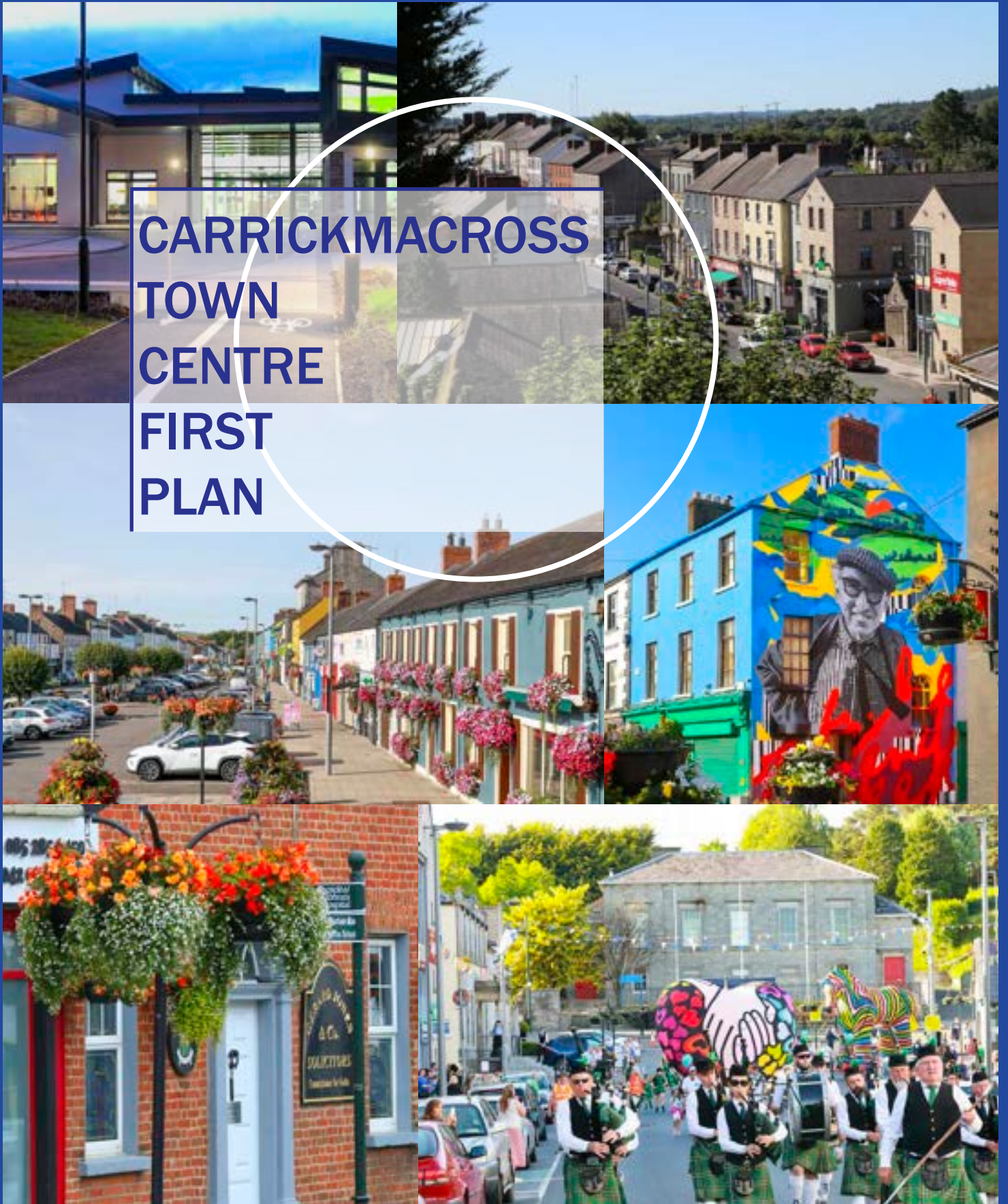


CARRICKMACROSS TOWN CENTRE FIRST PLAN



Rialtas
na hÉireann
Government
of Ireland

Ár dTodhchaí
Tuaithe
Our Rural
Future



Lár Bailte ar dTús
Town Centre First



Monaghan
County Council

CARRICKMACROSS TOWN TEAM

the paul hogarth company

FOREWORD



A message from the Town Team:

As members of the Carrickmacross Town Team, we are delighted to present the Carrickmacross Town Centre First Plan. This plan represents a significant milestone in our collective efforts to shape the future of our vibrant community.

Throughout the development of this plan, we have worked alongside dedicated members of the community, engaged with stakeholders and collaborated closely with Monaghan County Council and professional consultancies. Together, we have crafted a vision that addresses the key challenges and opportunities facing Carrickmacross.

As a living document, the Carrickmacross Town Centre First Plan remains open to ongoing input and feedback from all partners. We are confident that with continued collaboration and collective action, we can realise our shared vision for Carrickmacross as a town that thrives with historic charm, vitality and environmental sustainability.

We extend our gratitude to all those who have contributed to the development of this plan and we look forward to working together to bring it to fruition.

Jim Hand
Town Team Chairperson

This project has been funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and Monaghan County Council as part of the Town Centre First policy. It was officially launched on Friday 22nd March 2024 by Minister Heather Humphreys TD, Minister for Rural and Community Development.



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Town Centre First



Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin
Monaghan County Council

CARRICKMACROSS TOWN TEAM thepaulhogarthcompany



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01

Introduction

Introduction



This Town Centre First Plan unfolds as a visionary blueprint for the future of Carrickmacross, County Monaghan.

Forged through a collaborative process that engaged the public, including dedicated members of the Town Team and with the support of Monaghan County Council and professional consultancies, this plan transcends mere vision. It maps out a series of transformative projects specifically tailored for Carrickmacross, encompassing a spectrum of scales and ambitions. This Town Centre First Plan, as a live document, remains responsive to ongoing input and feedback, ensuring its adaptability to the evolving needs and aspirations of Carrickmacross.



These initiatives converge under a shared objective: to shape Carrickmacross with historic charm, vitality, and environmental sustainability. With an emphasis on inclusivity, the plan envisions welcoming spaces for all, harnessing the potential of local and regional connectivity to position Carrickmacross as a town that seamlessly combines attractiveness, vibrancy and sustainable living.

Process



The Town Centre First plan underwent a structured and collaborative process to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the community's needs and aspirations.

It commenced with a **site visit**, where the project team familiarised themselves with the Town Centre. Subsequently, meetings with the Town Team provided valuable insights from local stakeholders.

Workshop 1, titled **"Understanding Our Place,"** followed, encouraging active participation to identify the unique characteristics of the town through a SCOT analysis. The **first public consultation** took place on the main street. This process involved local schools through workshops, gathering diverse perspectives.

Workshop 2, **"Defining Our Place,"** refined the collected insights.

The Draft Plan was then formulated, laying the foundation for Workshop 3, **"Enabling Our Place,"** which explored practical implementation strategies.



Second Public Consultations took place on two separate days in the local Civic Centre and again in the local Shopping Centre to engage the public further in the Town Centre First Draft Plan.

Workshop 4 convened with the Town Team, councillors and local business people to meticulously review the plan, ensuring it aligned with the community's vision for a thriving and cohesive town centre before completing the final Town Centre First Report.



Planning Context Carrickmacross Town Centre First Plan

Role of the Plan

The Carrickmacross Town Centre First Plan presents a forward-looking vision and outlines a set of projects designed to bring that vision to fruition.

It caters to a diverse audience with a stake in the town's future development, encompassing residents, communities, local groups, businesses, the local authority, central government and private developers.

This non-statutory document serves as a guide for decision-making, funding applications, and project implementation. Any initiatives arising from the plan will undergo necessary approval processes, ensuring compliance with planning policies.

The Carrickmacross Town Centre First Plan stands as a collaborative roadmap, uniting various stakeholders in shaping the town's progressive and sustainable evolution.

The investment proposed within this plan is designed to stimulate further economic activity across the town. It is therefore intended that public sector projects may catalyse reciprocal investment from the private sector, including established businesses and new additions to Carrickmacross.



Town Centre First Policy

The Town Centre First Policy was launched by the Irish Government in 2022. It aims "to create town centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit, while also functioning as the service, social, cultural and recreational hub for the local community". It recognises the many challenges being faced by traditional town centres, but also the important social and economic role they have to play in Ireland's future.

The policy sets out an innovative approach to addressing issues and opportunities, including the appointment of Town Regeneration Officers in every county and the establishment of local Town Teams.

In response to this policy, Carrickmacross was selected by Monaghan County Council to be the first settlement in the County to produce a Town Centre First Plan. This plan has been written and researched by appointed urban design consultants, The Paul Hogarth Company, through a series of consultations and workshops involving the public and members of the newly formed Carrickmacross Town Team.



Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy (RSES)

The Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy is the strategic plan and investment framework to shape the future development of the region with the aim of creating a sustainable and competitive region that supports the health and wellbeing of people and places, from urban to rural, with access to quality housing, travel, and employment opportunities for all.



Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025

Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 aims to facilitate sustainable development and to build on the strengths of County Monaghan by supporting the provision of employment opportunities and residential developments within quality urban and rural environments, that provides a high standard of physical and social infrastructure necessary for their respective communities.

Carrickmacross is identified in the Plan as a Tier 2 Strategic Town with strong emphasis placed on the growth of the local economy and developing and enhancing its links with the adjacent Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly area, in particular Dundalk.

This Town Centre First Plan will be used to inform a future Development Plan for the County.



Sustainable Development

More widely, it is essential that the TCF Plan responds to the ongoing climate crisis, by taking on board the sustainable development goals within its approach, projects and actions. These objectives are designed to mitigate environmental impact, enhance resilience and contribute to a sustainable future for the town.



Planning Context Carrickmacross Town Centre First Plan

Socio- Economic Profile

Carrickmacross has a population of 5,745 (2022), with 2,740 males and 3,005 females, which has increased from 4,894 in 2011. The town's age profile has a large proportion that falls within the 25 – 44 age categories with a total of 2,122 with a smaller number of the population being 60+ (801).

The majority of the population identify with Ireland as their birthplace (3,911) with the remainder spread across the United Kingdom (332), Poland (143), India (35), other EU (866) and rest of the world (392).

A total of 2,446 of the population aged 15 and over work as their principal economic status, with 659 retired, 486 students, 333 looking after home/family, 215 unable to work due to sickness or disability and a small number long term unemployed (167) and short term unemployed (108).

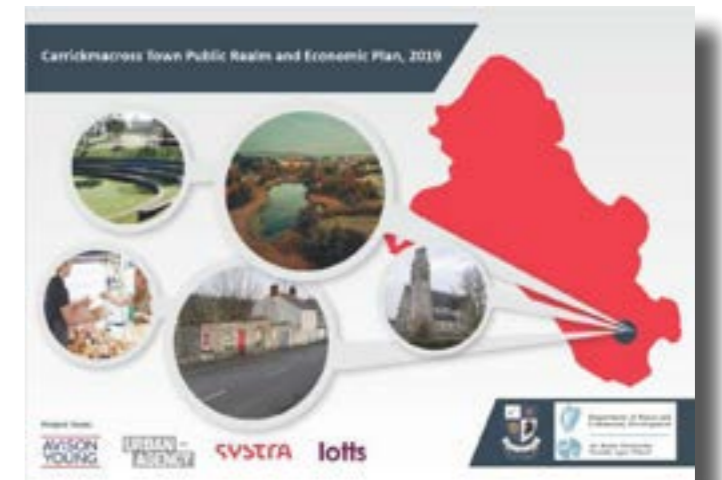
A total of 1,383 commute to work or school by car, of which 1,336 are travelling to work and 47 to school, with a further 818 as a passenger in a car to both work and school.

Only 241 people travel to work, school or college by bus, minibus, or coach and 761 by foot and even less by bicycle (26).

The general health of the population of Carrickmacross is predominantly 'very good' with 2,790 in comparison to a small number considered bad health (104) and very bad (22).

Public Realm and Economic Plan 2019

Upon reviewing the Public Realm and Economic Plan 2019, we found that the proposed initiatives align with our overall vision for Carrickmacross. We generally agree with the proposals; however, we suggest a phased implementation to ensure a systematic and well-managed execution. Emphasising a phased approach will allow for a more measured and deliberate development, ensuring each stage is completed to the highest quality design standards. This strategy will not only enhance the visual appeal of Carrickmacross but also contribute to the long-term sustainability and success of the project.



Previous & Current Plans for Carrickmacross

Digital Blueprint

The Digital Blueprint Carrickmacross represents a comprehensive and forward-thinking document that harnesses the power of digital technologies to shape the future of the town. This blueprint envisions a digitally connected and smart Carrickmacross, leveraging innovative solutions to enhance various aspects of urban living.





02

Findings

Understanding Our Place

Urban Analysis Carrickmacross Town Centre First Plan

Carrickmacross Urban Analysis

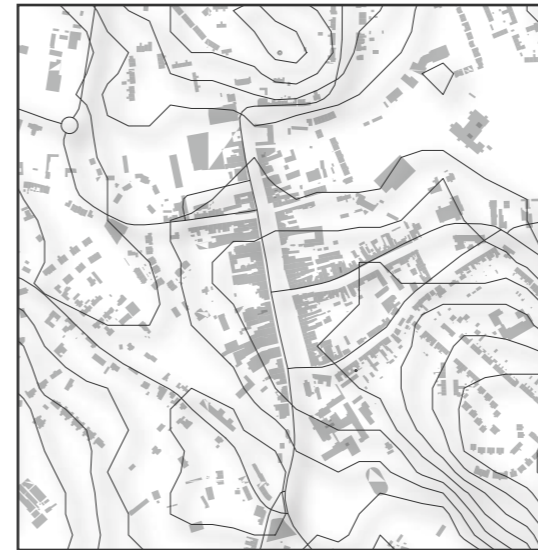
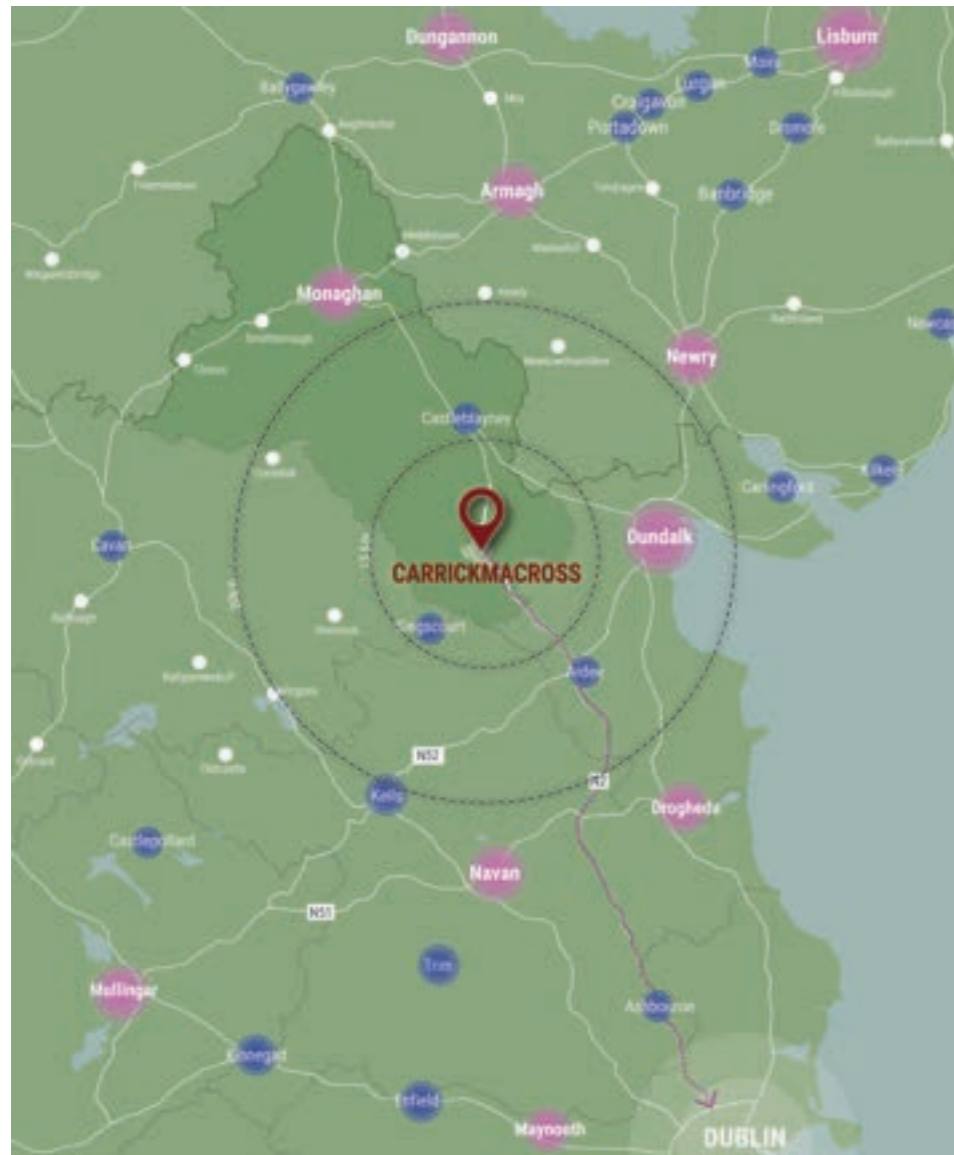
Carrickmacross, a main town in the southern region of County Monaghan, boasts a population of around 6,000 individuals, as reported in the 2022 Census.

