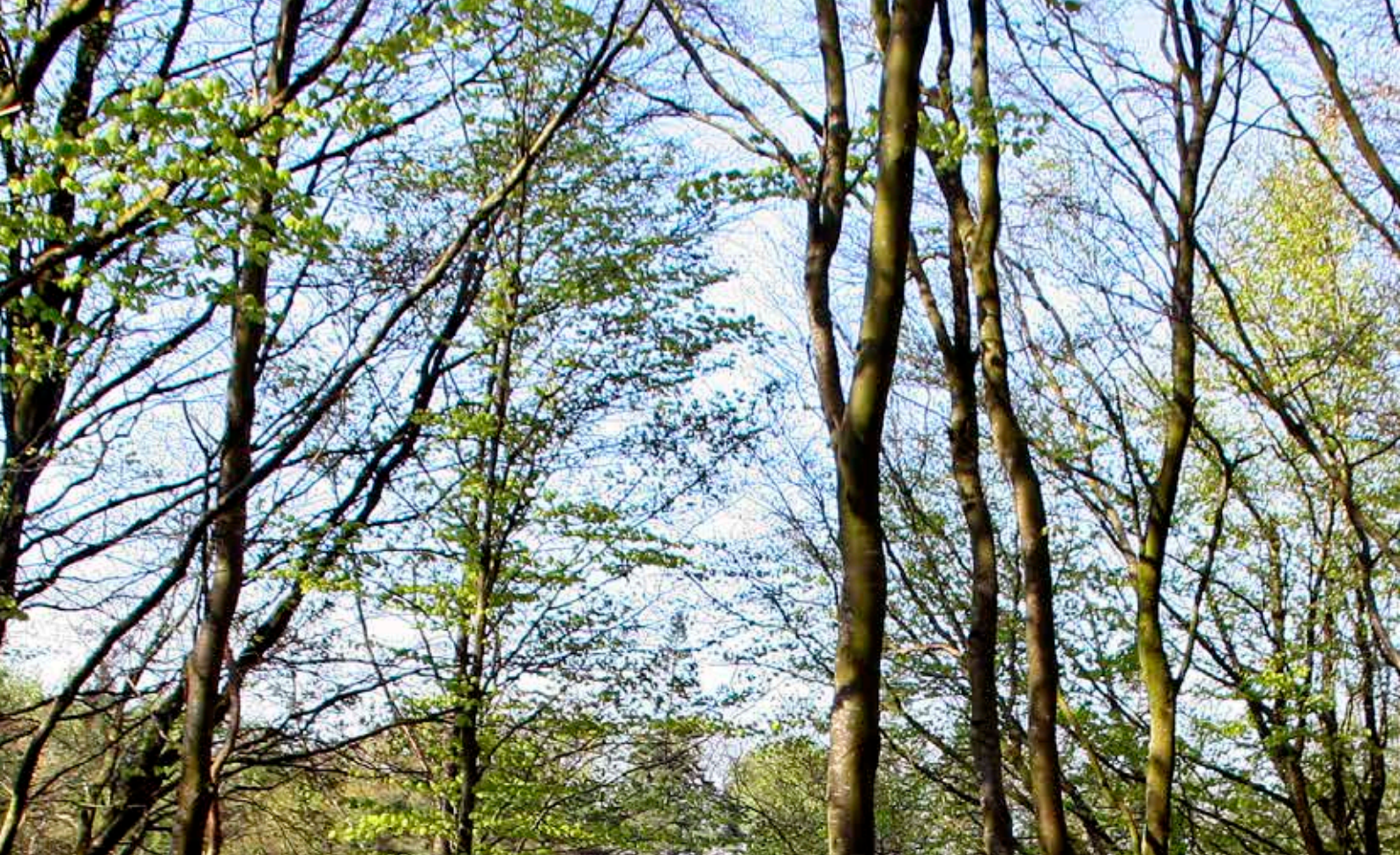
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# INTRODUCTION



## INTRODUCTION:

Rossmore Park has a special place in the hearts of many.

This 410 hectare forest park, located to the immediate south of Monaghan town, provides an invaluable retreat for local people.

Passing through mature woodlands, alongside peaceful lakes and around intriguing ruins, its network of paths are cherished by walkers and runners, young and old.

This masterplan sets in place a vision for the future of this special park. One that balances its needs as a place of nature, of history, of forestry and of enjoyment for many people.

The plan was commissioned in late 2016 by Monaghan County Council in partnership with Coillte, reflecting the memorandum of agreement reached between both organisations.

It was researched and compiled by landscape architects The Paul Hogarth Company, through a collaborative process with elected members, interest groups and the people of Monaghan.

The Rossmore Forest Park Masterplan is to be used to guide all future management, infrastructure and activities in the park.

It sets out a series of objectives and key principles, followed by a total of 17 different projects designed to help the Council, Coillte and its partners look after the park, balance its interests and help realise its significant potential.





# PROCESS



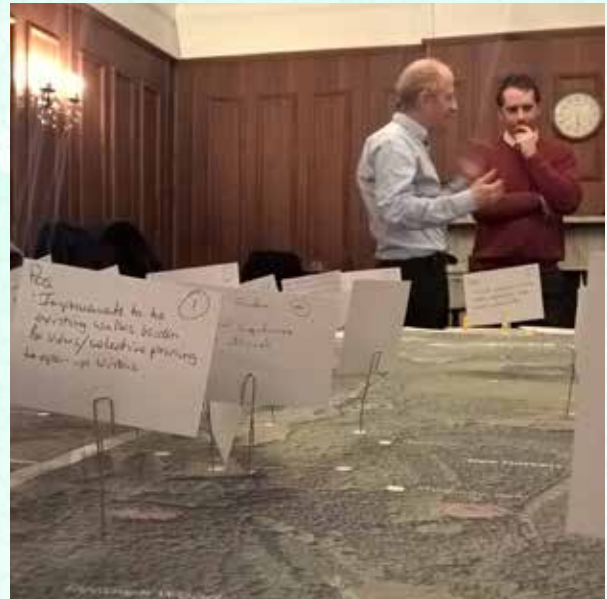
## STAKEHOLDER GROUP & CONSULTANT TEAM

Rossmore Forest Park is very fortunate to have many people who care for it.

