

welcome

Welcome to the public consultation on the Draft Carrickmacross Town Centre First Plan.

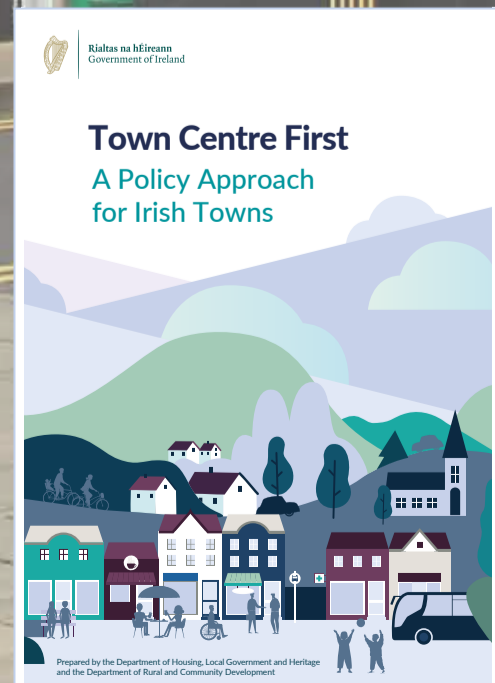
Forged through a collaborative process that engaged the public, including dedicated members of the Town Team and with the support of Monaghan County Council and professional consultancies, this plan transcends mere vision. It maps out a series of transformative projects specifically tailored for Carrickmacross, encompassing a spectrum of scales and ambitions.

The proposals set out on these boards are a work in progress and we now invite your feedback and ideas.

Please complete the survey
- online via the QR code or by visiting www.monaghan.ie/https://monaghan.ie/town-centre-first-plan-for-carrickmacross
- or at Carrickmacross Civic Centre



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.”



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.

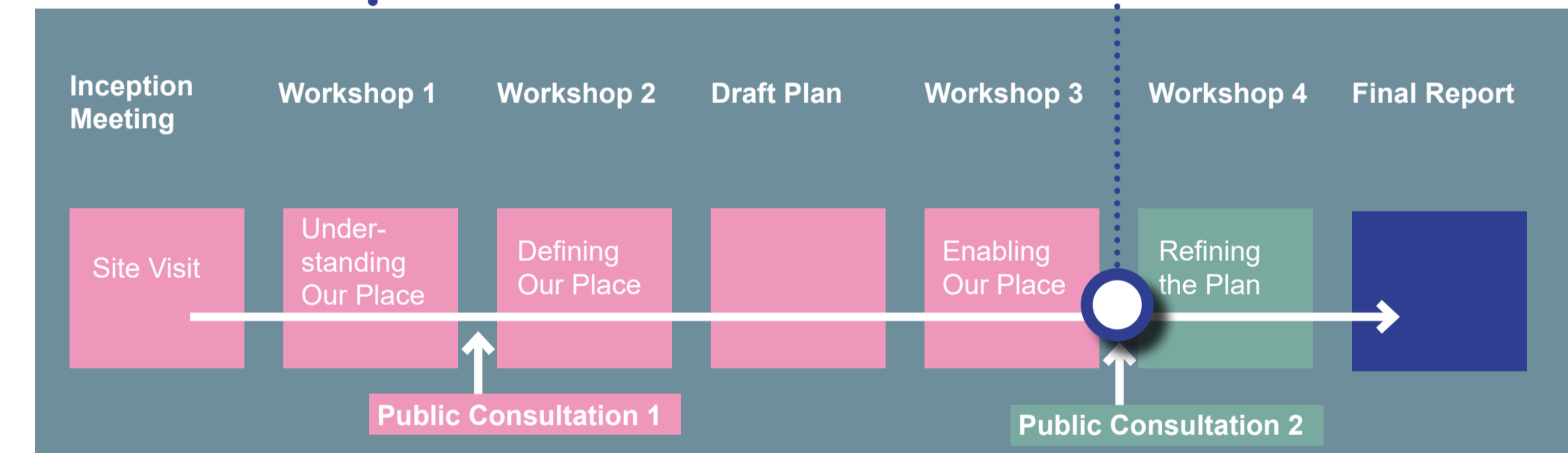
It caters to a diverse audience with a stake in the town's future development, encompassing residents, communities, local groups, businesses, the local authority, central government, and private developers.