Positioned along the Dublin to Derry (N2) National Route and in proximity to the M1 Motorway link at Ardee, Carrickmacross sits approximately 80 km north of Dublin, 35 km south of Monaghan Town, and 21 km west of Dundalk.

Carrickmacross has served a pivotal role as a market town for its rural hinterland in the past and a function it continues to fulfil today.

It has preserved its Main Street as the traditional Town Centre. In contrast to many towns of similar size, Carrickmacross has successfully retained its historic charm.

Strengthening connections between the Town Centre, surrounding streets, and newer retail developments through attractive and secure routes is poised to enhance Carrickmacross' identity as a vibrant Market Town.

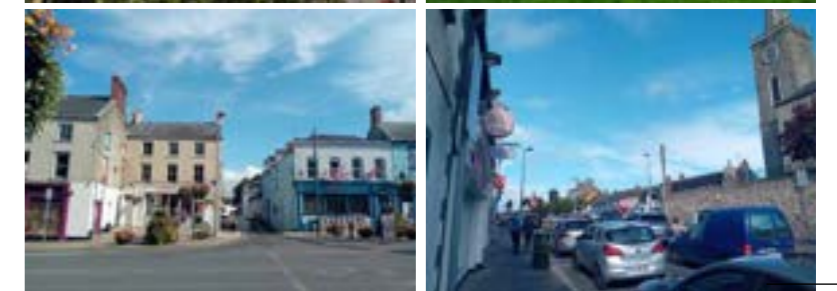


Carrickmacross' most striking feature is its wide market main street, a historic thoroughfare that not only serves as a bustling commercial hub but also reflects the town's rich heritage. The layout of the town, influenced by its topography, contributes to the creation of distinct neighbourhoods, each with its own character and identity.

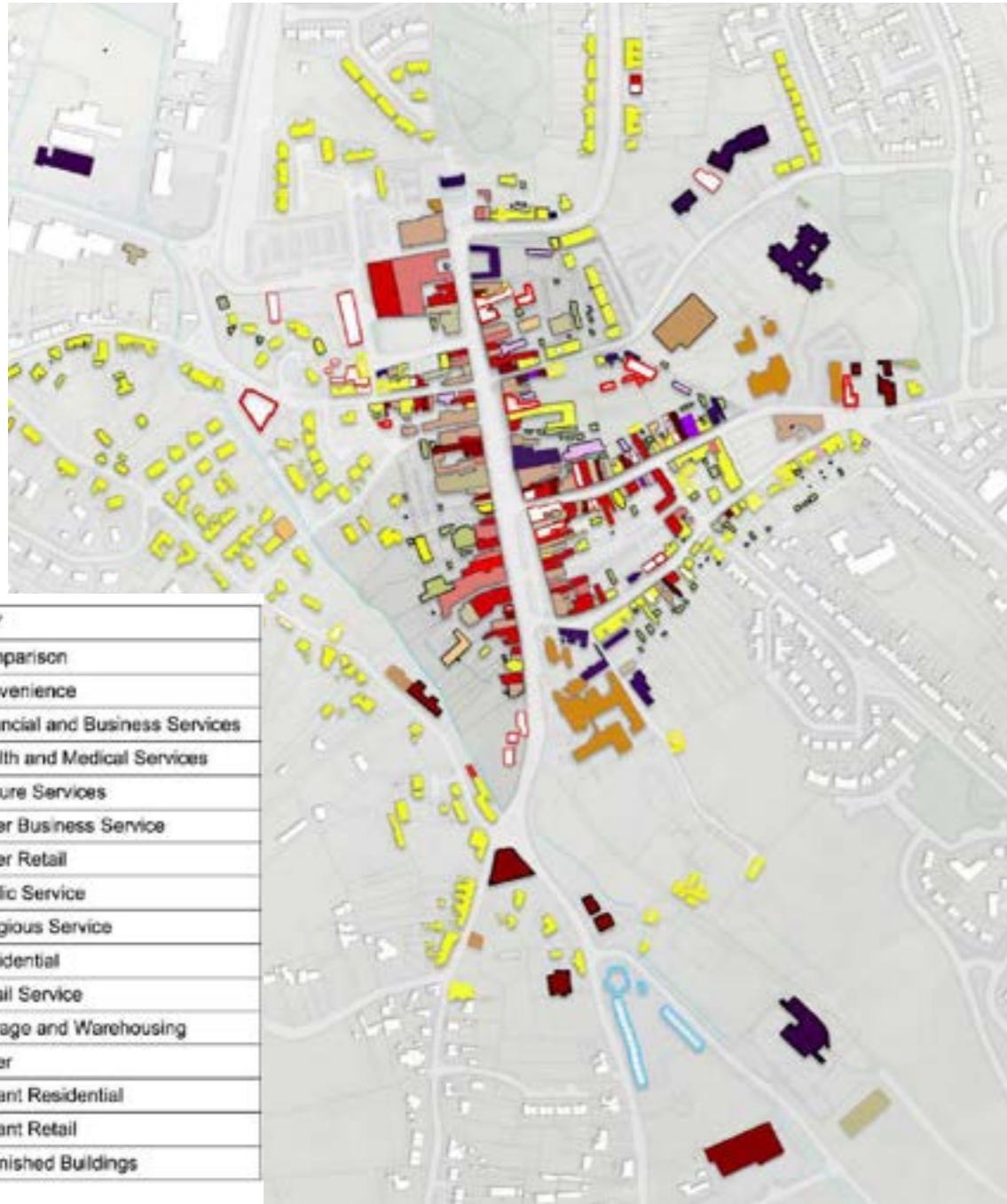
One notable aspect of Carrickmacross is its abundance of attractive historical buildings. These structures, adorned with intricate architectural details, stand as testaments to the town's enduring cultural legacy. The urban form, influenced by the topography, contributes to the formation of neighbourhoods with a diverse range of architectural styles, creating a visually appealing and diverse townscape.

However, the urban analysis reveals certain challenges. Vehicular dominance is evident across the town centre, impacting the pedestrian and cycling experience. The lack of dedicated spaces for pedestrians and cyclists hinders the town's potential for creating a more walkable and sustainable environment. Efforts to rebalance this dominance and enhance pedestrian and cycle spaces could significantly contribute to a more vibrant and connected community.

Carrickmacross' proximity to green space within the town centre, offers residents and visitors access to natural areas for leisure and recreation. Leveraging and expanding these green spaces could further enhance the town's overall livability and provide valuable benefits within an urban setting.



Urban Analysis Carrickmacross Town Centre First Plan



Comparison and Convenience

In the context of land use or building use, "comparison" refers to the presence of businesses or facilities that offer similar goods or services in close proximity to each other.

On the other hand, "convenience" refers to the accessibility and ease of use of a particular location or facility. A convenient location is one that is easily accessible to its target users and meets their needs efficiently.

Education and Childcare

Carrickmacross is home to a diverse and established array of educational institutions, serving the

educational needs of students across various levels. Among the primary schools are Scoil Rois, Bunscoil Lughaidh Naofa, St. Joseph's NS. These primary schools collectively provide a strong foundation for students, fostering their intellectual and personal growth.

For secondary education, Inver College, Patrician High School, and St. Louis Secondary School offer guidance to students through their formative years and prepares them for future academic and professional pursuits.

Heritage assets/Protected Structures



The presence of these educational establishments reflects Carrickmacross' commitment to providing a well-rounded and accessible learning environment for its residents. However, despite this robust educational setting, Carrickmacross faces a challenge due to the lack of adequate childcare facilities, a concern amplified by the town's growing population.

Religious Buildings

Churches in Carrickmacross such as St. Joseph's Catholic Church in the Town Centre and St. Finbarr's Church, contribute significantly to the town's cultural and architectural heritage. The diverse architectural styles and unique features make these churches integral components of Carrickmacross' cultural identity.

Cultural and Heritage

Carrickmacross is rich with cultural buildings that reflect the town's deep-rooted heritage. Among these, the Carrickmacross Workhouse, now restored, stands as a testament to Ireland's historical past, offering insight into the country's societal changes. The Convent of Louis, an architectural gem, not only serves as a place of worship but also contributes to the cultural landscape through its educational and community engagement initiatives.

Furthermore, the Shirley Arms Hotel, with its historical significance, has become a hub for cultural events while the Lace Gallery, a unique cultural building, showcases the intricate artistry of Carrickmacross lace, embodying a centuries-old craft. These cultural buildings, each with its unique narrative, collectively contribute to Carrickmacross identity, creating spaces where the community can come together to celebrate, learn, and appreciate the town's cultural heritage.

Healthcare

The town is home to modern healthcare institutions that offer a range of services, from primary care to specialised medical treatments. Notable healthcare facilities include clinics, general practitioners' offices, and the Carrickmacross Medical Centre, which plays a central role in providing comprehensive healthcare to the community. Additionally, the town centre is equipped with pharmacies, ensuring easy access to medications. Signs are, however, that the continued growth of the town may place pressure on such healthcare services, leading to a future need for more GPs, dentists and other practitioners.

Commercial and Retail

Carrickmacross thrives as a vibrant commercial and retail hub, boasting a diverse array of businesses that contribute to the town's economic vitality. The commercial landscape features a mix of local enterprises, boutiques, and national retailers, offering residents and visitors a wide range of goods and services. The bustling Main Street is a focal point for shopping, lined with charming storefronts and establishments that cater to various needs. From traditional markets to modern retail spaces, Carrickmacross provides a dynamic shopping experience that reflects the town's entrepreneurial spirit.

Vacancy

Carrickmacross faces the challenge of commercial vacancies within its urban landscape. These vacant spaces, whether storefronts or commercial properties, present opportunities for strategic redevelopment and revitalisation. Understanding the reasons behind these vacancies and implementing targeted strategies can play a crucial role in reinvigorating these spaces.

SCOT Analysis Carrickmacross Town Centre First Plan

This report presents the findings of a (SCOT) analysis, diligently conducted by the Town Team to assess and strategise the development of their community. The SCOT analysis delves into the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats that shape Carrickmacross Town Centre:

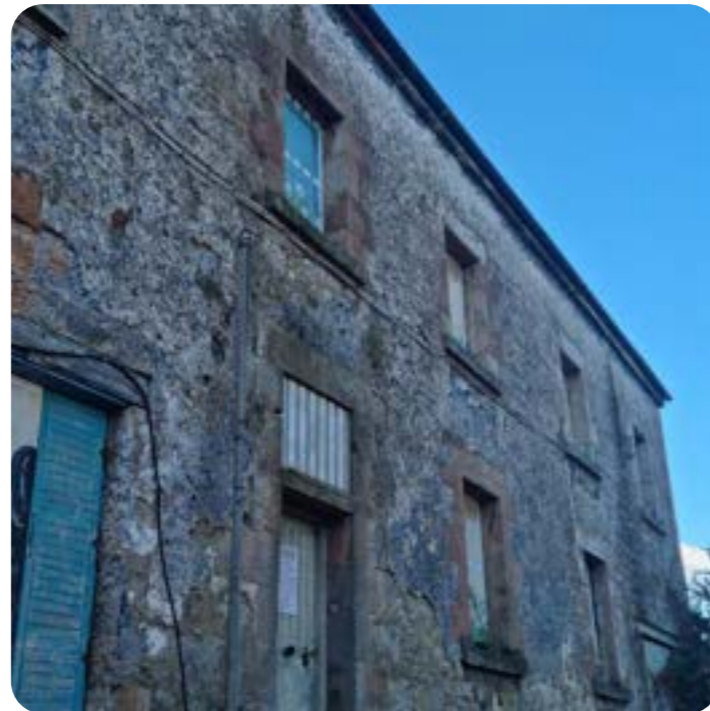
STRENGTHS

- Wide main street
- No retail parks outside the town
- Historical buildings and walls
- Main street – frontages are well kept
- Tidy Towns – Strong Vibrant group
- Community groups – very active and working together
- Business and retail tradition going back centuries
- Un-used spaces – open spaces and buildings
- Lots of amenities which are accessible by foot
- Workhouse – great asset
- C-Tek – enterprise buildings
- Primary Care Centre
- Phoenix Centre
- Car parking spaces are plentiful
- Cross communities – good relationships
- Proximity to Dublin
- Transport links to the cities (Belfast and Dublin)
- Free Parking – public
- Events – in high demand
- 24 hour garda station (security)
- Carrickmacross Lace
- Walking tours Chamber of Commerce
- Stained glass windows (by Harry Clarke)
- Youth Café and Scouts group
- GAA and soccer clubs
- Willingness from building owners and business owners
- Huge pride within the Town
- Town team
- Chamber of Commerce



CHALLENGES

- Derelict buildings – Bridewell, Breffni
- A lack of footfall at night
- No night clubs to attract young people
- Social life affected by covid
- Lack of entertainment for young people outside of sports (e.g. cinema, youth clubs)
- Intimidation – groups gathering on street at night
- Lack of integration
- Recreational spaces
- Balance between cars and pedestrians
- Less markets in recent years
- Accommodation for tourists
- One hotel – Shirley Arms Hotel
- Visitors coming to the town but not dwelling/staying
- Cycling – not easy/ safe because of traffic – lack of cycle lanes especially for children
- Bicycle facilities – parking/bicycle racks. Somewhere to keep bicycles dry
- Backlands are private gardens
- Above shops – vacant (fire certs needed)
- Lack of taxis
- Inadequate street lighting
- Lack of CCTV within the town



OPPORTUNITIES

- Airbnb
- Campervan facilities
- Promotion - Change people's perception of the town, it's location and proximity to cities
- Facilities are close by if not in the town already
- Funding
- Town walkway
- Private gardens to become public green space
- Use of derelict properties on the main street – e.g. hot desking
- Connectivity to the town
- Mixed use developments
- Above shops – vacant
- Space for community development e.g. The Workhouse
- People coming back to visit their ancestry
- Local museum
- More green space / recreational and sporting spaces for young people
- Frontage improvements – historical town e.g. signage – must be a willingness to do it
- Large hinterlands to Carrickmacross
- 3 halls that have potential to be renovated



THREATS

- Out of town centre developments
- Retail parks
- Supermarkets
- Lack of people residing in the town centre
- Inadequate space and facilities for refugees
- Lack of integration between new and existing communities
- Lack of young people volunteering
- Poor retail outlets
- Poor signage
- Lack of young people opening new/ taking over businesses
- What replaces businesses that are no longer here in 10 years' time?
- Retail is diminishing
- East side of the street – has the most vacancy
- Residential where retail used to be (unheard of 10 years ago.)



Process Carrickmacross Town Centre First Plan

First Public Consultation

The Carrickmacross Town Centre First Plan seeks to reflect the needs and aspirations of local people as much as possible. Consequently a highly collaborative methodology was followed through to understand the town and develop ideas together.

The first community survey received

509 responses:

with the public responding online and in person at an engagement event on Main Street, Carrickmacross.

Facilitated workshops were organised with the town's three secondary schools as part of an inclusive engagement process. These workshops aimed to involve students in the planning and decision-making aspects of the community development plan. Through collaborative sessions, students had the opportunity to share their perspectives, ideas, and aspirations for the town's future.

The plan was developed through a series of Town Team workshops before proceeding to a second public consultation and being refined with the Town Team.