Therefore in commissioning this plan, Monaghan County Council and Coillte sought to ensure that as many people as possible across Monaghan could play a role in shaping the plan.

A stakeholder group was established to help oversee the masterplan process. Chaired by Cathaoirleach Councillor David Maxwell, the group was drawn from various individuals and organisations with a specific interest in the park including its historians and representatives of community and sports groups.

The stakeholder group met regularly in the old town hall with Council officers and the consultant team to prepare the plan.



## PROCESS



Workshops included presentations, focus groups and role play exercises. The considerable efforts of the group are to be highly commended and were greatly appreciated by all involved. (See Appendix A for a full list of stakeholder group members).

In addition, this masterplan is informed by desktop research and site analysis conducted by The Paul Hogarth Company, an award winning landscape architecture practice with over 25 years' experience of similar assignments.

These processes included a review of existing policies and plans pertaining to Rossmore Park and surrounds, as well as an extensive study of the park made by foot and cycle.





## PUBLIC CONSULTATION & ENGAGEMENT

Two major public consultation events took place during the process to shape this masterplan.

The first was a public drop in event held at Monaghan Market House on 15 February 2017.

During the 6 hour session, members of the public were encouraged to discuss the plan with council officers, the consultant team and one another, while providing written feedback on Rossmore Forest Park as it is today.

The large turnout reflected the degree of interest in the park and its future.



# PROCESS



The second public consultation event took place in Rossmore Forest Park on 3 June 2017, a bank holiday Saturday.

This provided the public with an opportunity to review the draft masterplan and to comment on its proposals.

The event was held under marquees erected alongside the main car park. Draft plans on display were joined by bouncy castles and ice-cream, music and street food.

Despite the weather, the event was extremely well attended, demonstrating the potential of Rossmore Park to hold more events in the future.

A summary of feedback from both events is provided in Chapter 7.





# ANALYSIS



## A NATURAL & HISTORIC PLACE

Rossmore Park has a rich blend of natural and historic significance.

While consisting of a predominantly manmade landscape, Rossmore Park is home to an abundant range of wildlife. Plant species vary greatly around the park, from naturalised woodland commercial forestry and occasional exotic trees, such as Sequoia, associated with the estate landscape.

Woodland groundcover and wildflowers carpet the forest floor in many places, including spectacular displays of bluebell in early summer.

The park's water bodies and rivers provide important wildlife habitat for species of fish species and other aquatic organisms. Many species of bird and small mammal also call the park home, including otter, badger and pygmy shrew.

Natural habitat and biodiversity is affected however, by forestry plantations and invasive species such as Rhododendron and Giant Hogweed.

The earliest historic features of the park date back to Neolithic times. Hill top raths are joined by a neolithic court tomb and a well, where significant finds have been made, such as a gold 'lunula' or collar from 1800BC.

Although these landmarks are well mapped, many are now obscured by vegetation and risk losing archaeological value over the years, especially through tree root damage.

Design and construction of the castle and parkland estate in 1827 is mostly attributed to the third Lord of Rossmore and his architect William Henry Lynn. Subsequent additions to the park and the building through the 19th century were significant, in part linked to reputed rivalry between Lord Ross and Mr Shirley of Lough Fea.

In the mid 20th Century the outer lands of the estate were divided amongst local farmers, while the woodlands were handed over to the Irish Forestry Division. The castle building was demolished in 1972 amidst safety concerns.



## A PUBLIC PLACE

The bond formed between Rossmore Forest Park and local residents is rooted in the park's proximity to the town and its degree of public access over many decades.

The park is situated on the immediate southern fringe of Monaghan Town, 2.5 km from the town centre as the crow flies

Its 10 entrances (2 vehicular and 8 pedestrian) provide the public with numerous convenient points of access.

Many people drive to Rossmore Park. However such proximity makes it ideally suited to more sustainable forms of access by foot and cycle.

Ongoing work to open up the Ulster Canal Greenway a mere kilometre from the park, presents further opportunities to link Rossmore to the wider pathway network.

Low-key supervision and management of the park also helps to give it an air of publicness. 'Having the park to yourself' is a common sensation at Rossmore, helped by there not being a dominance of public signs with rules and regulations.

However, occasional instances of antisocial behaviour after dark present an inevitable challenge to managing the park in this way, which could become more of an issue should greater numbers of visitors be attracted.



## ANALYSIS



A lack of signs in Rossmore Park also presents a problem, with many having been removed over the years.

Getting lost is a real concern for many and in fact, deters people from visiting the park.

Public consultation for this masterplan revealed how unpopular a short period of charged vehicular entry to the park was a number of years ago.

This emphasises the value placed on the park being freely accessible and highlights how other means of raising potential revenue for the park will need to be found.



## PLACE OF IMPROVING & POTENTIAL



In 2016 Monaghan County Council signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Coillte to assume responsibility for access and recreation at the park. Forestry operations and overall management remain the role of Coillte.

Since that time a number of improvements have been made, including areas of seating and an upgrade to the park's footpath network.

Consultation highlighted that such improvements have been well received. At the time of writing funding has also been secured for new signs, a play area and improvements to the toilet block.

A central tenet of this masterplan is the significant potential that exists for the future of the park.

This chapter has summarised many of the reasons why Rossmore is considered special.

Its geographic scale and proximity to Monaghan, combined with many fascinating layers of natural and cultural heritage are all key ingredients to a successful forest park.

Great care must be taken not to detract from these qualities through inappropriate and/or over development.

However, it is now widely recognised that the Park could be improved to attract more visitors and to enrich their experience, thereby contributing even more fully to the local area and lives of its residents.





# VISION & OBJECTIVES





## OBJECTIVES:

A suite of 7 Objectives for Rossmore Forest Park have been established. These provide the overarching priorities for how the park should be managed and how any future physical interventions, no matter how small, should be made.

**Protected Natural and Built Heritage** – Rossmore’s wildlife and historic features are its two primary assets. These must therefore be carefully managed to avoid negative impacts upon them.

**Tranquil & Serene** – Rossmore is a place of peace and quiet. Efforts are required to maintain this special quality as much as possible around the park.

**Environmentally Sustainable** – Rossmore is a precious natural resource. It must therefore be a flagship of how we care for our environment and minimise our impact upon the natural world.

