

Welcome

Welcome to the public consultation for the Draft Ballybay Town Centre First Plan

Welcome to the second public consultation for the Ballybay Town Centre First Plan. **The following boards explain** the process so far, the findings from the first public consultation and **proposals of the draft plan**. It is important that as many local people as possible contribute to shaping this plan and the future of Ballybay. So please **make sure to have your say!**



FILL OUT THE SURVEY HERE!

At the outset of the process, the team conducted an analysis of the town. The analysis identified many strengths, including the community, heritage and natural assets, as well as the existing shops and facilities. However, vacancy, dereliction, economic development are key weaknesses that need to be addressed in Ballybay.

The draft plan aims to develop the town's strengths, and create new opportunities around current threats. Let us know your thoughts on the projects that have been developed in response.

Town Centre First Policy



The Ballybay Town Centre First Plan is being developed by the Ballybay Town Team, in collaboration with Monaghan County Council, the Paul Hogarth Company, and the people of Ballybay as part of the Town Centre First Policy. This policy aims **to prioritise the regeneration and revitalisation of town centres**, focusing on making them more attractive, sustainable, and vibrant places to live, work, and visit.

To succeed, **the Town Centre Plan must reflect the views, needs and aspirations of local people** as much as possible. A first consultation was held last November to gain insight into what residents want to see in the area. **The following highlights some of the first consultation findings.**

Locals were asked what they ***like*** most about Ballybay, the green and blue spaces, the community, and town facilities were most often mentioned, alongside a long list of other qualities that make Ballybay unique!

When talking about their ***dislikes*** responses most frequently highlighted the vacancy and dereliction problems, as well as a lack of facilities and issues around parking and transportation.

"The people for sure/ community. The walks - park, beach, wetlands. **The Christmas lights and effort from everyone.**"

"Country town to remain a country town. Local small businesses to be maintained. Friendly people. **Conveniently located.** School bus routes. Promotion for holiday destinations."

"People Community Scenery"

"Small, no traffic"

"Lake, park, **old courthouse and other older buildings.** Also the wetlands is a fabulous amenity."

"Lack of tourism. Traffic. Bus times."

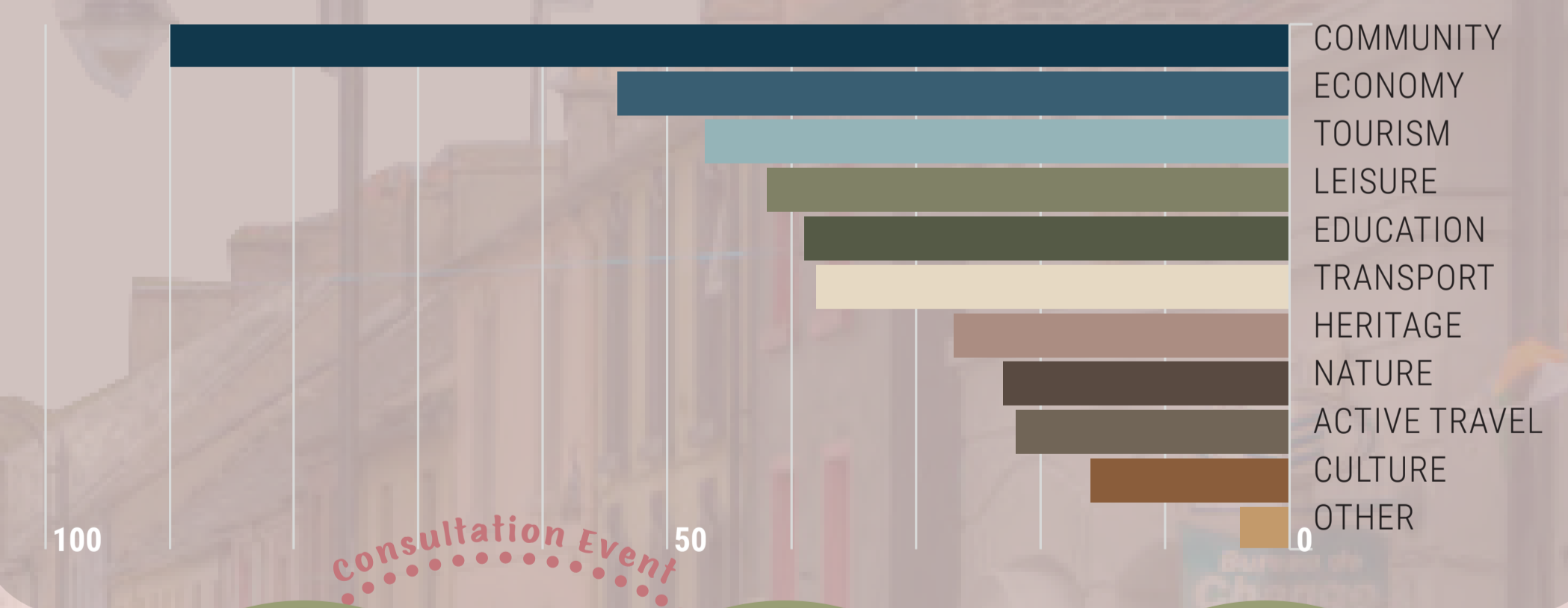
"Some buildings are **rundown or not finished**, the roads **aren't very safe to cycle.** **Limited entertainment options or places to eat at night**"