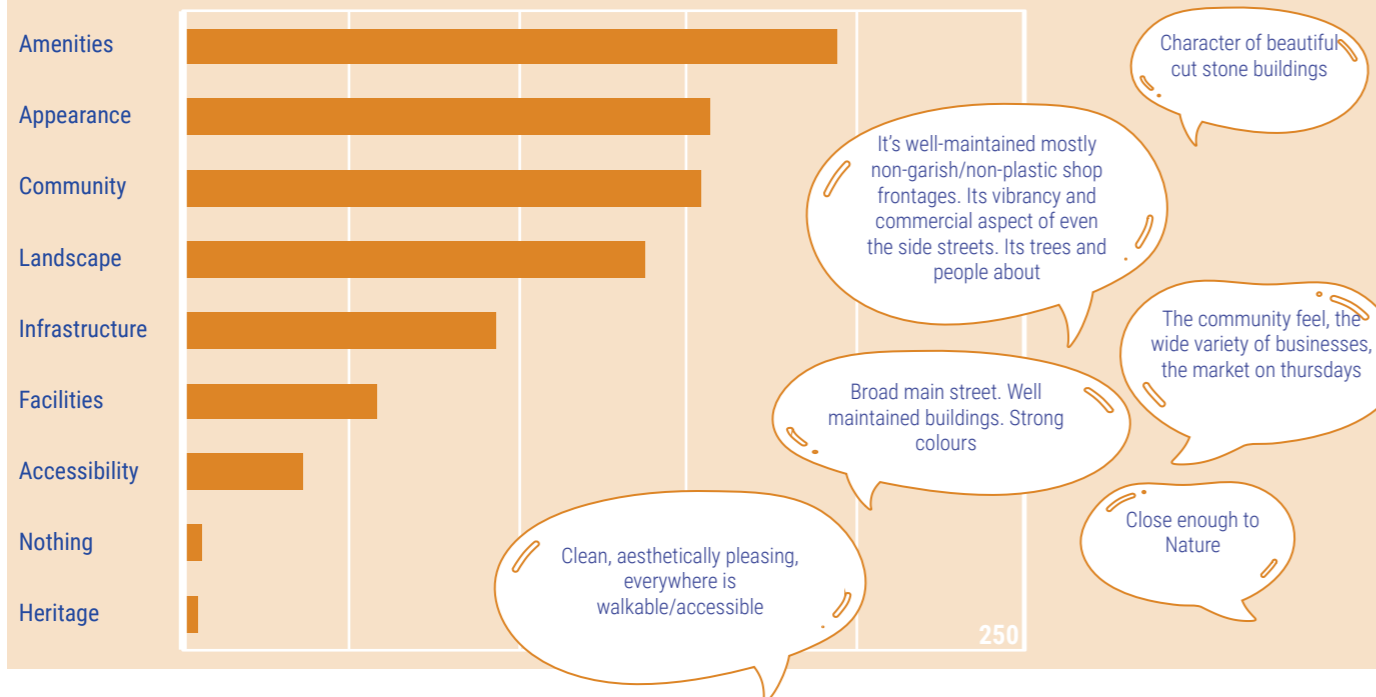


The feedback from both the public and the Town Team identified several key strengths and opportunities for development. According to public input, the town is praised for its **historical charm, magnificent main street, strong sense of community, and accessible green spaces. Residents appreciate the existing cultural heritage and the potential for vibrant public events.**

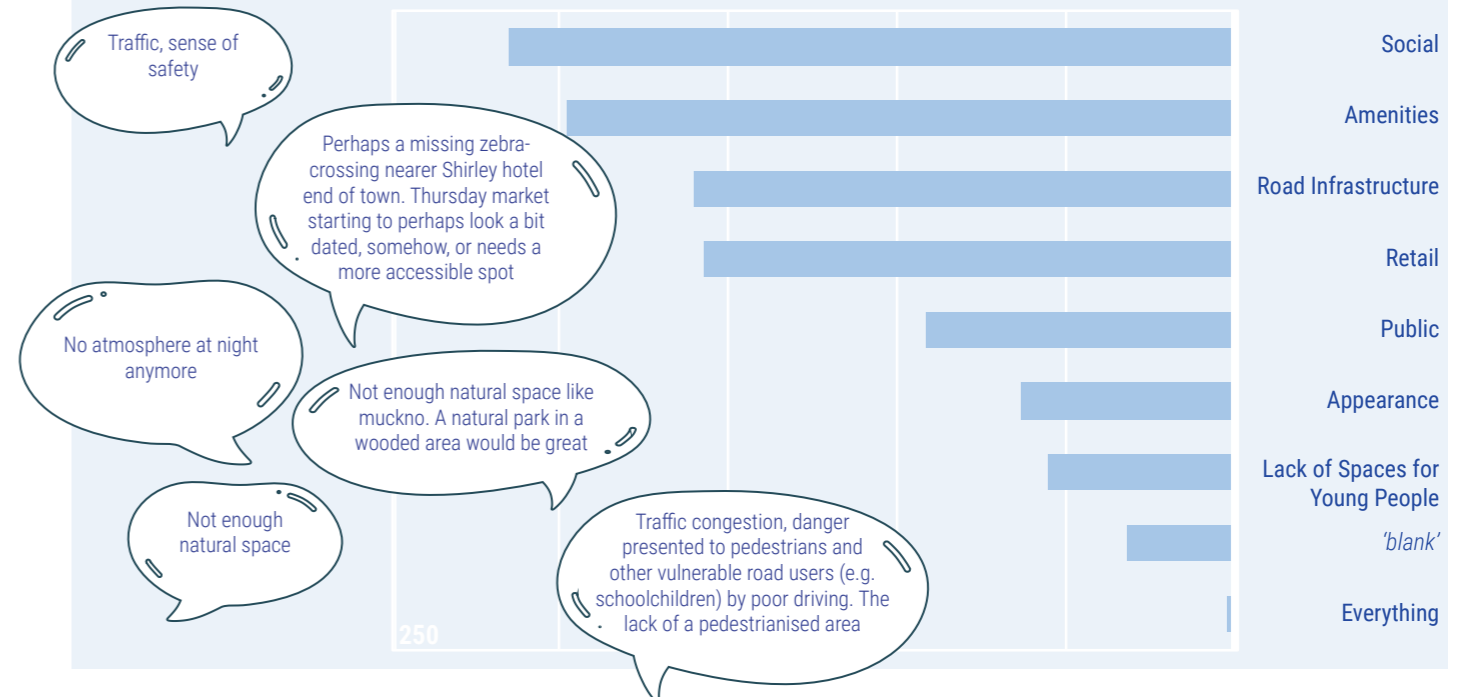
On the other hand, the town team highlighted opportunities for **economic growth through innovative urban design and planning, emphasising mixed-use development, and enhancing public spaces** to attract new businesses. Both groups expressed a shared desire for **improved connectivity, sustainable practices, and the preservation of the town's unique identity in future development initiatives.**



WHAT THREE THINGS DO YOU *LIKE* MOST ABOUT CARRICKMACROSS TOWN CENTRE?

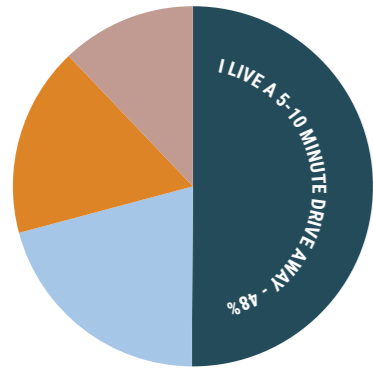


WHAT THREE THINGS DO YOU *DISLIKE* MOST ABOUT CARRICKMACROSS TOWN CENTRE?



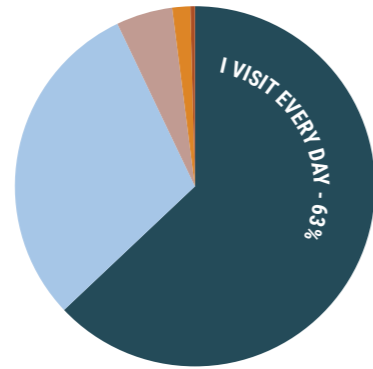
Process Carrickmacross Town Centre First Plan

HOW FAR DO YOU LIVE FROM CARRICKMACROSS TOWN CENTRE?



I live a 5-10 minute drive from the town	48%
I live elsewhere in the town	20%
I live in the town centre	16%
I live over a 10 minute drive from the town	12%

HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT CARRICKMACROSS TOWN CENTRE?



Every day	63%
Several times a week	30%
Several times a month	5%
Several times a year	2%
Never	0.4%

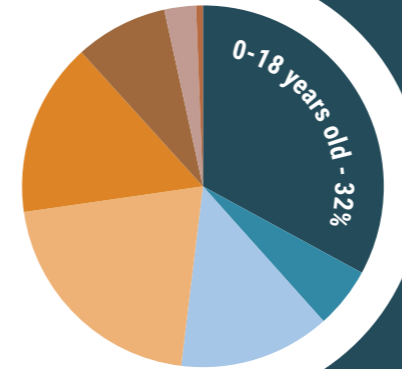
WHAT ARE YOUR MAIN REASONS FOR VISITING THE TOWN CENTRE?

choose all that apply...



Shopping	64%
Leisure	42%
Work	29%
Resident	28%
Study	25%
Other	18%
Travel	12%

WHAT IS YOUR AGE RANGE?



0-18	32%
19-29	5%
30-39	13%
40-49	20%
50-59	15%
60-69	8%
70-79	3%
80+	1%

some of what 0-18 told us is:

I like the Patrick Kavanagh mural, market day and Gifts 'n' Things

Pop-up events. Increase in public transport. Renovate derelict sites to positive public spaces. Ice-rink during festive times.

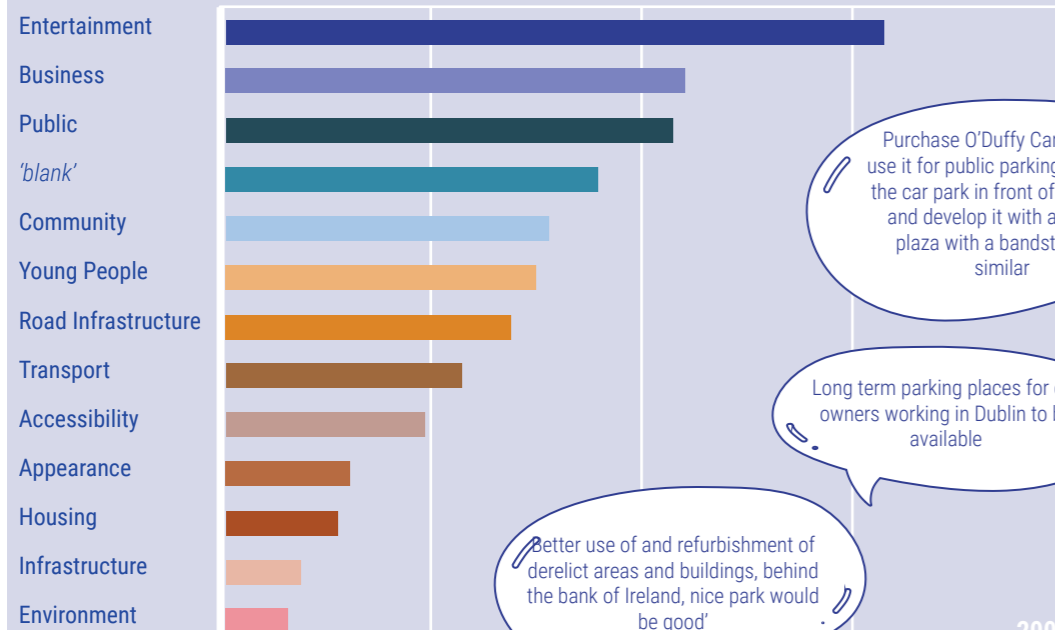
Better use of and refurbishment of derelict areas and buildings, behind the bank of Ireland, nice park would be good

There is no public space except during the festival

We need pop up events throughout the year, both indoor and outdoor.



WHAT IDEAS DO YOU HAVE FOR THE FUTURE OF CARRICKMACROSS TOWN CENTRE?



It to be kept as a busy hub of activity

Purchase O'Duffy Car Park to use it for public parking. Remove the car park in front of Markeys, and develop it with a sort of plaza with a bandstand or similar

Adequate housing and communal spaces that promote integration would be great to see

Long term parking places for car owners working in Dublin to be available

Some more seating around the town

Better use of and refurbishment of derelict areas and buildings, behind the bank of Ireland, nice park would be good





03

Town Centre
First Plan

Defining Our Place

Vision & Aims Carrickmacross Town Centre First Plan

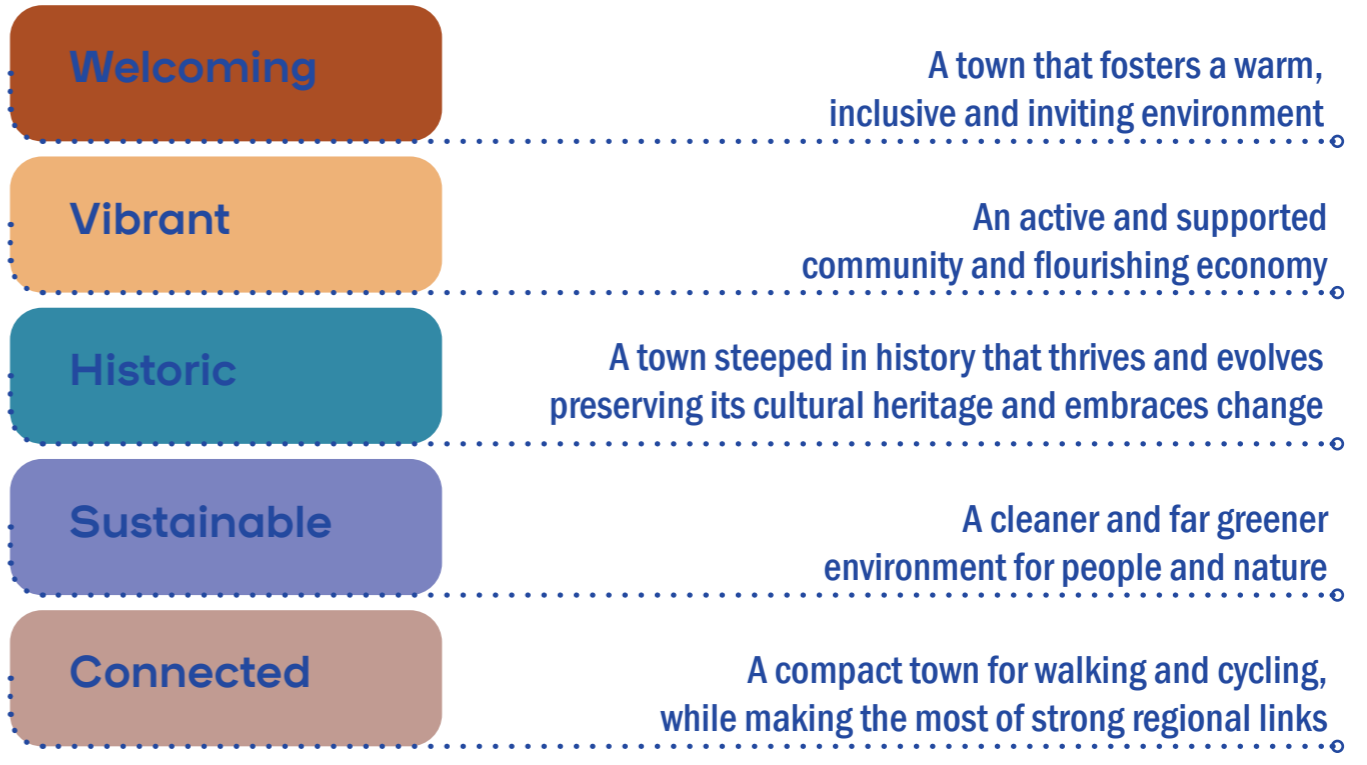
The Vision

Carrickmacross extends a warm welcome to all. Our Main Street is where history and tradition meet colour and vibrancy. With sustainability at its heart, our town centre is connected through old and new neighbourhoods and spaces green and blue.



The Aims

The Town Centre First Plan delineates five objectives, encapsulating the foremost priorities tailored to Carrickmacross based on the town's inherent features, prevalent challenges and emerging opportunities. Each project outlined in the plan endeavours to address and fulfill these objectives, whether individually or collectively within a single proposal.



Vision & Aims Carrickmacross Town Centre First Plan

The heartbeat of Carrickmacross' vision is the town's unique and historic Main Street, a blend of the past and present that serves as the focal point for community engagement, business vitality and tourism appeal.

Embracing the essence of green spaces and the river that surrounds the town centre, Carrickmacross seeks to create an environment where nature and urban life coexist. These natural elements not only contribute to the town's aesthetic appeal but also provide retreats for

residents and visitors, fostering opportunities for outdoor activities, sports and promoting the health and well-being of the community and local wildlife.

As Carrickmacross experiences a growing population, the town recognises the potential for dynamic town centre development. This growth sparks opportunities for innovation, inclusivity and cultural enrichment. The vision is to transform the town centre into a thriving hub that caters to the diverse needs of its expanding community, ensuring a vibrant and sustainable future for generations to come.



1. Welcome to Carrickmacross

- Ensuring the best possible welcome to the town centre.
- Defining gateways to Carrickmacross Town Centre.
- Facilitating pedestrian and cycle wayfinding and enhancing the overall town centre experience.

2. Town Centre Streets

- Comprehensive enhancement of Carrickmacross' streetscapes.
- Enhancing the heritage setting involves a multifaceted approach that goes beyond mere preservation; it encompasses a dynamic process of thoughtful revitalisation, cultural interpretation and community engagement.
- Re-balancing spatial considerations for pedestrians.

3. Green & Blue Carrickmacross

- Integrate green spaces into the urban fabric of Carrickmacross to enhance environmental sustainability.
- Establish recreational green and blue corridors to encourage outdoor activities and connectivity.
- Enhance public awareness and appreciation of Carrickmacross' green and blue assets through educational events and activities.

4. Town Centre Neighbourhoods

- Comprehensive development of backlands (ie term used to describe lands around the back of buildings / centre of blocks) to provide town centre living involves a multifaceted approach aimed at transforming these areas into vibrant, mixed-use spaces that seamlessly integrate residential, commercial and recreational elements.
- A sustainable design approach to, pedestrian-friendly infrastructure and the preservation of any historical or cultural aspects present in the backlands.