**Socially Sustainable** – Rossmore provides a vital amenity that is freely accessible to local residents. It must be maintained and developed in a manner that brings people and communities together, ensuring all are welcome.

**Economically Sustainable** – Rossmore requires funding to ensure it is properly maintained. Appropriate ways must be found to help the park become more financially viable, helping to secure its future.

**Valuable Local Asset** – Rossmore is first and foremost for local people. Easy access between the park and surrounding areas must therefore be maintained and improved.

**Regional Destination** – Rossmore can draw more people to Monaghan. The park, together with other local attractions, should be promoted widely.



## PRINCIPLES:

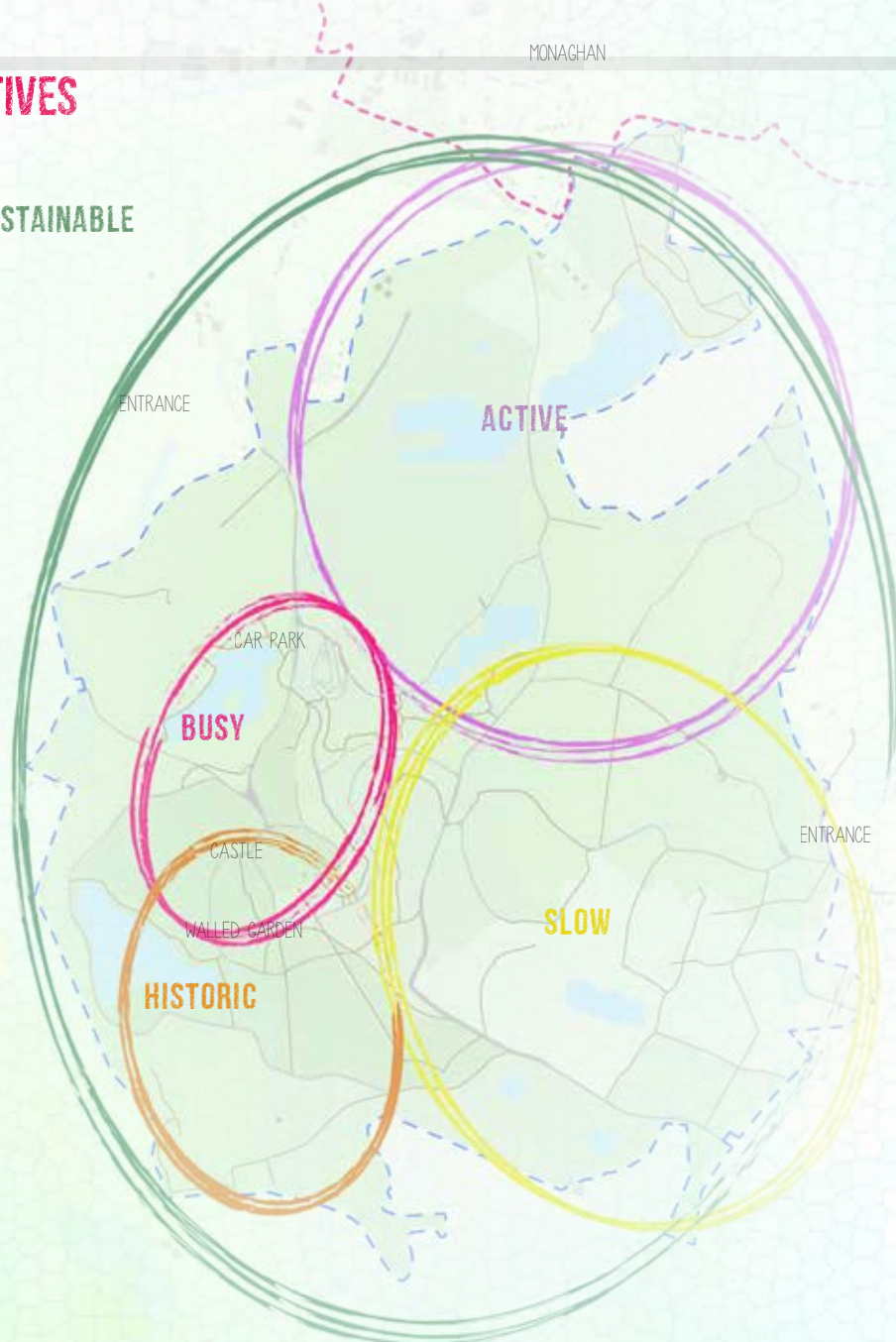
A further 7 Key Principles are to be used to inform decision making about Rossmore Park. These especially apply to how physical interventions are designed and specified.

- Accessible – for all users, regardless of ability, age, gender or background
- Appropriate – in keeping with the character of the park
- Quality – of high quality materials and construction
- Environmental – of high environmental standards, sustainably sourced and managed
- Identifiable – of a consistent aesthetic that reinforces the park’s identity
- Traditional – respectful and complementary to the rich heritage of the park
- Innovative – fresh and dynamic in style and technology



# VISION & OBJECTIVES

## SUSTAINABLE



### CONCEPTS:

There are two important concepts that respond to the stated objectives and principles, thereby underpinning the Rossmore Forest Park Masterplan.

**Balanced Activation** – Rossmore Park has many roles to play, all of which have scope for further encouragement and development.

Key to successfully integrating these in the park will be maintaining a balance between uses.

It is therefore proposed that uses in the park be broadly allocated to zones as shown in the plan above. The central car park is inevitably the 'Busy' area.

This general location will therefore be expected to sustain the highest footfall and levels of vehicular movement.

The vicinity of the castle ruins is the most 'historic' area of the park. Therefore this location should prioritise the looking after and sharing of the park's heritage. The northern section of Rossmore Forest Park, including the Twin Lakes, presents an opportunity to provide for more 'Active' uses in the park.

This location is best suited for high speed and high adrenaline activities such as running and cycling. Finally, the remainder of the Forest Park should be preserved for 'Slow' activities. This will help to ensure plentiful opportunities for quiet contemplation and relaxation.

**Zero Carbon** – Rossmore Forest Park should be a flagship of sustainability. It is therefore proposed that progress is made towards the park eventually being carbon neutral.

This will especially relate to how the park's facilities are powered. Sustainable technologies should be employed such as wind, solar, ground source heat and of particular relevance to the park's history of innovative engineering, hydroelectricity.