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.



process

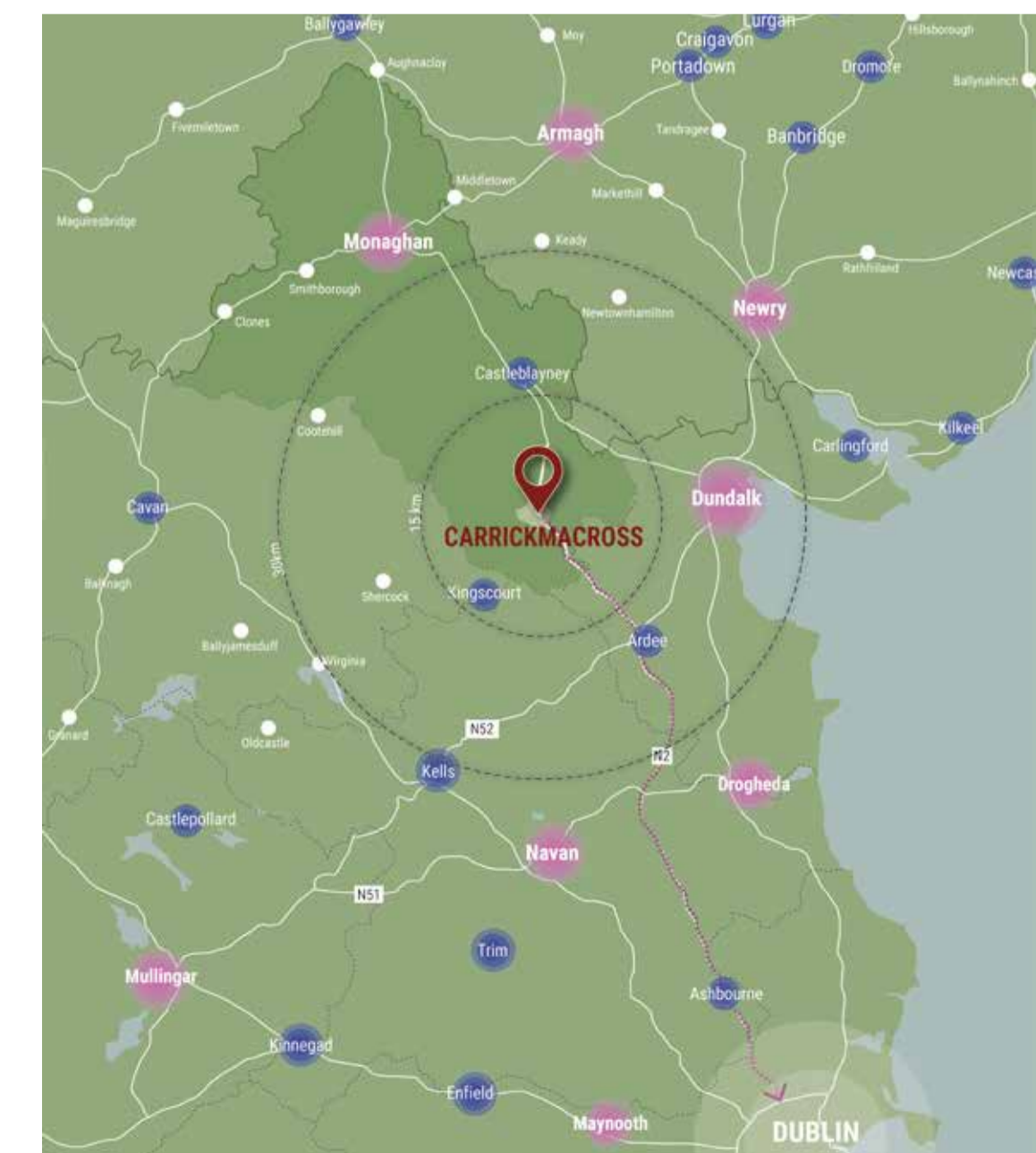


we are here in the process so far

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 around 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.



your say!