Project Actions Carrickmacross Town Centre First Plan

1. Welcome to Carrickmacross

- a. Place Brand Development
- b. Welcome Gateways
- c. Parking and Strategy
- d. Orientation and Wayfinding

a. 'Place Brand Development'

- i. Place Brand Development
- ii. Promote Carrickmacross, including digital platforms

c. 'Parking Strategy'

- i. Implementation of the Carrickmacross Town Car Parking Strategy 2021
- ii. Establish Commuter Car park
- iii. Assess Public Transport Needs
- iv. Provide Enhanced Public Transport Services & Infrastructure

b. 'Welcome Gateways'

- i. Commission Gateway Designs
- ii. Collaboration with Local Businesses

d. 'Orientation & Wayfinding'

- i. Shape Wayfinding Strategy
- ii. Develop digital systems

2. Town Centre Streets

- a. Streetscape and Public Realm
- b. Events and Animation
- c. Town Centre Business Support
- d. Lighting and Frontages

a. 'Streetscape & Public Realm'

- i. Main Street Public Realm (phases)
- ii. Adjoining Streetscapes
- iii. Courthouse Square
- iv. Provide universal access to all public areas and facilities
- v. Dereliction and vacancy programme

c. 'Town Centre Business Support'

- i. Business insights and development
- ii. Support for innovation and digitisation
- iii. New business start-up programmes
- iv. Commerce Catalyst Carrickmacross
- v. Business Incubation space
- vi. Support Marketing Business offering in Town

b. 'Events & Animation'

- i. Event Calendar
- ii. Outdoor events & spaces
- iii. Indoor events & spaces

d. 'Lighting and Frontages'

- i. Frontage and Signage Design Guide
- ii. Heritage Restorations
- iii. Smart Street Lighting Upgrades
- iv. Historic Building Illumination
- v. Public Spaces and Parks Lighting

3. Green & Blue Carrickmacross

- a. Town Centre Parks and Spaces
- b. Greenways and Blueways
- c. Town Centre Energy
- d. Biodiversity Habitats

a. 'Town Centre Parks & Spaces'

- i. Community Greening Strategy
- ii. Gallows Hill Landscape Masterplan
- iii. Community Allotments Enhancement
- iv. Cloughvalley Park Masterplan
- v. Development of High Quality Pool and Leisure Facilities
- vi. Tullynaskeagh Linear park

c. 'Town Centre Energy'

- i. Measure our carbon footprints
- ii. Employ energy saving measures
- iii. Increase urban renewable energy
- iv. Provide more EV charging points
- v. Community based Energy Efficiency Scheme

b. 'Greenways and Blueways'

- i. Greenway Corridor Development
- ii. Multi-Modal Transport Integration
- iii. Blueway Access Points (Rivers and Lakes)
- iv. On Street Cycle Lanes

d. 'Biodiversity Habitats'

- i. Biodiversity Action Plan
- ii. Community Biodiversity Projects
- iii. Development of further Biodiversity Projects as part of Tidy Towns
- iv. Identify Suitable/Appropriate Areas for Biodiversity

4. Town Centre Neighbourhoods

- a. Town Centre - North East
- b. Town Centre - North West
- c. Town Centre - South East
- d. Town Centre - South West
- e. Town Centre - South

a. 'Town Centre - North East'

- i. New Town Centre Streets
- ii. Mixed type and tenure town housing
- iii. Local Area Action Plan

c. 'Town Centre - South East'

- i. St Joseph's
- ii. Cross Lane (O'Duffy's) Car park

e. 'Town Centre - South'

- i. Convent Lands Pathways and Nature Trails
- ii. Complementary Developments

b. 'Town Centre - North West'

- i. The Bridewell Restoration
- ii. Drummond Etra Redevelopment
- iii. Carrickmacross Workhouse Community Hub
- iv. Carrickmacross Courthouse

d. 'Town Centre - South West'

- i. Shirley House Lane Car Park
- ii. River Corridor Restoration
- iii. New Town Housing
- iv. Local Area Action Plan

Plan Carrickmacross Town Centre First Plan

welcome to
Carrickmacross

a) place brand development

project actions

i. Place Brand Development:

Collaborate with local businesses, community groups and Monaghan County Council to secure funding and support for the design and implementation of the place brand.

ii. Promote Carrickmacross, including Digital Platforms:

Launch a comprehensive marketing campaign to promote Carrickmacross as a must-visit destination. Utilise digital platforms, social media and traditional marketing channels to reach a diverse audience.

Carrickmacross, nestled in the south of County Monaghan, boasts a rich tapestry of history, culture and craftsmanship. This project aims to elevate Carrickmacross by harnessing its unique historical assets, for example its renowned lace-making tradition, and positioning it as a gateway to Ulster within the framework of a Town Centre First Plan.

As part of the plan's commitment to enhancing accessibility, there is a challenge posed by the lack of road signs directing visitors to Carrickmacross. To address this, the action plan reviews and adds necessary signage, ensuring a more seamless and welcoming arrival experience for all.

In developing its own unique Place Brand, the opportunity will be afforded to Carrickmacross to encapsulate its identity and communicate that around the town and beyond. Much more than designing a logo, place branding should result in core messages and a coherent visual identity that can be communicated in a consistent manner.

Importantly, the place brand should be developed collaboratively with people from the town, ensuring that it resonates locally.

Once created, the brand can be used in many different ways, including written communications such as brochures and maps, local business promotions, signage and high quality artworks around the town.



Example of Place Branding through Material: Reference to Carrickmacross Lace



Illustrating Place Branding through Graphics



Digital Place Branding: Connecting Communities and Cultivating Identity Digitally



Carrickmacross Festival Showcasing Place Branding through Vibrant Events



Visual Identity: Example of Place Branding through Evocative Artwork and Creative Expression

Welcoming all to the town centre, ensuring the best possible arrival experience.

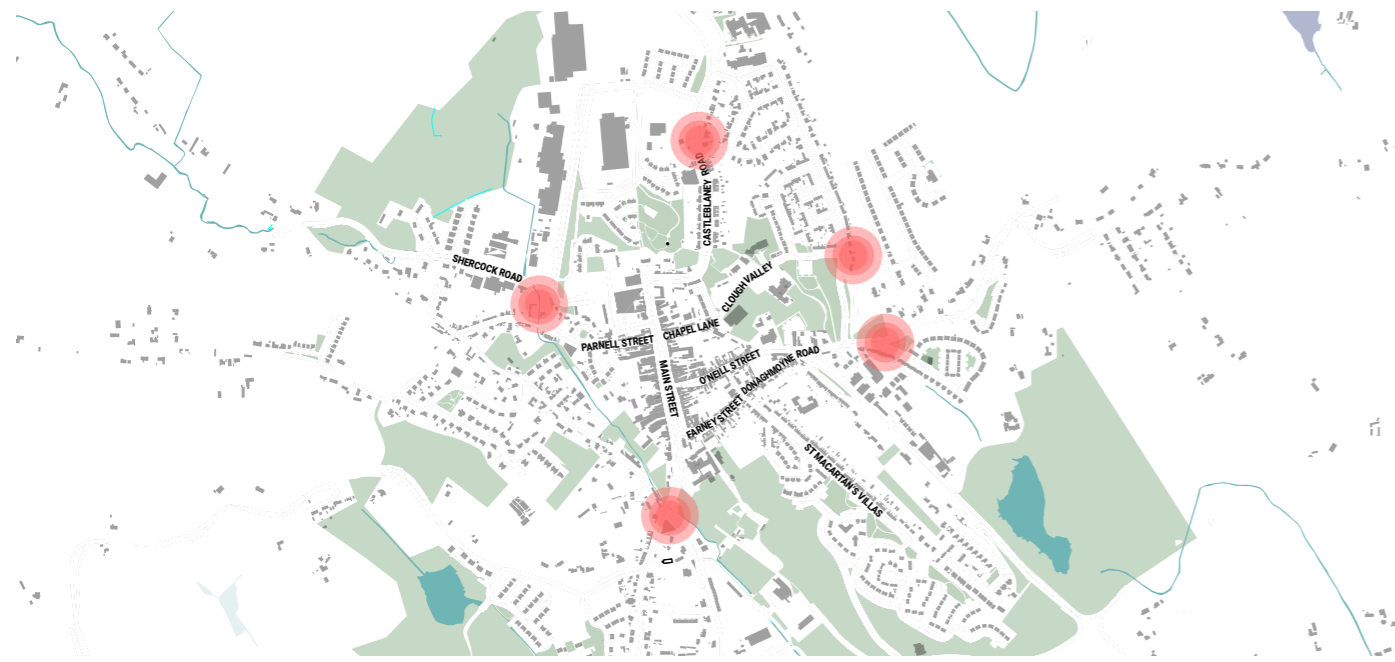
Plan Carrickmacross Town Centre First Plan

welcome to Carrickmacross

b) welcome gateways

The town of Carrickmacross is rich in culture and history and is just waiting to be discovered. However, consideration is required as to how the town centre is defined and welcomes the visitor. Welcome Gateways give importance to guiding and extending a warm welcome to both newcomers and the residents.

With great care and attention to detail, these gateways aim to be more than just landmarks; they are the town's welcoming guests, inviting everyone to experience Carrickmacross via the prism of clever and distinctive design. These gateways serve as the first chapters of a town where each stone tells a tale, enticing everyone to immerse themselves in the rich narrative that is Carrickmacross.



Welcoming all to the town centre, ensuring the best possible arrival experience.

project actions

i. Commission Gateway Designs:

Enhancing the Entrances to Carrickmacross for a More Welcoming and Distinctive Townscape. Collaborate with local artists, historians and community members to incorporate cultural elements, such as lace patterns and historical motifs, into the gateway design.

ii. Collaboration with Local Businesses:

Establish partnerships with nearby businesses to support and contribute in the Welcome Gateways' implementation. Encourage partnerships to incorporate commercial elements into the gateway areas, such as local artisan markets, to boost the local economy.

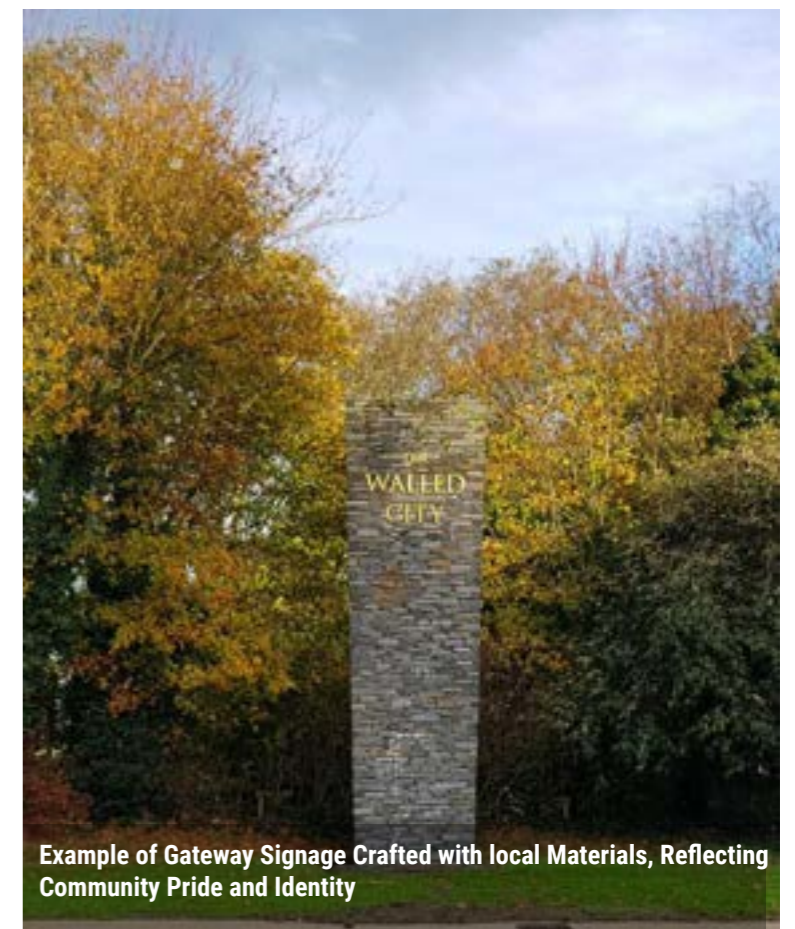
It is very important to recognise that Welcome Gateways must be much more than simple signs. Locations should be selected carefully to enable sculptural features and landscape to announce arrival into the town.

The design of the gateways must take its cue from the Branding Strategy. They present an opportunity to create something unique to Carrickmacross, reflective of its heritage and identity.

Design and construction quality will be a key consideration, ensuring these interventions look fantastic and stand the test of time. Furthermore, care is required to ensure that the landscape setting is of equal quality, be it an area of green space or a more urban, paved location.



Exploring Innovative Designs for Welcome Signage



Example of Gateway Signage Crafted with local Materials, Reflecting Community Pride and Identity

Plan Carrickmacross Town Centre First Plan

welcome to Carrickmacross

c) parking strategy & public transport

Carrickmacross' vibrant centre attracts both locals and visitors alike with its unique identity and retail offer. Ensuring accessibility for people will be a key requirement for its future. However, great care is required to balance modes of transport to avoid congestion and to ensure the pedestrian experience in the centre is as safe, unpolluted and as positive as possible for everyone.

The 2021 Car Parking Strategy provides a series of measures through which parking can be managed in a way that sustains access but tackles congestion. Furthermore, bus services to and from Carrickmacross are vitally important as an alternative to car travel and must therefore be maintained and enhanced as much as possible.

Carrickmacross has several off-street car parks, although these are generally underused in comparison to on-street car parking. Via the strategy, considerable scope is offered to improve off street car parking to increase its attractiveness and use, thereby managing on-street parking more effectively to ensure spaces are available for those who most need them.

Encouraging people to park 'in the right places' is a key task. For example, a designated commuter park and ride facility near the N2 would help alleviate pressure on the town centre.

project actions

i. Implementation of the Carrickmacross Town Car Parking Strategy 2021:

Deliver on recommendations of the car parking strategy, ensuring proposals are based on up-to-date information.

ii. Establish Commuter Car Park:

In alignment with the Town Centre First Plan, a pivotal component of the Carrickmacross Monaghan place branding initiative is the establishment of a dedicated Commuter Car Park

iii. Assess Public Transport Needs:

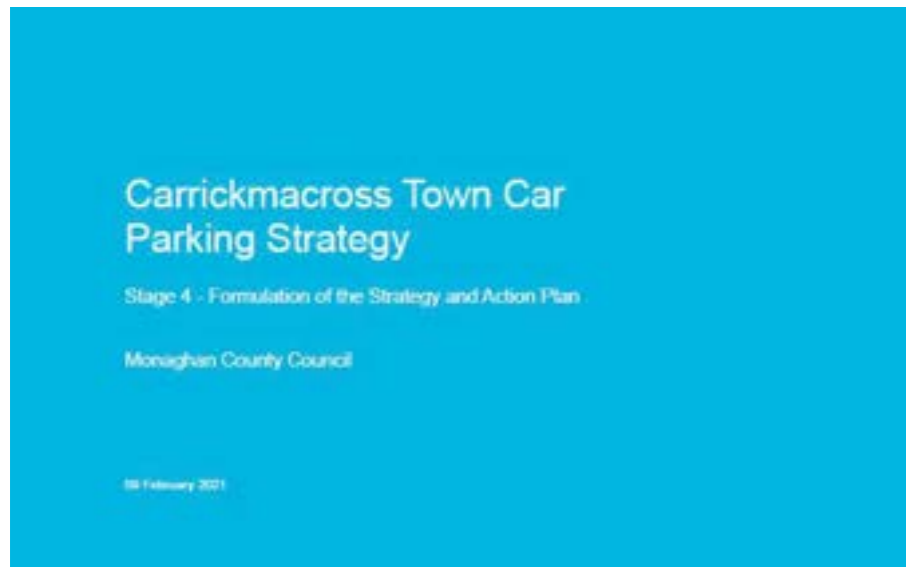
Public transport will play an increasingly important role in Carrickmacross. A detailed survey is required to assess current usage and potential demand.

iv: Provide Enhanced Public Transport Services & Infrastructure:

In response to the Needs Assessment, public transport investment should be forthcoming, including the potential expansion of the Town Link service to include other routes.



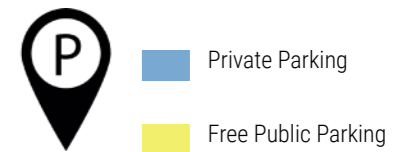
Carrickmacross Local Link



Welcoming all to the town centre, ensuring the best possible arrival experience.



Carrickmacross Main Street



Plan Carrickmacross Town Centre First Plan

welcome to Carrickmacross

d) orientation and wayfinding

project actions

With Carrickmacross filled with activity, the need for a comprehensive and easily navigable wayfinding system is becoming increasingly important. It should be easy to navigate the town centre by foot and encourage visitors to immerse themselves in the rich cultural and historical fabric that characterises the community.

It's time to introduce a wayfinding solution that not only guides but also immerses, capturing the essence of Carrickmacross, with its frequently bustling streets and stories hidden around every corner. In doing so, visitors should be enticed to spend longer in the town through exploration, while everyone benefits from an improved pedestrian experience.

A Wayfinding Strategy for Carrickmacross will consist of signage, artworks and mapping targeted at pedestrians in the town. It should be a clear and coherent system that gives confidence to the visitor to explore. Easy to read maps should also be provided at key arrival points, such as car parks.

Signage must be designed to a high quality in a style that is attractive and complements the town's identity and character. However, clutter, be it physical or visual, must be avoided at all costs. Therefore, existing signage should be audited first so that superfluous signs are removed. Signage systems should also be designed to reduce the number of poles required.

To complement a physical wayfinding system in Carrickmacross, digital technologies should be embraced to provide online tools as well. For example, QR codes may be positioned on signs to provide the visitor with more information, be it the history of the town or where to find a coffee.

Finally, such wayfinding systems can be used imaginatively to support physical activity and exercise. By providing information on walking times and distances, people are encouraged to consider walking more, while also using the signage systems to understand how far they have walked or run.