# MASTERPLAN & PROJECTS



# MASTERPLAN & PROJECTS

## PLAN & PROJECT LIST

The Masterplan for Rossmore Forest Park contains a total of 17 projects. These are divided into three categories. The first are Management Projects to guide how we look after the park while balancing its various interests. The second category of project are infrastructure projects. These pertain to the physical components of the parks (its paths, signs and facilities). Finally the third category of projects are Activities. These revolve around how the park is used and enjoyed.

As a strategic masterplan, these projects are identified at a high level to then be prioritised and funding sought accordingly. Each project will require further detailed development, involving for example an expert ecologist or a quantity surveyor.

Monaghan County Council and Coillte will seek to deliver key projects as funding becomes available. However, many proposals contained within the plan are suited to being taken forward by others, including community and voluntary groups, as well as the private sector.

## TOWN CONNECTION

Projects proposed for Rossmore are restricted to the boundaries of the Forest Park. However, there also exists a need to improve the quality of physical connections and signage between it and Monaghan Town.

The locations and prominence of road signage for the park should be improved in the context of the strategic road network. Particular emphasis should be paid to signage along the N54 and N2 roads, as well as key junctions within Monaghan Town.

The main road junction to the park is on the N54 Clones Road. An opportunity exists here to locate an attractive gateway feature that promotes and signposts the park. This should be of excellent design quality, materials and craftsmanship, with the involvement of a local artist. The feature could also be lit at night.

Another priority should be to improve the quality of foot and cycle connections between Monaghan Town and Rossmore Forest Park, so promoting sustainable travel and reducing the impact of vehicular trips. This would involve introducing signage, cycle lanes and improved footpaths where possible along the R189, R188 and Park Road / Killyconnigan areas.

## MANAGEMENT PROJECTS:

### LOOKING AFTER OUR PARK

- A. nature conservation
- B. conservation management
- C. landscape restoration
- D. forestry
- E. park management
- F. promotion & marketing

## INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS:

### IMPROVING OUR PARK













- G. access & arrival
- H. path network
- I. signage
- J. facilities
- K. visitor hub
- L. play area
- M. walled garden

## ACTIVITY PROJECTS:

### EXPERIENCING OUR PARK

- N. interpretation & education
- O. art & craft
- P. cultural & sports events
- Q. sport & activities

## KEY:

-  SMALL LOOP  
(ACCESS FOR ALL WAY)
-  CULTURAL LOOP  
(CASTLE TRAIL)
-  TRANQUILLITY LOOP  
(NEW)
-  LAKES LOOP  
(BARN HILL LAKE & PRIESTFIELD LAKE LOOP)
-  LONG LOOP  
(NEW)
-  TOWN CONNECTION  
(NEW)
-  ULSTER CANAL
-  STONAGE
-  FACILITIES
-  VISITOR HUB
-  PLAY AREA
-  WALLED GARDEN



# PROJECTS

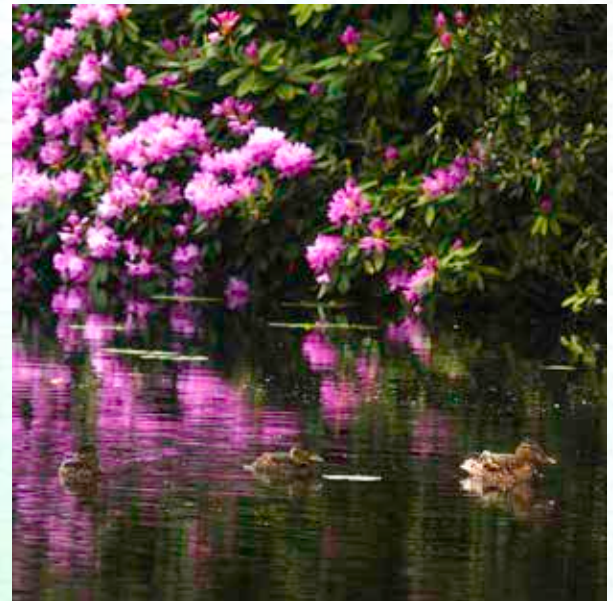
## A NATURE CONSERVATION

Survey work is required to fully understand the ecological make-up of Rossmore Park so that its wildlife habitats can be managed and improved appropriately.

This process will identify key species of plant and mammal throughout the park.

Once in place, the ecological survey will be used to inform a range of projects, such as the removal of invasive plant species, localised diversification of tree species and creation of improved nesting habitats.

1. CONDUCT ECOLOGICAL SURVEYS OF THE PARK
2. DEVELOP & DELIVER BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN
3. INTEGRATE ECOLOGICAL PRIORITIES WITH OTHER PROJECTS



**B CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT**



Rossmore Park has a wealth of heritage features including hill-top raths, the hydraulic ram, the mausoleum and castle ruins.

A professionally produced Conservation Management Plan is needed to assess in detail the condition of each feature so they can be properly protected, conserved and restored over time.

This process should involve the public, overseen by qualified archaeologists and other specialists.



1. PREPARE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN
2. PROTECT VULNERABLE HERITAGE SITES FROM DAMAGE
3. PRIORITISE AND PROCEED WITH SPECIFIC CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION PROJECTS



## **C** LANDSCAPE RESTORATION

While natural in character, Rossmore Park is a designed landscape, once part of the large castle estate.

Through specialist research a more detailed understanding of the park's original design will help inform its future management.

This will enable key landscape features of the park to be carefully maintained and restored, including set views (e.g. between the castle and lakes), tree lined avenues (e.g. Yew Tree Walk) and prominent landscape features (e.g. Giant Redwood Trees).

- 1. RESEARCH LANDSCAPE HISTORY OF THE PARK**
- 2. RESTORE AND PRESERVE KEY VIEWS AND LANDSCAPE FEATURES WHERE APPROPRIATE**





**D FORESTRY**



The Park remains an important forestry asset operated by Coillte.

It will be essential that the park's 5 year Strategic Plans are closely aligned with this masterplan so that forestry operations are balanced with the park's other objectives.

Through good coordination, commercially viable forestry will complement other ecological and recreational roles played by the park.

An important aspect of this will be effective communication with the public so that everyone understands the rationale for the felling and planting of trees.