"No local **community centre/hub.** Would love a centre like Doohamlat. Need **more diversity** for young people and teens - GAA is great but we need other things. Such as; cycle link (lakes), and cycle to school schemes."

"Lacks buzz, zero prosperity & feels like its been left behind"

"Small library. Lack of **community centre.**"

What are your top **priorities?**



Vision

Drafting Ballybay's Vision for the future

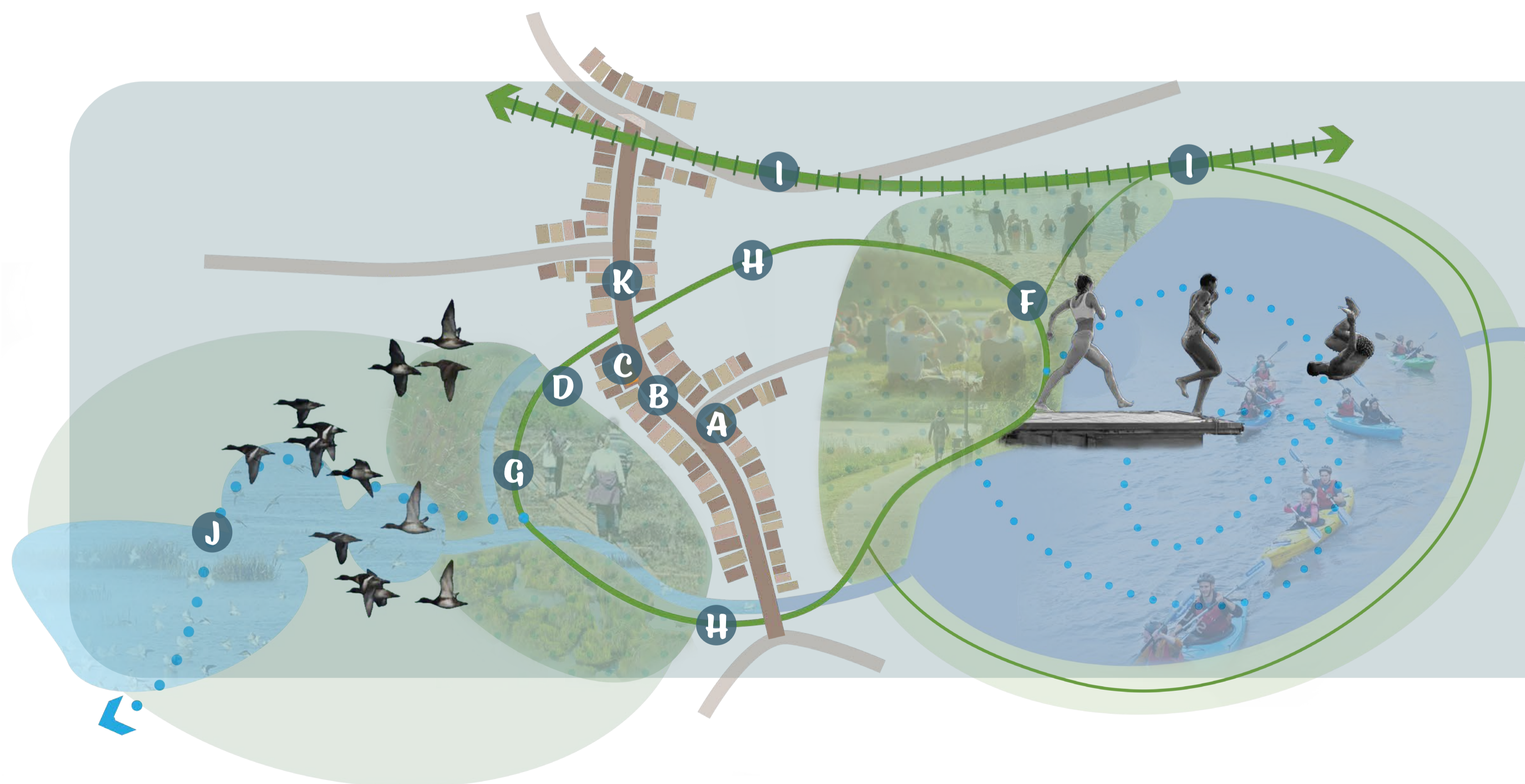


“In Ballybay ¹people, ²nature, and ³vibrancy connect in a historic town setting, by being the most attractive, safe and welcoming place to be.”