Wayfinding signage guides individuals through the town, facilitating navigation and encouraging active exploration.

i. Shape Wayfinding Strategy:

Develop a cohesive and visually appealing wayfinding system for Carrickmacross that encourages exploration of the town and everyday journeys by foot and cycle. Through signage and mapping, the design should not only guide people effectively but also contribute positively to the visual identity of Carrickmacross.

Ensure the wayfinding system accommodates various modes of transportation, including pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers. Implement clear signage for parking facilities, pedestrian walkway and bicycle routes.

ii. Develop Digital Systems:

Explore the integration of technology, such as interactive digital maps, QR codes, or mobile applications to enhance the wayfinding experience. Ensure that the technology is user-friendly and accessible to a broad audience.



Welcoming all to the town centre, ensuring the best possible arrival experience.



Orientation signage aids in familiarising individuals with the town, promoting active travel and discovery.



Plan Carrickmacross Town Centre First Plan

Town Centre Streets

a) streetscape and public realm

Carrickmacross has an attractive collection of historic streets and arguably in Main Street, one of Ireland's finest. The town's streets are one of its greatest assets and must therefore look and function as well as possible.

As set out in the 2019 Public Realm and Economic Plan, great potential exists to invest in the streetscapes and public realm of Carrickmacross, elevating them to a 'must see' status. This will ensure the town is a wonderful place to visit on foot, while supporting existing businesses and attracting new investment into its centre.



Public Realm at Shirley Arms Hotel, Carrickmacross



Transforming our unique streets as places for people, supporting community, business and tourism.

Just like buildings, good quality public realm should stand the test of time and look good throughout the week and year. This means investing in their quality through design, materials and craftsmanship.

Carrickmacross should have its streets paved in natural stone, complemented by a high quality street furniture, street trees and lighting.

Good public realm design involves a process to achieve an appropriate balance between all users, ensuring the needs of pedestrians, cyclists and public transport are fully met, as well as those of the car.

Redesigning the street of Carrickmacross presents an opportunity to improve safety, especially for children, older people and those with disabilities. It should also create a safe and welcoming environment for all to enjoy at different times of the day and evening.



High quality designed public realm fosters a welcoming and engaging environment for residents and visitors



Enhanced streetscape and public realm design leverage street space for community events and gatherings, fostering vibrant and dynamic public spaces.

project actions

i. Main Street Public Realm (Phases):

Advance comprehensive streetscape proposals for Main Street, to be delivered in Phases. The phased delivery underscores a thoughtful, step-by-step implementation, allowing for focused attention to various aspects of the streetscape. This comprehensive approach aims to create an inviting and pedestrian-friendly atmosphere, fostering community engagement, supporting local businesses, and preserving the historical character.

ii. Adjoining Streetscapes:

Progress streetscape proposals for Chapel Lane, Parnell Street, O'Neill Street and Farney Street. This initiative involves progressing detailed plans for each street, delving into aspects such as landscaping, lighting, pedestrian infrastructure, and architectural features.

iii. Courthouse Square:

The Courthouse Square project entails the development and revitalisation of the square surrounding the courthouse, with the goal of creating a vibrant public space that fosters community engagement, cultural events and serves as a focal point for the town centre.

iv. Provide Universal Access to all Public Areas and Facilities:

Promoting Inclusivity and Equality in Community Spaces

v. Dereliction and vacancy programme:

Implement programme to address dereliction and vacancy

Plan Carrickmacross Town Centre First Plan

Town Centre Streets

a) streetscape and public realm

Quality must be a watchword for all public realm interventions in Carrickmacross. Projects should only advance when adequate funding is in place to use good quality materials, expertly designed and constructed. This will include natural stone paving, chosen for its aesthetic, appropriate colouring and sustainable sourcing. Street furniture must also be of quality, with consideration given to bespoke designs.

It is not proposed to pedestrianise Carrickmacross. However, there is a need to re-examine the balance between people and vehicles, supported by the Parking Strategy. The illustrations on the opposite page are examples of different configurations on Main Street, from full vehicular access and parking to closure of the street for special events and occasions.

Like all proposals in this plan, once funding is secured, public realm projects such as that for Main Street will undergo a detailed process of design. In doing so, transport planners will work with Monaghan County Council to survey existing traffic patterns and to model new ones. An in-depth process of engagement with local residents and business owners will also inform the design.



Exemplars of public realm featuring thoughtfully landscaped green spaces, inviting street furniture, and pedestrian-friendly pathways.

Main Street Public Realm: Current Conditions



Main Street Public Realm: Transforming Market Square for Pedestrians and Reduced Vehicle Traffic



Main Street Public Realm: Shared Surface for Events and Pedestrian Priority



Town Centre Streets

b) events and animation

Fostering a vibrant, inclusive and thriving community hub, the Events and Animation Project needs to be developed to infuse the heart of Carrickmacross with a dynamic calendar of events and animations. This plan prioritises community engagement, cultural enrichment, and economic vitality, ensuring that the town centre becomes a focal point for residents and a magnet for visitors seeking unique experiences.



Animating the Streets: Breathing Life into Urban Spaces



Town centre regeneration is unfortunately not as simple as “build and they will come”. Work is constantly required to ensure that the centre and its streets are well looked after and proactively managed to keep them safe and lively.

The animation of the town centre should be a constant focus, helping to sustain footfall of value to local businesses, while keeping Carrickmacross safe and lively.

A traditional source of activity in Carrickmacross has long been the weekly market. Efforts are required to help sustain and improve the market so that it contributes more to the life of the town. This could include the provision of market stalls to help make it more attractive and present new opportunities for stall holders selling high quality products.

Animating public spaces should be pursued through informal and formal means. This could include opportunities for busking and small scale entertainment, through to larger shows and events.

The annual Carrickmacross Festival in June should form the highlight of an events calendar to be populated throughout the year. Street animation would also be improved with more opportunities for outdoor tables and chairs, possibly requiring a review of local by-laws.

Indoor spaces are another important aspect of town centre animation. Carrickmacross has a number of halls, often associated with churches in the town. Many of these require some investment to ensure that they are fit for purpose and meet modern requirements. Existing spaces should complement one another in terms of their suitability for events, while consideration should be given to the creation of new spaces for community and cultural use.



Carrickmacross Festival



Creating Vibrant Social Spaces on the Streets

project actions

i. Event Calendar:

Convene an Events Planning Committee representing various community sectors. Develop a centralised events calendar accessible through town websites and Carrickmacross’ social medias. Collaborate with local schools and cultural organisations to align events with educational and cultural initiatives.

ii. Outdoor events & spaces:

The project action involves the creation and activation of outdoor events and spaces, fostering a vibrant community atmosphere and providing opportunities for social engagement and recreational activities.

iii. Indoor events & spaces:

The project action focuses on the development and utilisation of indoor events and spaces, aiming to provide diverse and inclusive venues for community gatherings, cultural activities and various events that enhance the town’s social fabric.



Designing Dynamic Environments for Art and Entertainment

Transforming our unique streets as places for people, supporting community, business and tourism.

Town Centre Streets

c) town centre business support

Thriving businesses in Carrickmacross are crucial for the vitality of the town centre. With an ever challenging economy, various supports are required to help our existing local businesses develop and innovate, while also welcoming new economic activity into the town centre.



Nurturing Local Enterprises and Economic Growth

Transforming our unique streets as places for people, supporting community, business and tourism.

While investment in the town's fabric is necessary, this should be complemented by practical support and advice for the local businesses who contribute so much to the town's economy and vibrancy.

Assistance may take a number of forms based on existing programmes and the identification of gaps that require additional support.

Ensuring that local businesses are helped to modernise is one such area. This may involve access to training opportunities for staff, as well assistance with innovation such as digitisation as per the County Digital Strategy.

Furthermore, Carrickmacross will welcome new businesses to the town, adopting a positive and proactive stance to attracting investment, while supporting entrepreneurs and start-ups to take space in the town.



Carrickmacross Retail



Carrickmacross Retail

project actions

i. Business insights and development:

Carrickmacross businesses must be able to avail of information and training opportunities that help inform decision making and improve their effectiveness and efficiencies.

ii. Support for innovation and digitisation:

The project aims to provide support for the integration of innovative practices and digital technologies, fostering progress and adaptability within the community.

iii. New business start-up programmes:

The initiative involves the establishment and execution of programs dedicated to supporting and nurturing the growth of new businesses, encouraging entrepreneurship and economic development in the area.

iv. Commerce Catalyst Carrickmacross:

A Commerce Catalyst Carrickmacross project should be developed as a strategic initiative designed to stimulate and enhance commercial activities in Carrickmacross. It aims to ignite growth, encourage innovation and contribute to the economic vitality of the local businesses.

v. Business Incubation space:

A space specifically designed to support the development and growth of startup businesses and entrepreneurs.

vi. Support Marketing Business Offering in Town:

Initiatives aimed at bolstering the marketing capabilities and visibility of businesses operating within the town.



Town Centre Streets

d) lighting and frontages

A goal of the Carrickmacross Town Centre First Plan is to revitalise Carrickmacross town centre frontages. This multifaceted plan seeks not only to enhance the aesthetics of shop fronts but also to elevate the functionality and appeal of signage, creating a cohesive and inviting atmosphere for residents and visitors alike.

As Carrickmacross embraces the hours after sunset, a thoughtful lighting strategy unfolds to cast both safety and admiration upon the town centre.

This plan aims to illuminate the pathways for secure navigation while delicately spotlighting the timeless beauty of the historical buildings such as the Courthouse and Saint

Finbarr's Church that book-end the main street. Carrickmacross, steeped in history, welcomes light that not only ensures safe travels but also pays homage to the architectural heritage that defines the community.

This plan envisions a town where every corner is bathed in a warm and inviting light, inviting residents and visitors to explore the streets with confidence.

project actions

i. Frontage and Signage Design Guide:

Comprehensive signage design guidelines will be developed in collaboration with local businesses and design professionals. The guidelines aim to reflect the unique character and history of Carrickmacross.

ii. Heritage Restoration:

Restoration of town centre frontages on a site-by-site basis with an emphasis on vacant / derelict properties, ensuring appropriate heritage conservation protocols

iii. Smart Street Lighting Upgrades:

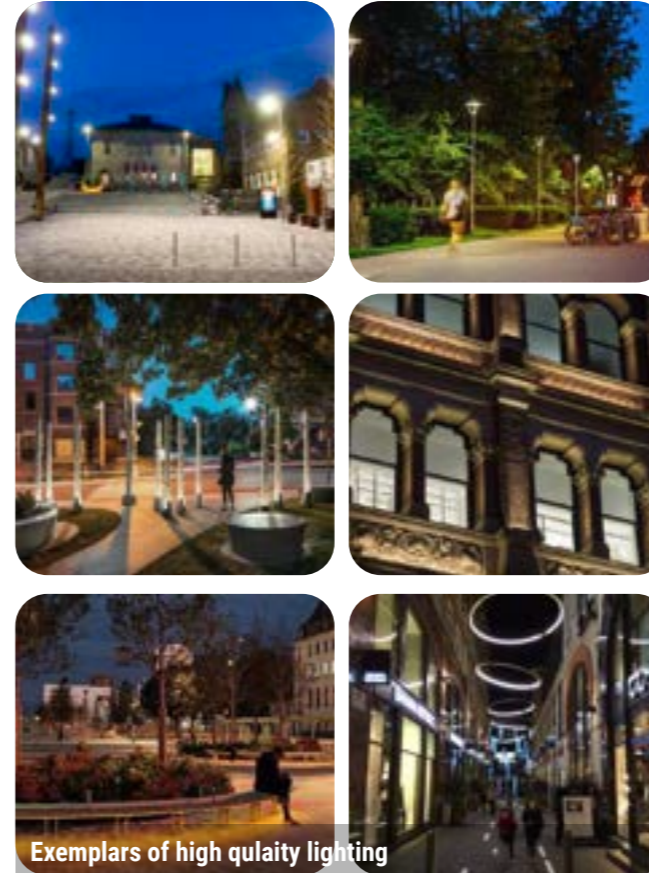
Upgrade street lighting to enhance safety and create a welcoming atmosphere. Consider smart energy-efficient and aesthetically pleasing lighting fixtures that compliment the town's character.

iv. Historic Building Illumination:

A strategic plan for nighttime illumination of historic buildings will be developed to enhance architectural features and also create a sense of safety.

v. Public Spaces and Parks Lighting:

Upgrade and develop street lighting to enhance safety and create a welcoming atmosphere. Consider smart energy-efficient and aesthetically pleasing lighting fixtures that compliment the town's character.



Exemplars of high quality lighting



Potential for Improving Street Fronts



Illumination of Historic Buildings



Enhancing the Nighttime Appeal of Carrickmacross

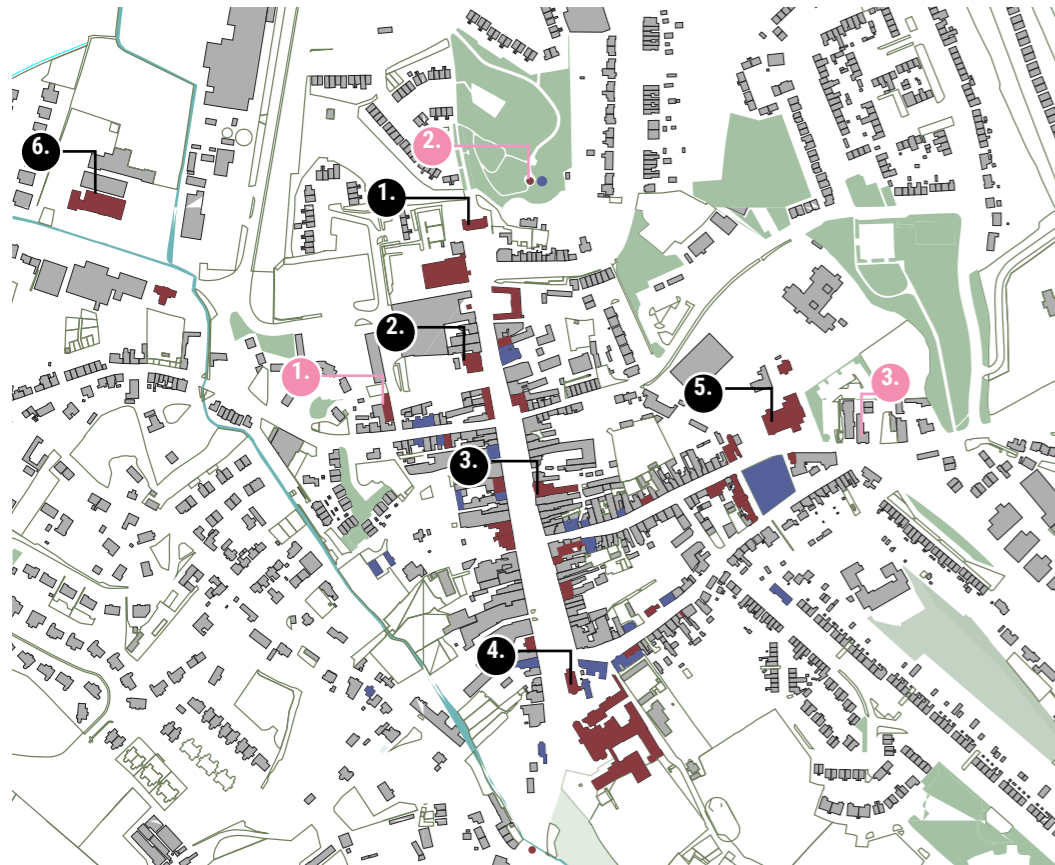


Enhancing Frontages for a Welcoming Atmosphere

Transforming our **unique streets** as places for **people, supporting community, business and tourism.**

Town Centre Streets

d) lighting and frontages



Historic Environment
Protected Structures

Lighting



Frontages/Restoration



Transforming our unique streets as places for people, supporting community, business and tourism.

Town Centre
Streets

d) lighting and
frontages



“ Transforming our unique streets as places for people, supporting community, business and tourism.

Green and Blue Carrickmacross

a) town centre parks and spaces

This project envisions a comprehensive transformation of existing parks and communal spaces, breathing new life into these cherished areas. Through strategic enhancements, landscaping and thoughtful design, we aim to create inviting and dynamic environments that cater to the diverse needs of our community and nature.



Map showing approx. walking distances between green spaces in Carrickmacross

A notable feature of Carrickmacross is the amount of green space in proximity to its historic centre. This includes formal parks, but also green open spaces currently play little direct function in the life of the town centre.

Parks and other green spaces have a vital role to play in Carrickmacross, providing for both people and nature in the heart of the town. A significant opportunity therefore exists to review and enhance the town's spaces so that they play a greater role providing for the local community and visitors, while also being improved for wildlife.

Play facilities for different ages, seating areas, community planting beds, orchards, events spaces, wildlife gardens - a wide range of possibilities exist for parks in Carrickmacross, complimenting the work of the Tidy Town's Committee, Monaghan County Council and others.



Carrickmacross Civic Centre Walkway

As well as existing parks, an opportunity exists to create a new park in Carrickmacross on Council lands in the vicinity of the Civic Centre and Library. This should seek to provide a new kind of space that complements other parks in the town, potentially suited to outdoor events and activities.

Collaboration with nearby schools, interest groups and other organisations would help to ensure a new park in this area is a positive addition to the town. Furthermore, local involvement in the care and upkeep of green spaces should be encouraged and facilitated as much as possible.