**1. INTEGRATE STRATEGIC FORESTRY PLAN WITH THE PARK MASTERPLAN**



## **E** PARK MANAGEMENT

Monaghan County Council has signed a formal Memorandum of Understanding with Coillte in June 2016 for a period of 10 years, with a possibility of extending if both parties are in agreement for a further 25 years. This reads as follows:

*"The Council will undertake and be responsible for the maintenance and repair of all infrastructure used for recreation at Rossmore Forest Park. This includes maintenance of roads, trails, signage, picnic areas, playground, toilets, lawns and hedges.*

*The Company (Coillte) will undertake and be responsible for the maintenance of other infrastructure, to include any infrastructure affected by commercial forestry operations".*

Monaghan County Council, Coillte and Rossmore Park's many stakeholders must continue to work together as closely as possible to manage the park. This will include regular meetings of the stakeholder group and establishment of a "Friends of Rossmore Forest Park" group through which information can be shared and voluntary input coordinated.

Access to the park for events requires a permit from Coillte as per their National Policy.

- 1. ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN THE STAKEHOLDERS GROUP TO ADVISE AND CONSULT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARK MASTERPLAN AND MAINTENANCE OF THE PARK.**



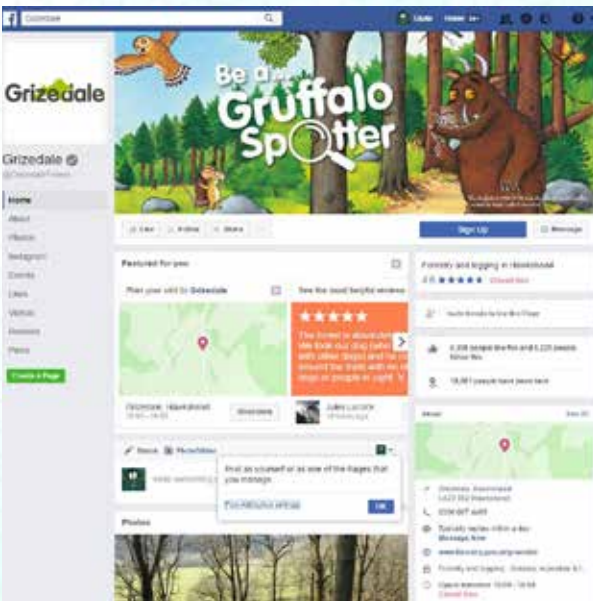
**F PROMOTING & MARKETING**

How well Rossmore Forest Park is promoted will be key to attracting higher number of visitors.

Working closely with the Council and Coillte a brand identity should be developed and a series of marketing resources prepared.

In time this should include a park website and app.

1. DEVELOP A BESPOKE MARKETING COLLATERAL FOR ROSSMORE FOREST PARK
2. ROLL OUT MARKETING MATERIALS AND CAMPAIGNS ON AND OFF LINE
3. MAINTAIN BRAND AND MESSAGING CONSISTENCY ACROSS ALL INTERVENTIONS



## G ACCESS & ARRIVAL

It is important that the entrances to the park look and function as well as possible for all users.

This will include improvements to the main entrance to create a more positive first impression of the park.

It should also involve specific enhancements to other entrances and the quality of the car park.



1. DESIGN HIGH QUALITY MAIN ENTRANCE AND ARRIVAL EXPERIENCE
2. IMPROVE AESTHETICS AND FUNCTIONING OF ALL OTHER ENTRANCES
3. REVIEW AND IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL USERS



**H PATH NETWORK**

The network of paths around Rossmore Park requires improvement and development.

This will result in an easy to find series of walking routes that complement one another.

These should vary in length, difficulty and points of interest so as to appeal to the needs of different users. (See Page 19)

1. **PLAN & PROMOTE NETWORK OF DIVERSE YET COMPLIMENTARY PATHWAYS**
2. **MANAGEANDIMPROVEPATHWAYSURFACING AND DRAINAGE**
3. **IMPROVE KEY PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLE ROUTES BETWEEN PARK AND TOWN.**



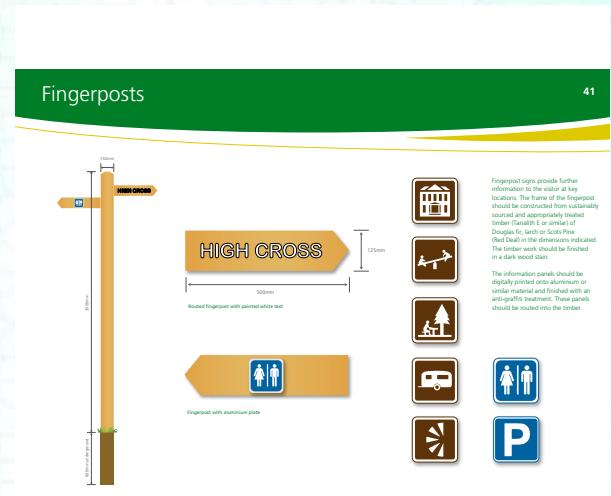
## 1 SIGNAGE

A well designed suite of signs is urgently required for the park.

This will include road signage in out-lying areas, orientation maps at key points and a series of directional finger posts throughout the Park.

These will be coordinated with the Path Network project clearly marking different routes and distances.

1. PREPARE & IMPLEMENT PARK SIGNAGE STRATEGY AND DESIGNS
2. IMPROVE SURROUNDING ROAD SIGNAGE
3. CREATE LANDMARK SIGN AND PUBLIC ART PIECE ON CLONES ROAD



**J** PARK FACILITIES

Rossmore Park requires improved facilities to be provided over time.

This will include timber benches, bollards, picnic / barbecue areas and cycle stands.

These should be chosen using Design Principles that ensure quality and appropriateness.

Artists may be commissioned for one-off pieces.

1. DESIGN AND DELIVER BESPOKE SUITE OF PARK FURNITURE
2. IDENTIFY KEY LOCATIONS FOR SEATING AND PICNIC AREAS
3. COMMISSION ONE-OFF SCULPTURAL ITEMS



## **K** VISITOR FACILITIES

Over time a building is required to provide more visitor facilities.

In the short term this may consist of a seasonal coffee cart or converted container.

In the longer term an eco-building should be constructed near the car park to provide WCs, changing rooms, exhibition & teaching space, a cafe, shop and office.