This draft plan is based on extensive engagement with the vibrant community of Carrickmacross. The results of an initial consultation process have been used to shape this draft plan. Now we invite everyone once more to share your thoughts on the plans that have emerged. Your opinions matter, and we are eager to incorporate your voices into the ongoing transformation of Carrickmacross. Together, let us continue to build a town that reflects the collective aspirations and values of everyone.



public consultation 1

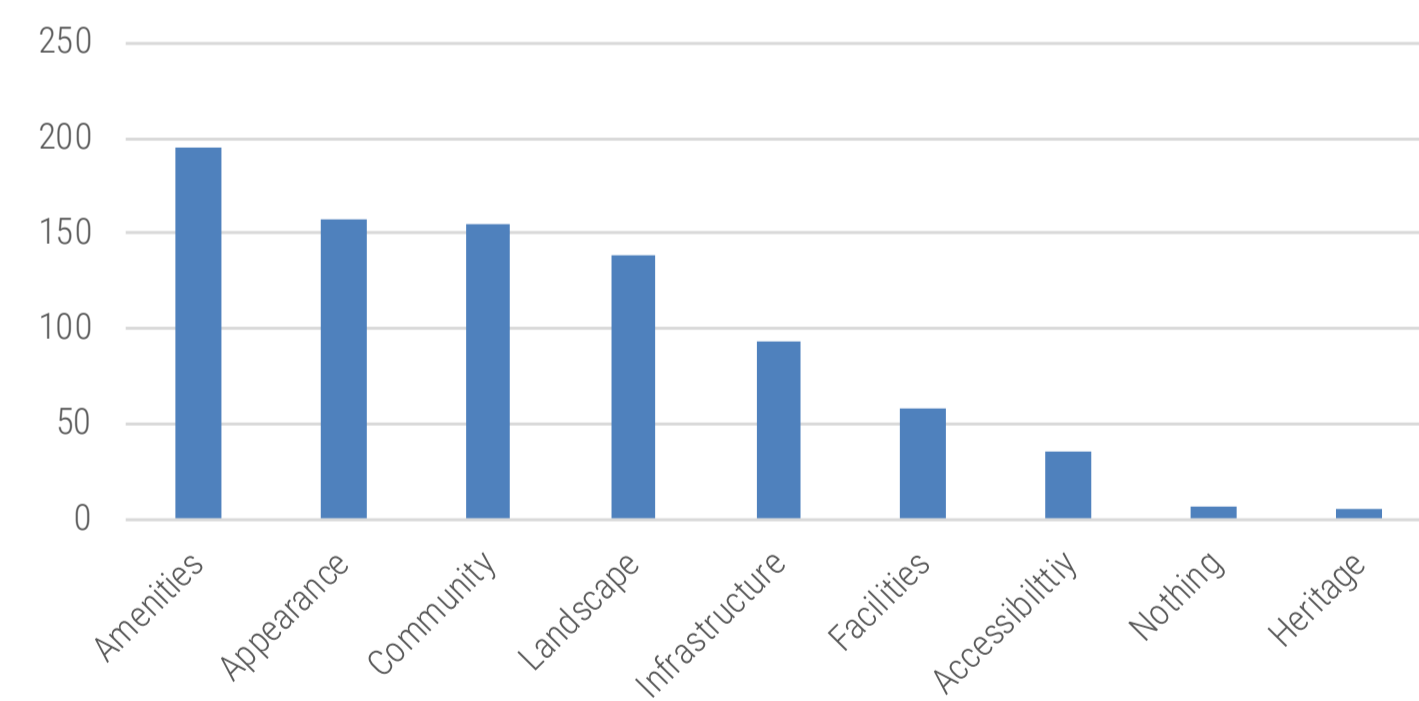
The first community survey received **509 responses**, with the public responding online and in person at an engagement event on Main Street, Carrickmacross. Workshops were also facilitated with the town's 3 secondary schools.

On the other hand, concerns about Carrickmacross included a perceived lack of social amenities in the town, especially for young people. Traffic, road safety and parked cars were also highlighted as issues in need of improvement in the town centre, as well as the quality of the town after dark.