Exemplary Town Center Parks & Spaces: Inviting Green Spaces Enriching Urban Life

project actions

i. Community Greening Strategy:

This is focused on integrating sustainable and environmentally friendly practices, such as increasing green spaces and promoting biodiversity, to enhance the overall well-being and resilience of a community. A process for a town centre greening strategy and coordination represents a collaborative and participatory approach in shaping the urban landscape of Carrickmacross.

ii. Gallows Hill Landscape Masterplan:

By providing a detailed roadmap for Gallows Hill, this masterplan ensures a harmonious and purposeful development that aligns with both community needs and the town's broader vision.

iii. Community Allotments Enhancement:

This project focuses on revitalising and optimising community allotment spaces in Carrickmacross.

iv. Cloughvalley Park Masterplan:

The masterplan serves as a guide for phased development, ensuring that the park becomes a valuable asset for the community, promoting outdoor activities, and preserving the natural beauty of the Cloughvalley area.

v. Development of High Quality Pool and Leisure Facilities:

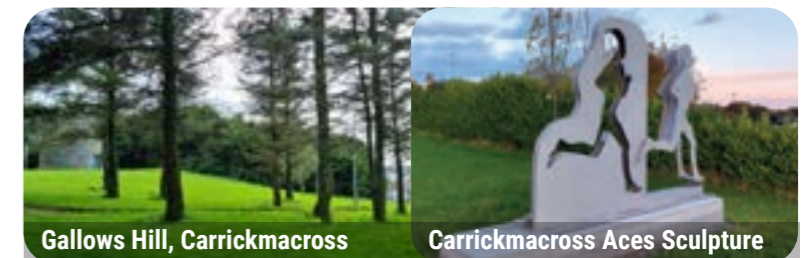
The project encompasses the development and enhancement of leisure facilities, creating spaces and amenities that cater to recreational activities and promote a healthy lifestyle within Carrickmacross. This project typically encompasses the construction of a swimming pool, fitness centres, sports courts, and other leisure facilities.

vii. Tullynaskeagh Linear park:

Upgrading and further development

viii. Identification and development of Aire de Service site for Campervan and Motorhomes:

Enhancing Travel Infrastructure and accommodation options.



Gallows Hill, Carrickmacross

Carrickmacross Aces Sculpture

Revitalising Parks and Lakes, and Proposing New Urban Green Spaces



Enhancing our green and blue spaces for people and nature, establishing a network of foot and cycle connections.

Town Centre Parks and Spaces

An issue raised by many young people completing consultation surveys for this plan was a **lack of activities** and 'things to do' in the town. While this is not an issue unique to Carrickmacross, it should be welcomed as an opportunity to revitalise the provision of **sports and leisure pursuits** across the town and its centre.

Carrickmacross has several active and thriving sporting organisations, each with significant membership and ever improving facilities. By working together, these clubs can help to **maximise the use of existing assets**, including opening access to non-members as may be appropriate. Potential exists to further develop the cluster of sports facilities in the south west of the town, including linkage to nearby Lough Na Glack.

Furthermore, opportunities to introduce and develop **new activities** should be sought across Carrickmacross, including urban sports and basketball.

Another important asset in the town is the Phoenix Centre. This leisure facility is a popular venue for a range of activities and classes. Importantly it is located in the heart of the town centre, therefore helps to sustain activity, especially in the evenings and weekends. **Modernisation of the centre** would be a welcome boost for the town, as would complimenting its offer through new facilities.

In this context and over time, consideration should be given to a **swimming pool** as a long cited gap in current leisure provision in Carrickmacross. Such a facility should be located centrally to encourage travel there by foot and bicycle.



Embracing Active Living in Carrickmacross

Green and Blue Carrickmacross

b) greenways and blue ways

The proposed Greenways and Blueways project will seamlessly integrate nature into the urban fabric, this initiative aims to provide not only recreational opportunities but also a renewed connection to the natural wonders surrounding Carrickmacross promoting active travel and well-being.

- KEY
- Greenways
 - Cycle ways



Getting around Carrickmacross should, as much as possible, be on foot or bicycle. This will require an investment in good quality, safe infrastructure of green ways, blue ways and cycle lanes. Very importantly, these must be connected together to form a cohesive network, as opposed to isolated stretches.

Developing the towns green and blue way network will take time and require to be delivered in phases. Some routes, such as Convent Avenue in the south of the town, provide an excellent resource with scope for some enhancements. Yet others areas will require more considerable intervention, including the potential for land acquisition.

Green spaces within the town should also be linked together as much as possible, enabling safe passage between them for walkers, runners and cyclists of every age. This approach aligns with the Active Travel Programme, encouraging sustainable modes of transportation and fostering a healthier, more connected community.



Enhancing Connectivity and Outdoor Recreation



Providing Green Connections



Embracing Waterways: Creating Connections to Carrickmacross Rivers and Lakes

project actions

- Greenway Corridor Development:**
Establish greenway corridors connecting new and existing parks. Develop pedestrian and cycling pathways that link different green spaces, promoting connectivity and creating a network for outdoor activities.
- Multi-Modal Transportation Integration:**
Integrate greenways and blue ways with existing and planned transportation infrastructure. Promote seamless connectivity with public transit, bike-sharing programs, and other modes of transportation to enhance accessibility.
- Blueway Access Points (Rivers and Lakes):**
Establish designated public access points to the river and lakes, ensuring that residents and visitors can enjoy the natural beauty of these areas. Provide amenities such as picnic areas, walking trails and seating for recreational use.
- On Street Cycle Lanes:**
The creation of safe and connected cycling environment in Carrickmacross through the implementation of on-street cycle lanes, promoting a sustainable and active mode of transportation within the community



Green and Blue Carrickmacross

c) town centre energy

project actions

As the climate and nature crisis affects us all, towns in Ireland must seek to reduce their dependency on fossil fuels and emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. Carrickmacross must therefore embrace energy efficiency measures and sources of sustainable energy wherever possible in the town centre.



Collaborating for Renewable Energy

Decarbonising the town will take time and be largely reliant on national policies and the roll out of technologies. However, there are several interventions that can be considered for Carrickmacross in the short to medium term.

First and foremost, the town's carbon footprint requires better understanding so that informed decisions can be made. Secondly, energy saving measures should be introduced where possible, including improved building insulation and modified lighting. And finally, sources of renewable energy should be made available in the town, including solar, wind, ground and air source heat.

Another requirement in the town will be greater provision of electric vehicle charging points, especially within off-street car parks and near public buildings.



Implementing Green Energy Solutions: Advancing Sustainability in the Town



Carrickmacross Civic Centre EV Charging Point

i. Measure our Carbon Footprint:

Measuring the carbon footprint is a key step in understanding and addressing Carrickmacross' environmental impact, laying the groundwork for sustainable initiatives.

ii. Employ Energy Saving Measures:

Implementing energy-saving measures in the town centre is a proactive approach to reducing energy consumption, contributing to both environmental sustainability and cost-effectiveness.

iii. Increase Urban Renewable Energy:

Increasing urban renewable energy sources demonstrates a commitment to a cleaner and more sustainable future for Carrickmacross, fostering resilience and self-sufficiency.

iv. Provide more EV Charging Points:

The addition of more EV charging points aligns with Carrickmacross' commitment to eco-friendly transportation, promoting the use of electric vehicles and contributing to a greener and more sustainable town centre.

v. Community Based Energy Efficiency Scheme:

A project aimed at implementing sustainable energy solutions within a community, with a focus on promoting energy efficiency and conservation practices.



Green and Blue Carrickmacross

d) biodiversity and habitats

The project aims for diverse and flourishing habitats take centre stage, carefully crafted to support local flora and fauna, fostering a sustainable and harmonious ecosystem. From community gardens to pollinator-friendly spaces and dedicated wildlife zones, the project is rooted in the principles of biodiversity conservation.



Engaging Workshops and Events: Fostering Awareness and Action for Biodiversity Conservation

By preserving and enhancing these habitats, Carrickmacross not only celebrates its natural beauty but also establishes environments that actively support a wide range of plant and animal life.

Biodiversity projects should always be based on a solid understanding of the town's ecosystems and the key species for which habitats should be created. A Biodiversity Action Plan prepared for the Carrickmacross Tidy Towns provides an excellent basis for this work.

All those responsible for the care of green and blue spaces, including the Council and local schools, should be encouraged and assisted to adopt ecological management practices.

Furthermore, everyone in the town should have the opportunity to play their part in understanding biodiversity and helping enhance the quality of habitats.



Engaging Workshops and Events with local schools



Designing Town Centre Spaces for People and Nature

project actions

i. Biodiversity Action Plan:

Implement Carrickmacross Biodiversity Action Plan through community initiatives, support by professional ecologists.

ii. Community Biodiversity Projects:

Increase local awareness and engagement through signage and workshops.

iii. Development of further Biodiversity Projects as part of Tidy Towns:

In pursuit of environmental conservation, the town initiates additional biodiversity projects as an integral component of its Tidy Towns program.

iv. Determining Appropriate Locations for Biodiversity Initiatives:

Assessing Suitable Areas for Conservation and Habitat Enhancement



Carrickmacross Tidy Town's Flower Display

Enhancing our green and blue spaces for people and nature, establishing a network of foot and cycle connections.

Town centre neighbourhoods

introduction

For the future of Carrickmacross, the development of town centre neighbourhoods is poised to usher in a new era of urban vitality and community living.

Focused on the reimagining of backlands, this initiative envisions a harmonious blend of mixed-use spaces, town housing and diverse tenures, guided by meticulous design principles.

As Carrickmacross takes deliberate strides towards a more sustainable and integrated future, the development of these town centre neighbourhoods stands as a testament to the town's commitment to creating vibrant, accessible and inclusive spaces that resonate with both historical charm and contemporary needs.

Enhancing commercial activity within Carrickmacross town centre neighbourhoods is a pivotal focus to create a dynamic and economically vibrant urban core. The strategic development of mixed-use spaces, housing and diverse tenures aims to attract a variety of businesses and services, fostering a flourishing commercial environment.

In the pursuit of a more sustainable and livable urban environment in Carrickmacross, the development of town centre neighbourhoods places an emphasis on optimising density. This approach is coupled with a prioritisation of walking and cycling, fostering a pedestrian-friendly atmosphere that aligns with modern urban practices. The integration of new connections and thoughtfully designed streets aims to enhance the overall connectivity of the community, creating a cohesive and accessible network that encourages active modes of transportation.

This multifaceted strategy underscores Carrickmacross' commitment to smart urban planning, promoting not only the efficient use of space but also the well-being and connectivity of its residents.



Town centre neighbourhoods

design principles

1. Retaining heritage assets

Preserving Carrickmacross heritage assets is a vital commitment to safeguarding the town's rich history. From historic buildings to cultural landmarks, these assets serve as living connections to the community's identity. By ensuring their meticulous preservation, Carrickmacross not only conserves physical structures but also fosters a sense of continuity and pride.



2. Connecting via new streets and spaces

Carrickmacross envisions new streets and spaces as essential connectors in the town's urban fabric, blending heritage and contemporary architecture. These modern conduits foster accessibility, togetherness and serve as vibrant meeting points for community interaction in a manner befitting of the historic town centre.



3. Prioritising walking and cycling

Emphasising a commitment to sustainable and healthy mobility, Carrickmacross prioritises walking and cycling as primary modes of transportation.



4. Achieving density through town housing and apartments

This approach aims to optimise land use, foster a sense of community and contribute to a more sustainable urban environment.



5. Providing mixed type and tenure

Ensuring diversity and inclusivity, Carrickmacross is committed to providing mixed types and tenures in its housing developments. This approach seeks to offer a range of housing options, accommodating various lifestyles, preferences and income levels within the community.



Town centre neighbourhoods

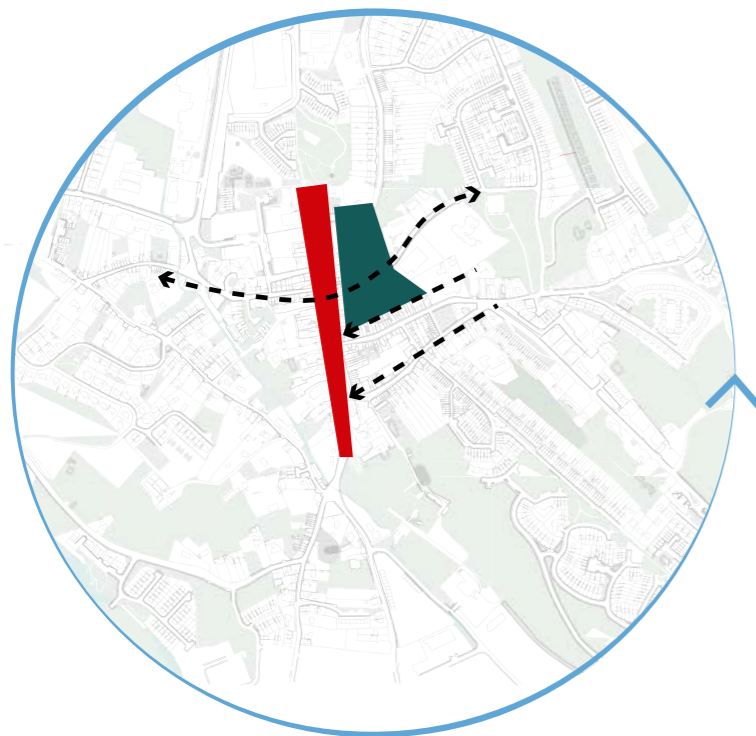
a) town centre, northeast

In the northeast neighbourhood of Carrickmacross, a Local Area Action Plan is underway, focusing on the detailed planning and development of the town centre and adjacent areas.

This initiative involves the completion of a comprehensive area masterplan, meticulously outlining a network of streets and public spaces while identifying specific development opportunities for further progress.

In backland areas such as here, new street connections may be required to open up land that is otherwise landlocked from development. Importantly, given this town centre location, such routes must be designed as streets with buildings fronting onto them, as opposed to access roads or buildings set within car parks.

Another important dynamic for the north east of the town centre will be the introduction of new housing. This must be of suitable density for its urban location and provide high quality living accommodation that attracts people to live in the centre. Where possible, mixed tenure development should be brought forward, whereby public and private housing co-exists, moving away from the concept of housing estates.



Developing underused spaces into thriving places to live, embracing heritage and high quality design.



Mixed-Type and Tenure Housing Typologies



Diverse and Inclusive Residential Developments



Pedestrian-focused Street Designs



project actions

i. New Town Centre Streets:

Transforming the town centre with innovative and pedestrian-focused street designs, creating a dynamic and welcoming atmosphere in Carrickmacross.

ii. Mixed Type and Tenure Housing:

Introducing diverse and inclusive housing options, accommodating various types and tenures to cater to the diverse needs of the community in Carrickmacross.

iii. Local Area Action Plan:

Executing Strategic Initiatives for Community Development and Enhancement

Town centre neighbourhoods

b) town centre, northwest

In the northwest sector of Carrickmacross, a plan is currently in progress, focusing on the detailed planning and development of the town centre and adjacent areas. However, it is crucial that this plan takes into account specific elements for a comprehensive approach. The ongoing

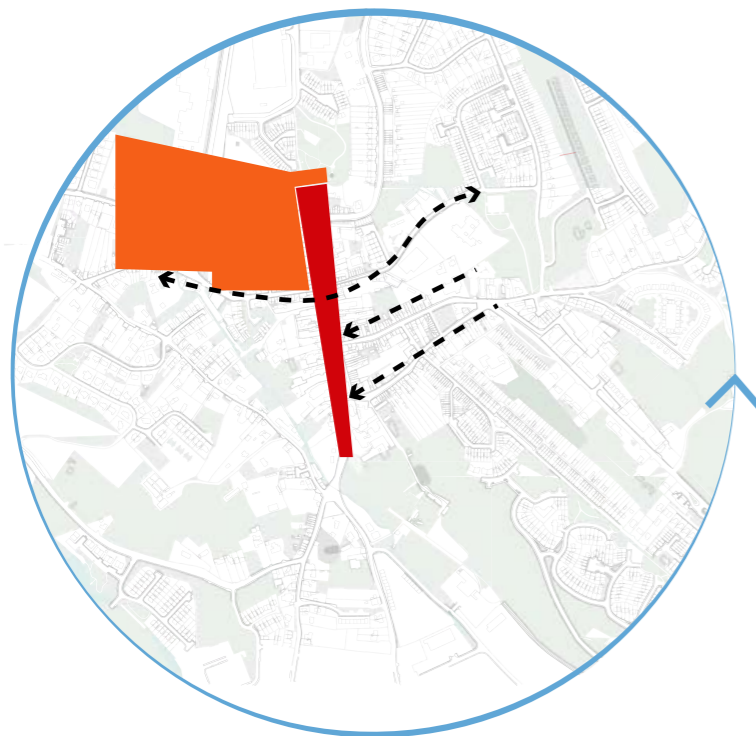
initiative involves the completion of a comprehensive area masterplan, intricately outlining a network of streets and public spaces while identifying specific areas for further development.

The northwest sector of the town centre is notable for a number of important heritage buildings and development opportunities.

This includes The Bridewell, which has remained vacant for many years. This important heritage building should be saved, restored and brought back into use, ideally providing publicly accessible facilities on the ground floor.