1. UPGRADE TOILET BLOCK
2. PILOT SEASONAL CATERING AND OTHER 'POP UP' FACILITIES
3. PREPARE PLANS FOR PERMANENT ECO-BUILDING





## PLAY AREA

Play facilities would greatly increase the appeal of Rossmore Forest Park to families.

A large play area using timber equipment should be provided near the car park, providing for different age ranges.

Consideration should be given to a landmark play structure to increase regional appeal.

**1. DESIGN HIGH QUALITY, APPROPRIATE PLAY AREA TO BE DELIVERED IN PHASES**

**2. DEVELOP SMALLER, INFORMAL PLAY FACILITIES AT APPROPRIATE LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE PARK.**



## **M** WALLED GARDEN

The old walled garden should be restored and brought back into use.

Drawing on historic research, this would involve the recreation of planting beds and other features.

The garden presents an exciting opportunity to create a valuable resource for public enjoyment and horticultural training.

- 1. RESEARCH GARDEN HISTORY AND HORTICULTURE**
- 2. DEVELOP BUSINESS CASE AND FORM PARTNERSHIPS**
- 3. RESTORE GARDEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANTING**



**N INTERPRETATION & EDUCATION**

The many stories of Rossmore Forest Park require to be researched, collated and shared with the public.

This would be developed along thematic lines (e.g. Estate History, Aquatic Life, etc.) and be communicated through tours, school programmes, art pieces and high quality interpretation panels placed around the park.

1. PREPARE PARK INTERPRETATION STRATEGY
2. DESIGN AND DELIVER INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE AND PUBLIC ART
3. COLLATE AND PUBLISH ONLINE RESEARCH AND LITERATURE INFORMATION



## 0 ART & CRAFT

Like a giant canvas, Rossmore Forest Park should be used for a wide range of artistic activities from photography and painting to sculpture and performance.

Opportunities to participate in the arts should be encouraged.

An annual 'artist in residence' would also create a draw, with scope to purchase works of art in the park.

1. ESTABLISH PARK SCULPTURE TRAIL
2. CONNECT AND PROMOTE ARTS GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES
3. COMMISSION ANNUAL ARTIST IN RESIDENCE



**P CULTURAL & SPORTS EVENTS**

Rossmore Forest Park should be sensitively developed into a more attractive destination for income generating events.

This could include large performances that make use of terraced banks at the castle.

It would also involve existing and new sports events and competitions in the park.

A Tree Top Walk may also be appropriate.

- 1. SUPPORT AND ENHANCE EXISTING PARK EVENTS**
- 2. RESEARCH, DEVELOP AND COORDINATE NEW PARK EVENTS (LARGE AND SMALL)**
- 3. IDENTIFY LOCATIONS FOR POTENTIAL HIGH ADRENALINE FEATURES (EG TREE TOP WALK)**



## Q SPORTS & ACTIVITIES

Monaghan County Council and Coillte will seek to facilitate and encourage the development of appropriate sports and activities by local groups.

This will involve the sustainable growth of existing activities, including organised walking, running and fishing.

It will also involve the establishment of new uses that complement the Park's objectives and county wide priorities.

A wide range of possibilities exist including the development of recreational cycling and use of water bodies for kayaking and rowing.

The Management Committee is open to the consideration of other imaginative / innovative ideas that add to the attractiveness of Rossmore as a recreational facility.

- 1. SUPPORT AND DEVELOP CAPACITY OF EXISTING GROUPS AND CLUBS**
- 2. PROVIDE SPECIFIC INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT KEY ACTIVITIES**
- 3. RESEARCH, DEVELOP AND COORDINATE NEW PARK ACTIVITIES**





# DELIVERING THE PLAN



# ACTION PLAN

PROJECTS		ACTIONS		PRIORITY	TIMESCALE	COST
A	NATURE CONSERVATION	1	CONDUCT ECOLOGICAL SURVEYS OF THE PARK	VH	M	€
		2	DEVELOP & DELIVER BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN	H	L	€
		3	INTEGRATE ECOLOGICAL PRIORITIES WITH OTHER PROJECTS	H	L	€
B	CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT	1	PREPARE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN	H	M	€
		2	PROTECT VULNERABLE HERITAGE SITES FROM DAMAGE	I	L	€€
		3	PRIORITISE AND PROCEED WITH SPECIFIC CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION PROJECTS	H	L	€€€
C	LANDSCAPE RESTORATION	1	RESEARCH LANDSCAPE HISTORY OF THE PARK	H	S	€
		2	RESTORE AND PRESERVE KEY VIEWS AND LANDSCAPE FEATURES	H	L	€€€
D	FORESTRY	1	INTEGRATE STRATEGIC FORESTRY PLAN WITH THE PARK MASTERPLAN	VH		€
E	PARK MANAGEMENT	2	ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN THE STAKEHOLDERS GROUP TO ADVISE AND CONSULT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARK MASTERPLAN AND MAINTENANCE OF THE PARK	I	L	€
F	PROMOTION & MARKETING	1	DEVELOP A BESPOKE MARKETING COLLATERAL FOR ROSSMORE FOREST PARK	H	S	€
		2	ROLL OUT MARKETING MATERIALS AND CAMPAIGNS ON AND OFF LINE	H	M	€
		3	MAINTAIN BRAND AND MESSAGING CONSISTENCY ACROSS ALL INTERVENTIONS	VH	M	€
G	ACCESS & ARRIVAL	1	DESIGN HIGH QUALITY MAIN ENTRANCE AND ARRIVAL EXPERIENCE	VH	M	€€
		2	IMPROVE AESTHETICS AND FUNCTIONING OF ALL OTHER ENTRANCES	H	L	€€
		3	REVIEW AND IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL USERS	VH	L	€€
H	PATH NETWORK	1	PLAN & PROMOTE NETWORK OF DIVERSE YET COMPLIMENTARY PATHWAYS	VH	S	€
		2	MANAGE AND IMPROVE PATHWAY SURFACING AND DRAINAGE	I	L	€€
		3	IMPROVE KEY PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLE ROUTES BETWEEN PARK AND TOWN.	H	L	€€
I	SIGNAGE	1	PREPARE & IMPLEMENT PARK SIGNAGE STRATEGY AND DESIGNS	I	M	€€
		2	IMPROVE SURROUNDING ROAD SIGNAGE	VH	M	€€
		3	CREATE LANDMARK SIGN AND PUBLIC ART PIECE ON CLONES ROAD	H	S	€€