A key question for the Town Centre First process is **‘What kind of place do we want Ballybay to be?’**

The **draft Vision Statement and Objectives set out priorities for the future of Ballybay.** The three objectives also form the framework under which the draft projects sit.

Once finalised through this consultation and process, projects in the town can use the plan and objectives to test how they **fit into the future of the town.** Let us know if this draft fits with **the future you would like to see!**



Town Centre First Projects:

- 1.**
 - A. The Library
 - B. Community Centre & Development
 - C. Town Square
 - D. Town Carpark & Active Travel Hub
 - E. Ballybay Enterprise
- 2.**
 - F. Town Park & Lough Major
 - G. Wetlands Park
- 3.**
 - H. Walking & Cycling Network
 - I. The Railway Greenway
 - J. Ballybay Blueway
 - K. Community Initiatives
 - L. Main Street Revival
 - M. Energy Community
 - N. Visitor Accommodation

1

People & Community



Making Ballybay an even better place to live life by providing infrastructure for the community to flourish



The following projects **focus on everyday life in Ballybay** by offering high quality community facilities and infrastructure that support local people and make the community spirit even stronger.

A The Library

Developing a new library and civic space in the old Market House.

The library will provide an important indoor community space, with a number of multi-purpose rooms.



B Community Centre & Development

Establishing a community centre in the heart of Ballybay that provides space for gatherings, events, classes and activities, especially for young people. The community centre will be supported through a new community organisation that can take on larger community development opportunities.



C Town Square

Upgrading public realm at the 'hill top' to create a town square that celebrates the centre of the town and that can be used for events on special occasions.

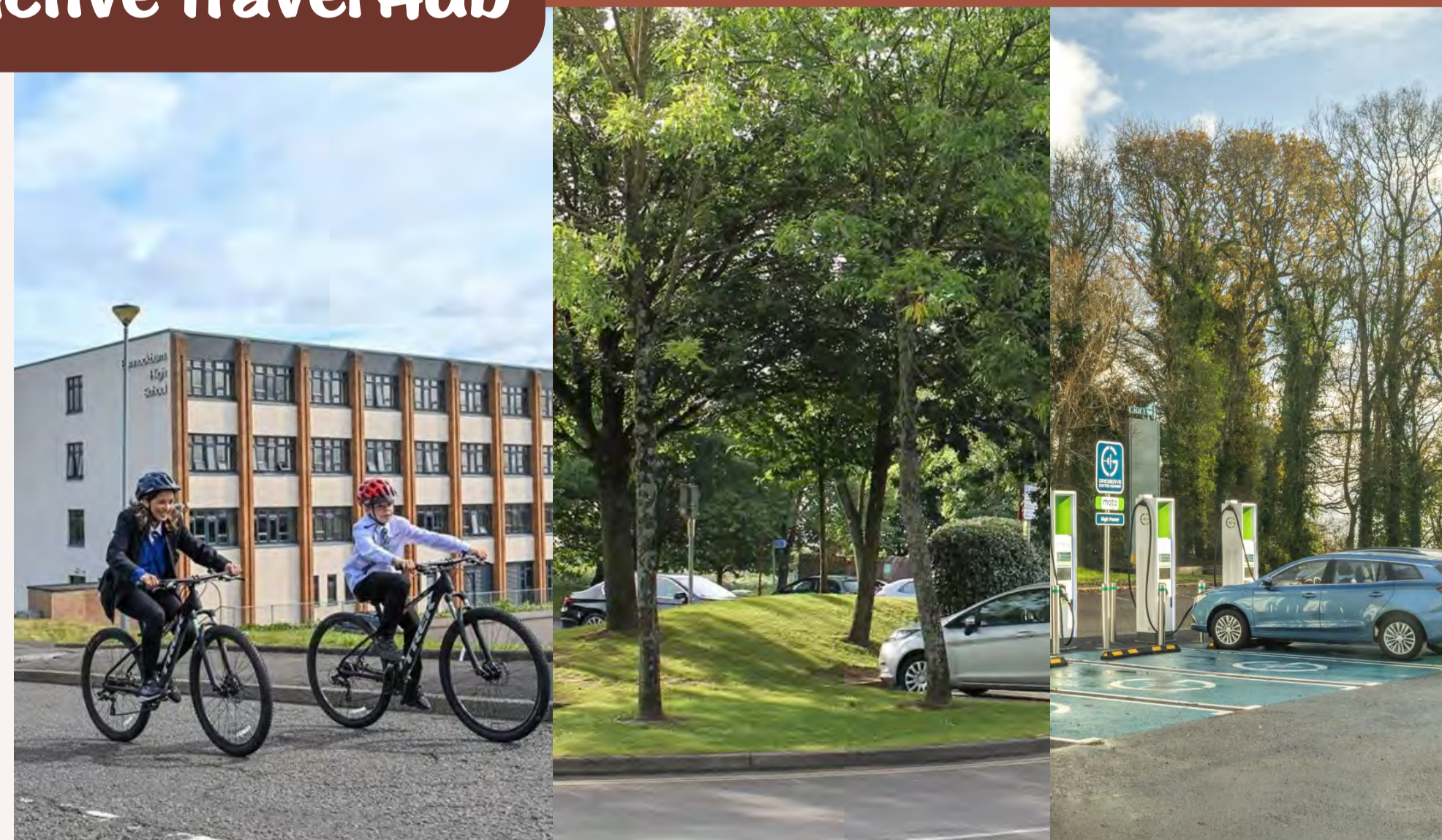
The Square will provide a new community space in the Town Centre after the redevelopment of the Market House.