Next door are the former offices of the ESB and a large surface car park at Drummond Etra. These areas hold significant potential for development with town centre housing likely to provide the core component.

Carrickmacross Workhouse is another fantastic heritage asset in the town. This has been the subject of excellent conservation efforts to date, with more works planned to transform the building into a community hub.



Developing underused spaces into thriving places to live, embracing heritage and high quality design.



Exemplar: New Town Centre Housing



Town Housing: A Model for Integrated Community Developments

project actions

i The Bridewell Restoration:

Undertaking the refurbishment of The Bridewell to preserve its heritage, breathing new life into the building for a variety of public uses that enrich the cultural fabric of Carrickmacross.

ii. Drummond Etra Redevelopment:

Advancing the development of town housing and open space enhancements at Drummond Etra and the former ESB Site, contributing to a more dynamic and residentially vibrant Carrickmacross.

iii. Carrickmacross Workhouse Community Hub:

Further developing the Carrickmacross Workhouse as a thriving community hub, fostering collaboration and providing a space for diverse community activities and initiatives.

iv. Carrickmacross Courthouse:

The future of the Courthouse is under consideration. Potential exists there for a versatile and community-centric space, meeting point and potentially hosting a range of events and activities.



Town centre
neighbourhoods

b) town centre,
northwest



“ Developing underused spaces into thriving places to live, embracing heritage and high quality design.”

Town centre neighbourhoods

c) town centre, southeast

The southeast sector has its own distinctive character owing to its busy streets, the magnificent St Joseph's Church and other interesting heritage buildings.

Efforts in this area therefore require to be led by heritage considerations, helping the character of such buildings to be conserved and enhanced, as well as the setting of them.

The southeast sector has its own distinctive character owing to its busy streets, the magnificent St Joseph's Church and other interesting heritage buildings. Efforts in this area therefore require to be led by heritage considerations, helping the character of such buildings to be conserved and enhanced, as well as the setting of them.

Chapel Lane is characterised by a mixture of vacant lots and properties awaiting redevelopment. These empty spaces represent untapped potential within Carrickmacross, offering opportunities for revitalisation and new developments. The presence of vacant properties on Chapel Lane underscores the need for strategic planning and community engagement to transform these areas into vibrant and productive assets for the town.



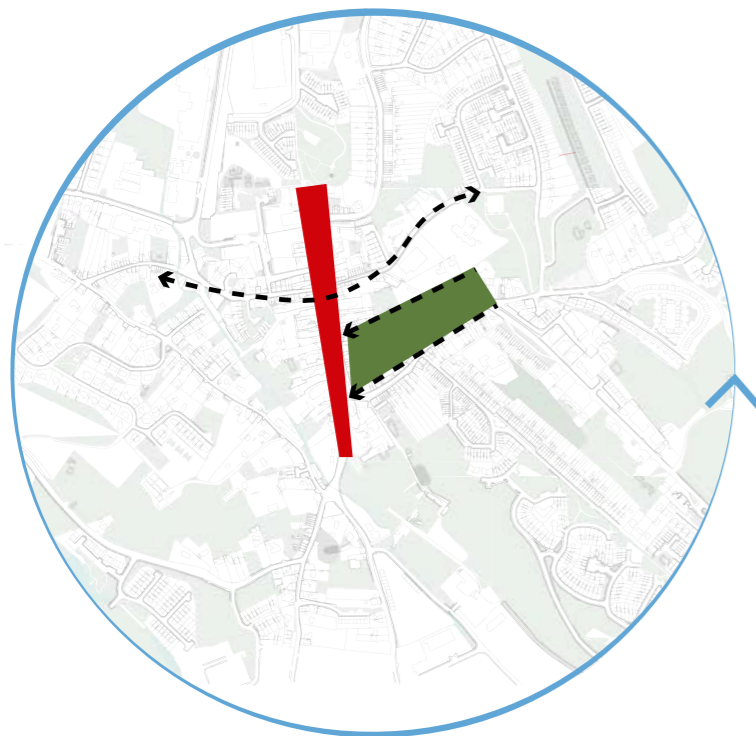
project actions

i. St Joseph's:

Further enhancing public spaces and adjacent buildings.

ii. Cross Lane (O'Duffy's) Car park:

Elevating the current private car park with improved signage, and enhanced pedestrian connections, contributing to a more aesthetically pleasing and user-friendly space in Carrickmacross.



Developing underused spaces into thriving places to live, embracing heritage and high quality design.



Town centre neighbourhoods

d) town centre, southwest

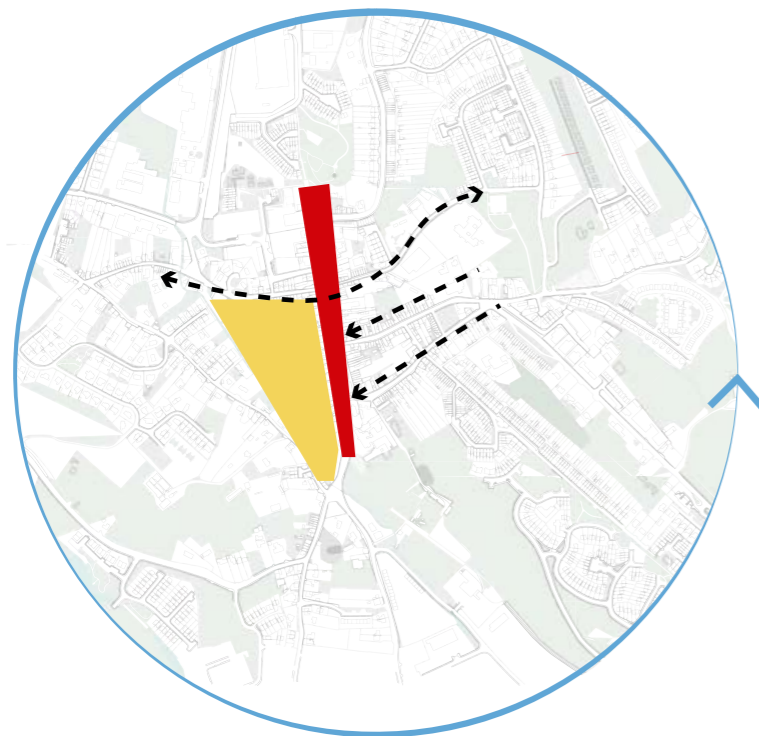
In the southwest sector of Carrickmacross town centre, a comprehensive approach is underway through the implementation of a Local Area Action Plan and the Public Realm and Economic Plan 2019.

This strategic initiative is designed to address various facets of development, with a particular focus on improving access to the Poules River and fostering mixed-use development.

Shirley House Lane Car Park is one important location in this area. This popular car park has scope for improvements thereby helping to support business on Main Street, while alleviating pressures on spaces there.

The sloping terrain of this backland area contains a range of different properties, many of which may have scope for further development. A key issue for some is vehicular access, potentially from Mullinary Road.

The Poules River is an important asset in the town centre that is often overlooked. This should be sensitively enhanced to improve accessibility, with the potential for a path alongside. Any such proposals should be undertaken with ecological advice, addressing the issue of invasive plant species, while protecting and enhancing wildlife habitats.



Developing underused spaces into thriving places to live, embracing heritage and high quality design.



Example of River Corridor Restoration and Access: Revitalising Waterways for Community Enjoyment and Environmental Health



project actions

i. Shirley House Lane Car Park:

Development of town centre car parking and associated pedestrian linkages off Shirley House Lane.

ii. River Corridor Restoration:

The River Corridor Restoration project is a commitment to preserving and revitalising Carrickmacross natural beauty, fostering healthy ecosystems and creating an enhanced environment for residents and visitors.

iii. New Town Housing:

Introducing modern and sustainable residential developments to meet the evolving housing needs of Carrickmacross, enhancing the town's vitality and fostering a sense of community.

iv. Local Area Action Plan:

Executing Strategic Initiatives for Community Development and Enhancement.

Town centre neighbourhoods

e) town centre, south

This project aims to enhance the area's character by infusing urban elements while prioritising improved connectivity, there's a focused initiative to transition towards a more urbanised and connected environment.

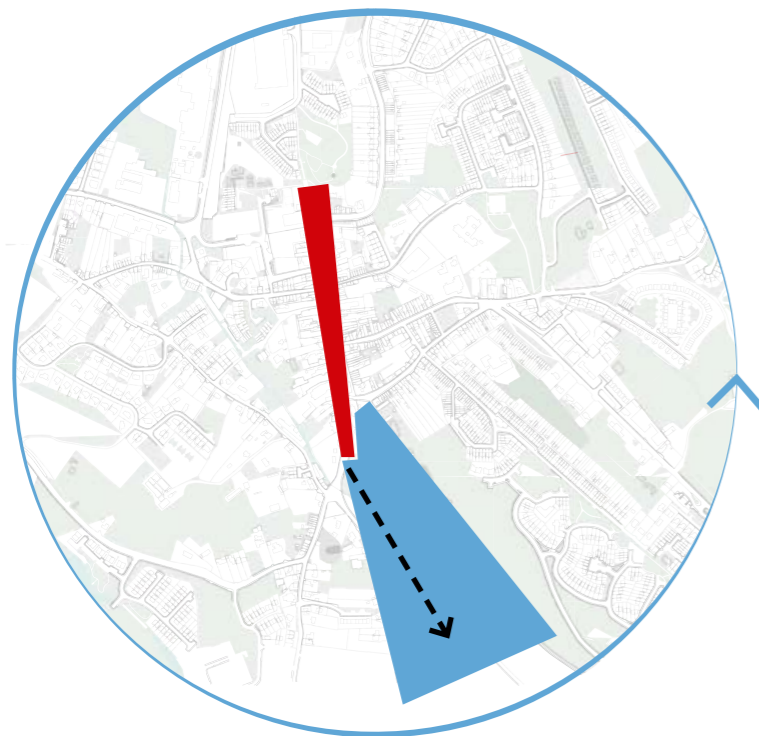
The project involves careful urban design considerations, including the development of mixed-use spaces, increased density and the incorporation of pedestrian-friendly infrastructure.

This large area to the immediate south of the town centre has undergone much development in recent years, including the Civic Offices, C-Tek Buildings, the Primary Care Centre, as well as two supermarkets.

While such developments are welcome additions to the town, work is required to ensure this area is well connected with the town centre and completed to an appropriate density for its urban location. Adjacent to the Civic Centre, the derelict flats stand as a stark reminder of the area's potential for transformation.

A key attribute of the area is the linear green space and walkway along Convent Avenue. This landscape link should provide the 'spine' of all development in the area, complimented by adjoining footpath connections and the planting of trees.

Consideration should also be given to residential development in the area to compliment civic and commercial uses and introduce more activity when they are closed.



Developing underused spaces into thriving places to live, embracing heritage and high quality design.



Carrickmacross Civic Centre Walkway



Concept visual: Convent Land



project actions

i. Convent Lands Pathways and Nature Trails:

Creating interconnected green spaces to form the new linear park, enhancing accessibility and fostering a seamless connection between natural elements in Carrickmacross.

ii. Complimentary Developments:

Implementing strategic and harmonious developments in the southern region of Carrickmacross to complement existing structures and enhance the overall townscape.



03

Town Centre
First Plan

Enabling Our Place

conclusion

The Carrickmacross Town Centre First Plan represents a comprehensive plan for the future development and enhancement of the vibrant community. Through a collaborative and inclusive process, involving dedicated members of the Town Team, engagement with the public, and support from Monaghan County Council and professional consultancies, the plan has emerged as a visionary blueprint. It addresses key challenges and opportunities facing Carrickmacross, from improving accessibility and connectivity to preserving heritage and fostering sustainable growth.

The projects outlined in the Carrickmacross Town Centre First Plan encompass a diverse range of initiatives aimed at revitalising and enhancing various aspects of the town. These projects are the result of extensive collaboration and careful consideration of the town's unique needs and aspirations. They span across different sectors, including **infrastructure, transportation, community development and environmental sustainability**, with each project designed to address specific challenges and opportunities facing Carrickmacross.

Among the proposed projects are **infrastructure improvements** such as the enhancement of streets, pavements and public spaces to improve accessibility and connectivity within the town centre. This includes the installation of new signage, landscaping and lighting to create a more inviting and pedestrian-friendly environment.

Transportation projects focus on promoting active travel options such as walking and cycling, with the development of new cycle lanes, greenways and blue ways to encourage sustainable modes of transportation and enhance recreational and leisure opportunities for residents and visitors alike.

Community development projects aim to foster a sense of belonging and social cohesion within Carrickmacross by supporting local businesses, cultural institutions and community organisations. This includes initiatives to promote entrepreneurship, support for arts and cultural events and the creation of inclusive spaces for people of all ages and backgrounds to come together.

Environmental sustainability projects prioritise the protection and enhancement of Carrickmacross' natural assets, including green spaces, waterways and biodiversity. This involves projects to reduce energy consumption and promote eco-friendly practices among residents and businesses.

Overall, the projects outlined in the Carrickmacross Town Centre First Plan reflect a holistic approach to community development, with a focus on creating a vibrant, inclusive and sustainable town centre that meets the needs of current and future generations. Through collaborative efforts and ongoing engagement with partners, **these projects aim to realise Carrickmacross' full potential as a thriving and resilient community.**



Action Plan and Prioritisation

The Town Centre First Plan for Carrickmacross identifies a range of projects for delivery over the short, medium and longer term. These vary in scale and character, but all share the common goals set out in the Vision and Aims for Carrickmacross. Importantly all interventions should be coordinated with one another so enabling their collective impact to be maximised.

Project delivery will be overseen by the Carrickmacross Town Team and Monaghan County Council, working closely with partners and stakeholders at a local, regional and national level. Their focus will be the Action Plan, a summary of which is provided on the opposite page. This identifies priorities, budget parameters and stakeholders. Many over arching projects will be broken down and delivered in phases.

At the time of writing, current priorities (in no particular order) of the Town Team were confirmed as:

- Gallow's Hill
- Courthouse
- The Bridewell / Former ESB offices
- Workhouse
- Main Street Lighting
- Car Parking Strategy (inc Commuter Parking)
- Local Area Action Plans
- Greenway & Convent Lands
- Leisure Provision

Critically, the Action Plan should be developed in detail and reviewed at regular intervals of no more than 6 months. This will allow for progress to be followed and new opportunities to be taken into account.

Once funding is secured for prioritised projects, it is recommended that a sub-group of the Town Team is formed to act as client and steering group, alongside other key partner organisations as necessary.

Funding Opportunities

As the town endeavours to implement various initiatives and projects, it recognises the importance of securing financial support from diverse channels. These funding opportunities span public and private sectors, grants, partnerships, and community-driven initiatives.

Funding from the Town Centre First initiative, as well as the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) are likely to be key sources for delivery. Town and Village Renewal, Outdoor Recreation and LEADER funding are all other possibilities, as well as specific funds for themes such as Active Travel, Heritage and Biodiversity. Monitoring and responding rapidly to new funding opportunities will be an important task going forward.

Communication and Collaboration

This Town Centre First Plan has been developed with a highly collaborative ethos, involving as many individuals and organisations from the town as possible. It is essential that this spirit of collaboration is maintained and developed through the lifetime of the plan.

The Town Team should ensure that it remains as representative of the town as possible, with scope to welcome new members accordingly.

Communication about delivery of the Town Centre First Plan should be regular, fluid and transparent, helping everyone in Carrickmacross to understand progress. Consideration should be given to the most effective means of communication to reach a wide audience, including those unlikely to attend events.

Every Town Centre First Project must be advanced with the same commitment to collaboration. This will mean regular public engagement events, as well as detailed dialogue with key stakeholders, such as landowners and elected members.