KEY: PRIORITY: I = IMMEDIATE, VH = VERY HIGH, H = HIGH, M = MODERATE  
 TIMESCALE: S = SHORT, M = MEDIUM, L = LONG  
 COST: € = < €50,000, €€ < €1M, €€€ >1M,



PROJECTS		ACTIONS		PRIORITY	TIMESCALE	COST
J	PARK FACILITIES	1	DESIGN AND DELIVER BESPOKE SUITE OF PARK FURNITURE	H	M	€ €
		2	IDENTIFY KEY LOCATIONS FOR SEATING AND PICNIC AREAS	H	M	€
		3	COMMISSION ONE-OFF SCULPTURAL ITEMS	M	M	€ €
K	VISITOR FACILITIES	1	UPGRADE TOILET BLOCK	I	S	€ €
		2	PILOT SEASONAL CATERING AND OTHER 'POP UP' FACILITIES	H	M	€ €
		3	PREPARE PLANS FOR PERMANENT ECO-BUILDING	M	L	€ € €
L	PLAY AREA	1	DESIGN HIGH QUALITY, APPROPRIATE PLAY AREA TO BE DELIVERED IN PHASES	I	L	€ €
		2	DEVELOP SMALLER, INFORMAL PLAY FACILITIES AT APPROPRIATE LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE PARK	H	L	€ €
M	WALLED GARDEN	1	RESEARCH GARDEN HISTORY AND HORTICULTURE	VH	S	€
		2	DEVELOP BUSINESS CASE AND FORM PARTNERSHIPS	VH	S	€
		3	RESTORE GARDEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANTING	H	L	€ €
N	INTERPRETATION & EDUCATION	1	PREPARE PARK INTERPRETATION STRATEGY	VH	S	€
		2	DESIGN AND DELIVER INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE AND PUBLIC ART	H	L	€ €
		3	COLLATE AND PUBLISH ONLINE RESEARCH AND LITERATURE	H	L	€
O	ART & CRAFT	1	ESTABLISH PARK SCULPTURE TRAIL	H	M	€ €
		2	CONNECT AND PROMOTE ARTS GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES	VH	S	€
		3	COMMISSION ANNUAL ARTIST IN RESIDENCE	H	M	€ €
P	CULTURAL & SPORTS EVENTS	1	SUPPORT AND ENHANCE EXISTING PARK EVENTS	VH	M	€ €
		2	RESEARCH, DEVELOP AND COORDINATE NEW PARK EVENTS (LARGE AND SMALL)	H	L	€
		3	IDENTIFY LOCATIONS FOR POTENTIAL HIGH ADRENALINE FEATURES (EG TREE TOP WALK)	M	M	€ €
Q	SPORT & ACTIVITIES	1	SUPPORT AND DEVELOP CAPACITY OF EXISTING GROUPS AND CLUBS	VH	M	€
		2	PROVIDE SPECIFIC INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT KEY ACTIVITIES	H	M	€ €
		3	RESEARCH, DEVELOP AND COORDINATE NEW PARK ACTIVITIES	H	M	€

KEY: PRIORITY: I = IMMEDIATE, VH = VERY HIGH, H = HIGH, M = MODERATE  
 TIMESCALE: S = SHORT, M = MEDIUM, L = LONG  
 COST: € = < €50,000, € € < €1M, € € € >1M,



# APPENDICES TO DO

## **STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

Monaghan County Council and The Paul Hogarth Company would like to thank the members of the project Stakeholder Group for their valued input to this plan.

**PADDY SHERRY - KNOCKATALLON RAMBLERS**

**PAUL HAMILL - ROSSMORE COARSE ANGLING CLUB**

**EAMON HACKETT - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (PPN)**

**JOHN MACKLIN - MONAGHAN TIDY TOWNS**

**SHIRLEY CLERKIN - MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL (HERITAGE OFFICER)**

**SINEAD O REILLY - OLD MEMORIES OF ROSSMORE GROUP**

**VANESSA DUNN - MONAGHAN WALKIE TALKERS**

**COLM MAHONY - MONAGHAN TOWN RUNNERS**

**MICHELLE MURPHY - MONAGHAN SPORTS PARTNERSHIP**

**CLLR. PAUDGE CONNOLLY - CATHAOIRLEACH, MONAGHAN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**ALAN JOHNSTON - MONAGHAN TOWN TEAM (CHAIRPERSON)**