D Town Carpark & Active Travel Hub

Relieving Main Street with a new off-street car park with e-charging, tree planting and cycling facilities.

The project will provide important car infrastructure through a lens of sustainability and modal-shift.



E Ballybay Enterprise

Establishing new enterprise hubs for flexible working and business incubation space in the town centre, while encouraging industrial growth in the town. Ballybay Enterprise will provide important economic opportunities for Ballybay through startups and to develop the business case.



2

Town & Nature

Harnessing the potential of our natural assets and the historic town of Ballybay



The following projects aim to **make the most of Ballybay's nature and town setting** by improving connections and creating more uses and opportunities for people and wildlife.

F Town Park & Lough Major

Further upgrading the park's infrastructure to facilitate greater usage (e.g. slipway, pontoon, new toilet block etc.) and potential expansion.

This project increases use of the park for the benefit of residents, while growing it as an attractor for visitors to Ballybay.



G Wetlands Park

Creating a new park in the town centre backlands that fronts onto the wetlands, providing educational and wildlife watching opportunities.

The Wetland Park will provide access to the biodiverse and natural asset within a short walk of the Town Centre.



H Walking & Cycling Network

Developing the on and off road network, linking parks and improving street pavements, cycle lanes and stands.

The active travel network will provide safe connections between the town centre and wider Ballybay, with a focus on connections to the Park(s).



I The Railway Greenway

Transforming the former railway line into a regional greenway while highlighting the town's railway heritage.

The Greenway will provide important regional connections while sharing Ballybay's heritage with visitors and locals.



J Ballybay Blueway

Linking local water bodies and systems to reduce flood risk and create a recreational draw of regional significance.

The Blueway will increase visitors to Ballybay and make the most of the biodiverse and natural wetlands asset.



3

Vibrancy & the Future

Capitalising on, and creating, opportunities to energise Ballybay's Future

The following projects aim **to make Ballybay the most vibrant place it can be** by taking advantage of large and small opportunities, reviving the buildings, and attracting visitors to the town.

K Community Initiatives

Encouraging a diverse range of community events and activities that together will help improve the town.

The community initiatives will help to further grow the community spirit and bring people from across Ballybay together.



M Energy Community

Exploring viable options for renewable energy in Ballybay, including wind, solar, and ground sources.

This will help to futureproof the town, benefiting residents and businesses, while reducing its carbon footprint.



L Main Street Revival

Refurbishing vacant buildings, enhancing frontages, and developing backlands via heritage guidelines.

This will introduce good quality space for town centre living and businesses, while retaining Ballybay's unique built heritage.



N Visitor Accommodation

Facilitating the development of overnight facilities, including short-term opportunities, a campsite / glamping area and in time, a hotel.

The visitor accommodation in and near the Town Centre will provide an important visitor facility for new visitors to Ballybay's many assets.



HAVE YOUR SAY!

Thank you for looking at the draft Town Centre First Plan for Ballybay.

Now, it is important that you share your thoughts on the plan. **Please fill out the survey** using the QR code or the paper copy.