Overview of Project Actions

	TOWN CENTRE FIRST PROJECTS	HIGH PRIORITIES	KEY PARTNERS (IN ADDITION TO TOWN TEAM / MCC)
1. WELCOME TO CARRICKMACROSS			
a	Place Brand Development		Failte Ireland, Businesses
b	Welcome Gateways		Failte Ireland, Businesses, Landowners
c	Parking Strategy	Car Parking Strategy	Transport Infrastructure Ire, Businesses
d	Orientation and Wayfinding		Failte Ireland, Businesses
2. TOWN CENTRE STREETS			
a	Streetscape and Public Realm		Transport Infrastructure Ire, Businesses
b	Events and Animation		Businesses, Arts Groups
c	Town Centre Business Support		Businesses, Enterprising Monaghan, Enterprise Ireland, Local Enterprise Office
d	Lighting and Frontages	Main Street Lighting	Businesses
3. GREEN AND BLUE CARRICKMACROSS			
a	Town Centre Parks and Spaces	Gallow's Hill Leisure Provision	Tidy Towns
b	Greenways and Blueways	Convent Avenue	Landowners
c	Town Centre Energy		SEAI
d	Biodiversity and Habitats		Tidy Towns
4. TOWN CENTRE NEIGHBOURHOODS			
a	Town Centre - NE		Landowners, Businesses
b	Town Centre - NW	Courthouse The Bridewell Workhouse	Landowners, Businesses
c	Town Centre - SE		Landowners, Businesses
d	Town Centre - SW		Landowners, Businesses
e	Town Centre - S		Landowners, Businesses

Project Actions Carrickmacross Town Centre First Plan

1. Welcome to Carrickmacross

- a. Place Brand Development
- b. Welcome Gateways
- c. Parking and Strategy
- d. Orientation and Wayfinding

a. 'Place Brand Development'

- i. Place Brand Development
- ii. Promote Carrickmacross, including digital platforms

c. 'Parking Strategy'

- i. Implementation of the Carrickmacross Town Car Parking Strategy 2021
- ii. Establish Commuter Car park
- iii. Assess Public Transport Needs
- iv. Provide Enhanced Public Transport Services & Infrastructure

b. 'Welcome Gateways'

- i. Commission Gateway Designs
- ii. Collaboration with Local Businesses

d. 'Orientation & Wayfinding'

- i. Shape Wayfinding Strategy
- ii. Develop digital systems

2. Town Centre Streets

- a. Streetscape and Public Realm
- b. Events and Animation
- c. Town Centre Business Support
- d. Lighting and Frontages

a. 'Streetscape & Public Realm'

- i. Main Street Public Realm (phases)
- ii. Adjoining Streetscapes
- iii. Courthouse Square
- iv. Provide universal access to all public areas and facilities
- v. Dereliction and vacancy programme

c. 'Town Centre Business Support'

- i. Business insights and development
- ii. Support for innovation and digitisation
- iii. New business start-up programmes
- iv. Commerce Catalyst Carrickmacross
- v. Business Incubation space
- vi. Support Marketing Business offering in Town

b. 'Events & Animation'

- i. Event Calendar
- ii. Outdoor events & spaces
- iii. Indoor events & spaces

d. 'Lighting and Frontages'

- i. Frontage and Signage Design Guide
- ii. Heritage Restorations
- iii. Smart Street Lighting Upgrades
- iv. Historic Building Illumination
- v. Public Spaces and Parks Lighting

3. Green & Blue Carrickmacross

- a. Town Centre Parks and Spaces
- b. Greenways and Blueways
- c. Town Centre Energy
- d. Biodiversity Habitats

a. 'Town Centre Parks & Spaces'

- i. Community Greening Strategy
- ii. Gallows Hill Landscape Masterplan
- iii. Community Allotments Enhancement
- iv. Cloughvalley Park Masterplan
- v. Development of High Quality Pool and Leisure Facilities
- vi. Tullynaskeagh Linear park

c. 'Town Centre Energy'

- i. Measure our carbon footprints
- ii. Employ energy saving measures
- iii. Increase urban renewable energy
- iv. Provide more EV charging points
- v. Community based Energy Efficiency Scheme

b. 'Greenways and Blueways'

- i. Greenway Corridor Development
- ii. Multi-Modal Transport Integration
- iii. Blueway Access Points (Rivers and Lakes)
- iv. On Street Cycle Lanes

d. 'Biodiversity Habitats'

- i. Biodiversity Action Plan
- ii. Community Biodiversity Projects
- iii. Development of further Biodiversity Projects as part of Tidy Towns
- iv. Identify Suitable/Appropriate Areas for Biodiversity

4. Town Centre Neighbourhoods

- a. Town Centre - North East
- b. Town Centre - North West
- c. Town Centre - South East
- d. Town Centre - South West
- e. Town Centre - South

a. 'Town Centre - North East'

- i. New Town Centre Streets
- ii. Mixed type and tenure town housing
- iii. Local Area Action Plan

c. 'Town Centre - South East'

- i. St Joseph's
- ii. Cross Lane (O'Duffy's) Car park

e. 'Town Centre - South'

- i. Convent Lands Pathways and Nature Trails
- ii. Complementary Developments

b. 'Town Centre - North West'

- i. The Bridewell Restoration
- ii. Drummond Etra Redevelopment
- iii. Carrickmacross Workhouse Community Hub
- iv. Carrickmacross Courthouse

d. 'Town Centre - South West'

- i. Shirley House Lane Car Park
- ii. River Corridor Restoration
- iii. New Town Housing
- iv. Local Area Action Plan



04

Appendix

Appendix 1 - Second Public Consultation
Appendix 2 - The Town Team

Process Carrickmacross Town Centre First Plan

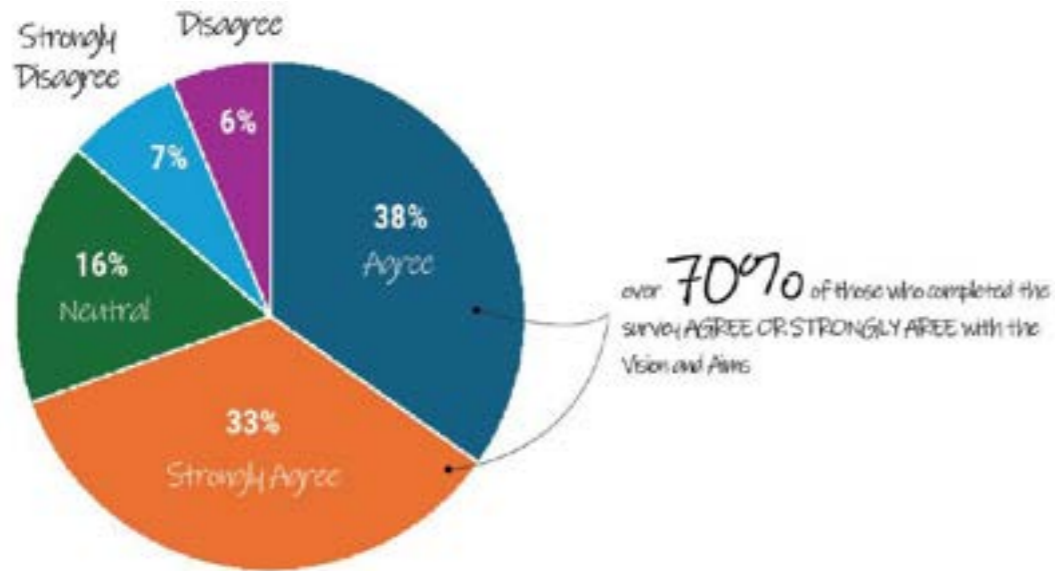
Second Public Consultation

Our collaborative efforts to shape the Carrickmacross Town Centre First Plan involved gathering at both the Civic Centre and Carrickmacross Shopping Centre to meticulously review the draft plan.

The primary objective of this initiative is to encapsulate the diverse needs and aspirations of the local community. Employing a highly collaborative approach, we engaged with the public through multiple avenues, fostering

inclusivity and ensuring a comprehensive representation of perspectives. The community survey yielded a notable **216** responses, underscoring the active participation of the community in shaping the future of Carrickmacross.

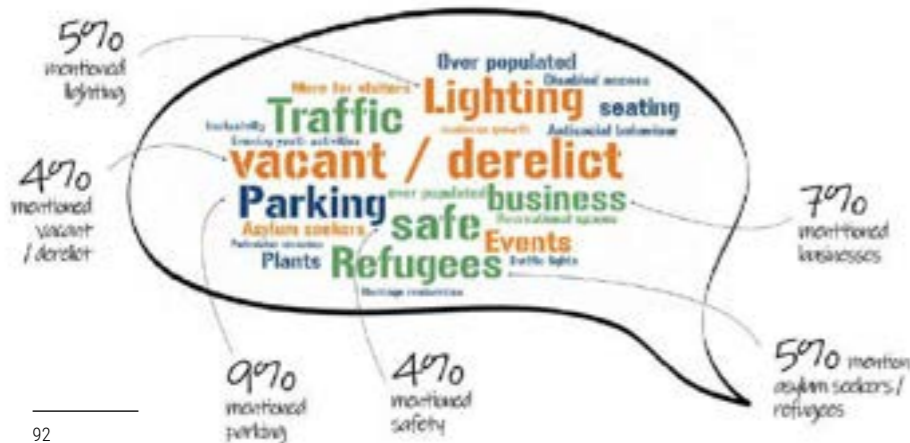
1. To what extent do you agree with the Vision and Aims?



2. Please add any comments or ideas you have for the Vision and Aims:

Sample comments and ideas from the 119 responses :

For a full list of answers provided see the Feedback Report



Please rate the following projects (Questions 3-10) :

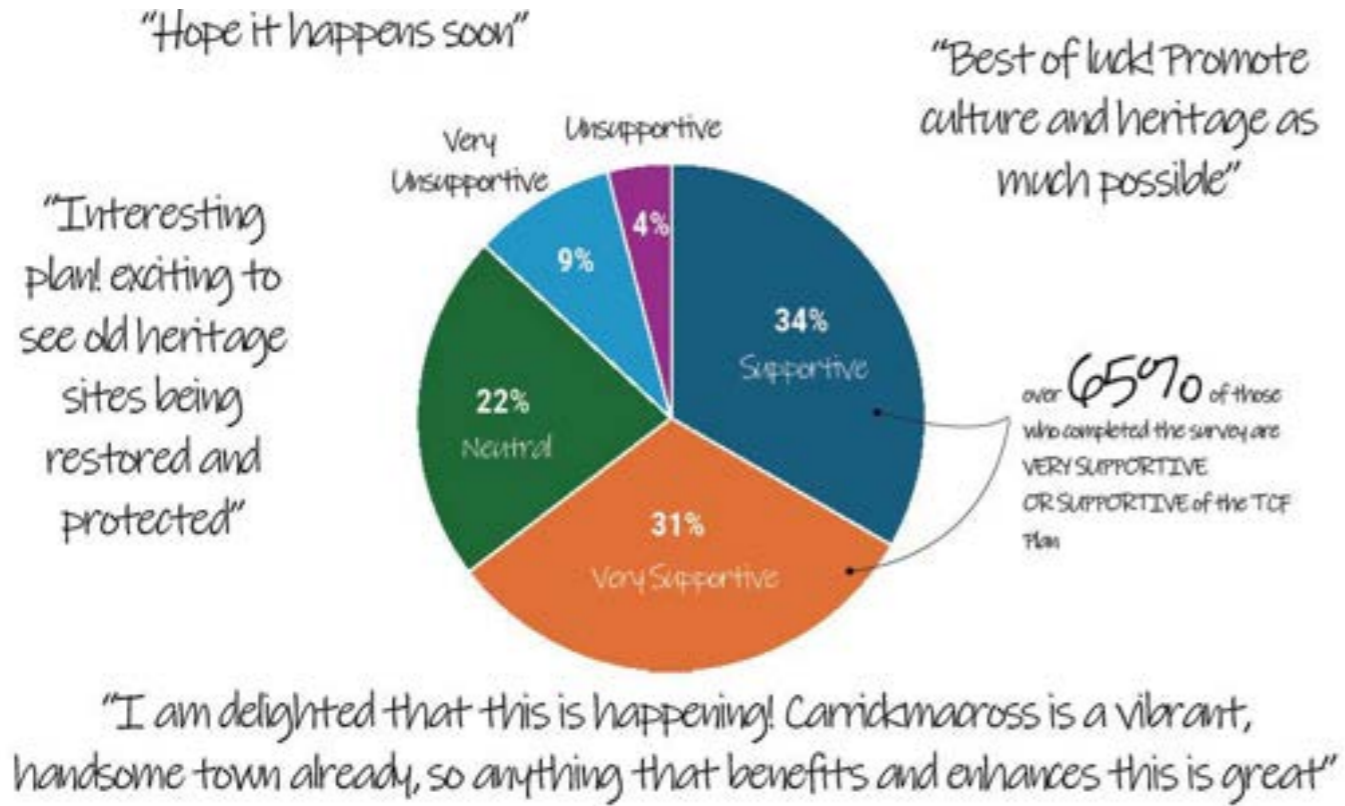


Do you have any comments or ideas for the projects under (Questions 3 - 10):



Process Carrickmacross Town Centre First Plan

11. Overall, how supportive are you of the Draft Carrickmacross Town Centre First Plan?



12. Do you have any other comments or ideas for the Draft Town Centre First Plan?



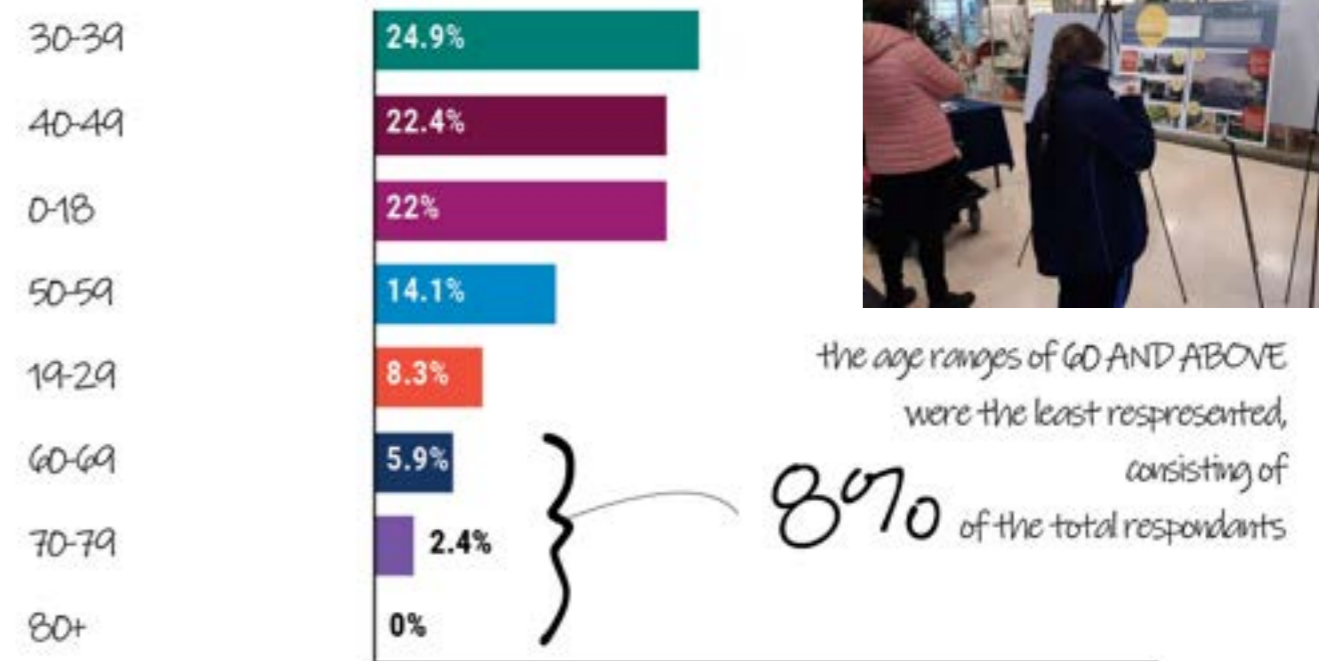
Community facilities
 Courthouse - used as a recreational building
 using green spaces
Local theatre group & facilities
 Parking
 Promote local culture & heritage
 Community spaces

Ground floor used for retail
It is perfect as it is
 Social inclusion / integration of cultures is badly needed
Litter & derelict buildings
 Parking
 The town has lost its identity
 Have one overall vision - top line

13. How far do you live from Carrickmacross Town Centre?



14. What is your age range?



Summary

There is a strong emphasis on inclusivity, with a focus on ensuring that community amenities meet the needs of local people. The desire for businesses to remain in the town centre for the long term is evident, along with a call for projects that cater to the general interests of the entire community rather than a select few. Improving public lighting emerges as a critical issue, as respondents' express

concerns about safety and a need for the town to be well-lit. While some respondents express positivity about the future of the town, others emphasise the importance of preserving Carrickmacross' historic buildings. The need for more recreational spaces, retail options and considerations for both the youth and elderly populations are recurring themes.

However, opinions differ on topics such as immigration, changes in the town's landscape, and the one-way street proposal, showcasing a variety of perspectives within the community. The challenge lies in finding a balance between revitalising the town, addressing safety concerns and preserving its unique identity.

Town Team Carrickmacross Town Centre First Plan

Town Team Members	Organisation
<i>Jim Hand (Chair)</i>	Carrickmacross Tidy Towns
<i>Art Agnew</i>	Patrick Kavanagh Centre
<i>Breda McGuigan</i>	Carrickmacross Tidy Towns
<i>Claire Cunningham</i>	Enterprising Monaghan
<i>Liam Connolly</i>	Town Festival Committee
<i>Gerry Hand</i>	Carrickmacross Tidy Towns
<i>John Tobin</i>	Carrickmacross Chamber of Commerce
<i>Kevin Gartlan</i>	Community Development Group
<i>Philomena Carroll</i>	Monaghan County Council
<i>Liam Connolly</i>	Carrickmacross Chamber of Commerce
<i>Sean Lennon</i>	Carrickmacross Chamber of Commerce
<i>Frank Markey</i>	Carrickmacross Vintners Association
<i>Emma Gollogly</i>	Enterprising Monaghan
<i>Philip Keegan</i>	Carrickmacross Chamber of Commerce
<i>Andrew Spare</i>	Carrickmacross Tidy Towns

We extend our thanks to the Carrickmacross Town Team for their valuable contributions in providing images featured in this document. Their contribution has enhanced our representation of the community's aspirations and achievements. Through their collaboration, the Town Team has captured the essence of Carrickmacross.

Carrickmacross extends a warm **welcome** to all. Our Main Street is where **history** and **tradition** meet **colour** and **vibrancy**. With **sustainability** at its heart, our town centre is **connected** through old and new neighbourhoods and spaces green and blue.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Ár dTodhchaí
Tuaithe
Our Rural
Future



Lár Bailte ar dTús
Town Centre First



Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin
Monaghan County Council

CARRICKMACROSS TOWN TEAM thepaulhogarthcompany