**TREVOR CONNOLLY - MONAGHAN TOWN CENTRE (CO-ORDINATOR)**

**EDDIE O GARA - MONAGHAN PHOENIX ATHLETIC CLUB**

**MARTIN MCKENNA - ROSSMORE COARSE ANGLING CLUB**

**ENDA GALLIGAN - OLD MONAGHAN SOCIETY**

**DONAL MCELWAIN - MONAGHAN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT (CO-ORDINATOR)**

**DYMPNA CONDRA - MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL (TOURISM AND MARKETING EXECUTIVE)**

**PAUL CLIFFORD - MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL (DIRECTOR OF SERVICES)**

## JUNE 2017 - PUBLIC CONSULTATION

### 184 FEEDBACK RESPONSES

### 99% SUPPORT ROSSMORE MASTEPLAN

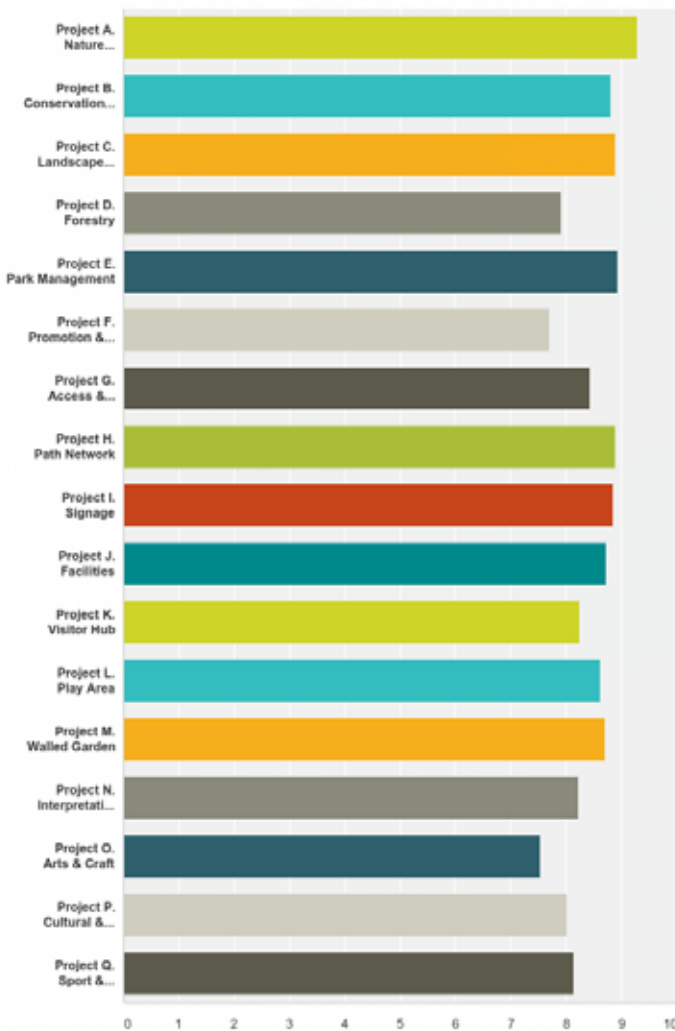
A major public consultation event took place in Rossmore Forest Park on Saturday 3 June 2017. The purpose of the event was to inform the general public about the masterplan process, to test the draft plan and proposals with and to invite other ideas and suggestions.

In keeping with the objectives of the masterplan, the opportunity was taken to introduce and test the popularity of other events that could take place in the park from time to time. These included a bouncy castle, DJ, street food stall and ice-cream van.

The event proved extremely popular, despite some spells of rain. Not only did it demonstrate wide support for the draft masterplan, but also local enthusiasm to enjoy the park and participate in its future.

Q2 How important do you think each project will be for Rossmore Forest Park? (please score out of 10: 0= not at all, 10= extremely)

Answered: 173 Skipped: 4



## 20% FACILITIES:

- MAPS
- PICNIC TABLES
- SEATING/SHELTERED AREAS
- BUOYS
- BBQ AREAS
- TOILETS
- BINS
- BIRD HOUSE

## 14% EVENTS:

- CULTURAL EVENT
- ART, MUSIC & FOOD
- FAMILY DAYS
- WEEKEND FOOD
- MARKETS/EVENING MARKETS
- PETTING FARM
- CAFE SHOP

## 10% ACTIVITIES:

- BOWLING
- AIRSOFT
- PAINTBALL
- CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING
- FAIRY TRAILS
- TREASURE TRAILS

## 7% PLAY AREAS

## 5% GLAMPING

## 4% COMMUNITY:

- ENCOURAGE LOCAL ARTIST
- ENCOURAGE SENSE OF OWNERSHIP
- MAN SHED/ CRAFT & WORKSHOP
- COMMUNITY ALLOTMENTS
- SCULPTURES
- VOLUNTEER

## 3% MANAGEMENT:

## 3% WALLED GARDEN:

- RESTORED WILD GARDEN
- CELEBRITY FILM ON IT

**WELCOME**

**INTRODUCTION:**  
Welcome to the public consultation process for the Rossmore Forest Park Masterplan.  
This project has been initiated by Monaghan County Council in partnership with Coillce. The masterplan is being produced by landscape architecture consultancy The Paul Hogarth Company.  
The Masterplan seeks to identify ways in which Rossmore Forest Park in Monaghan can be managed and improved over the next 5 - 10 years.  
These boards present the findings of the research and consultation process. Importantly they also explain the draft proposals, including aims and objectives for the park and a series of projects for delivery over the short, medium and long term.  
The Park has a special place in the hearts of local people. Therefore we kindly invite you to review the Draft Masterplan and give your comments and suggestions for its improvement prior to finalisation.

**WHAT IMPROVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN ROSSMORE FOREST PARK?**

- TREES FLOWERS & WILDLIFE 67%
- GENERAL CONDITION 57%

**WHAT DO YOU DISLIKE MOST ABOUT ROSSMORE FOREST PARK?**

- CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA 22%
- BETTER SIGNAGE & MAPS 21%
- IMPROVE FACILITIES 15%
- IMPROVE PATH & TRAILS 14%
- COFFEE & ICE-CREAM 14%
- IMPROVE BENCHES & PICNIC AREA 14%

**YOUR FOREST! YOUR SAY!**

**WHAT KIND OF PLACE DO WE WANT ROSSMORE FOREST PARK TO BE?**

**THE PROCESS**

- INCEPTION MEETING & WALKABOUT (2016)
- DESKTOP REVIEW (2016)
- SITE APPRAISAL (2016)
- STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT (2016)
- ANALYSIS REVIEW & WORKSHOP (2017)
- DRAFT MASTERPLAN (2017)
- REVIEW WORKSHOP (2017)
- STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT (2017)
- FINAL MASTERPLAN

**HELP US TO IMPROVE THIS DRAFT MASTERPLAN WITH YOUR THOUGHTS AND IDEAS BEFORE THE 13TH OF JUNE 2017:**

- FILL OUT A FORM**  
Complete our short survey at: [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/~/Rossmore\\_DRAFT\\_Masterplan](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/~/Rossmore_DRAFT_Masterplan).
- GIVE US A SHOUT**  
Come Along and view the consultation material at: **Rossmore Forest Park Public Event on 03.06.2017**
- DROP US A LINE**  
Send an email with your feedback and ideas at [rossmore@paulhogarth.com](mailto:rossmore@paulhogarth.com)
- LEAVE IN THE BOX**  
Leave your completed form in the box provided at: **The Municipal District of Monaghan, Monaghan County Council, County offices Market House, Monaghan Town**

**WHAT WE LEARNT SO FAR TO ENSURE EVERYONE CAN EASILY ACCESS AND ENJOY A HIGH QUALITY, HEALTHY, INSPIRATIONAL AND WELL MANAGED PARK WHICH WILL ALSO SERVE AS A MAJOR TOURIST ATTRACTION.**

**ROSSMORE FOREST PARK DRAFT MASTERPLAN**