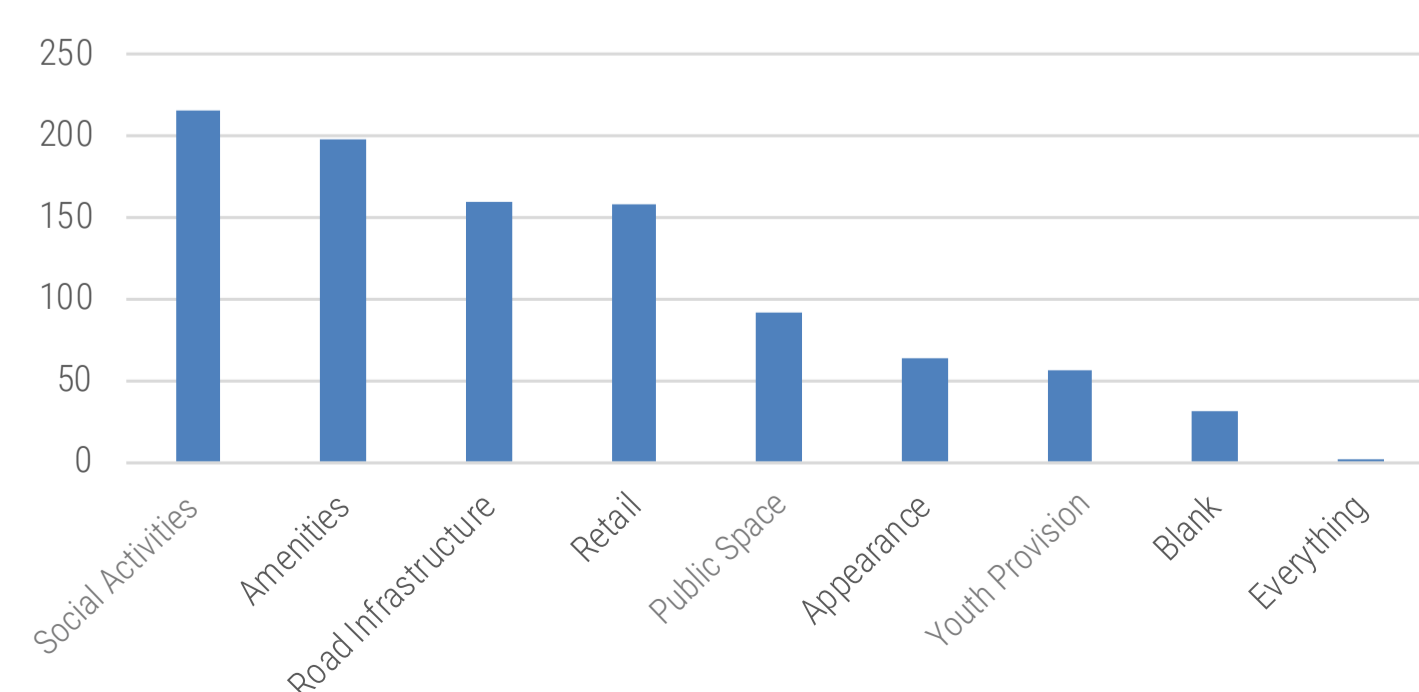
The feedback from both the public and the Town Team identified several key strengths and opportunities for development. According to public input, the town is praised for its historical charm, magnificent main street, strong sense of community, and accessible green spaces. Residents appreciate the existing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

The Town Team, Consultants and Council wish to thank every one who participated in this initial consultation exercise.

What three things do you **like** most about Carrickmacross Town Centre?



What three things do you **dislike** most about Carrickmacross Town Centre?



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

I like the Patrick Kavanagh mural, market day and gifts and things

There is no public space except during the festival

Better use of and refurbishment of derelict areas and buildings, behind the bank of Ireland, old flowers by Ann building needs refurbishment, nice park would be good

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

*Survey Results 0-18 year olds

public consultation 2

The draft Town Centre First Plan for Carrickmacross comprises 21 exciting projects on 4 overarching objectives. These focus on improving the town's reputation and arrival experience, enhancing its streets and spaces, making the most of natural assets and encouraging more people to live in the town centre. This is aimed to make Carrickmacross and even more attractive place to live, do business and visit.

Help us develop this thinking on these draft projects by giving your feedback and ideas via the survey below.

emerging projects

- Welcome to Carrickmacross**
 - a. Place Branding
 - b. Welcome Gateways
 - c. Parking and Public Transport Strategy
 - d. Orientation and Wayfinding
- Town Centre Streets**
 - a. Streetscape and Public Realm
 - b. Events and Animation
 - c. Frontages
 - d. Lighting
- Green & Blue Carrickmacross**
 - a. Town Centre Parks and Spaces
 - b. New Town Parks
 - c. Greenways and Blueways
 - d. Biodiversity and Habitats
- Town Centre Neighbourhoods**
 - a. Town Centre - North East
 - b. Town Centre - South East
 - c. Town Centre - South West
 - d. Town Centre - North West
 - e. Town Centre - South

Please complete the survey online via the QR code or by visiting

www.monaghan.ie/https://monaghan.ie/town-centre-first-plan-for-carrickmacross

vision and aims

The following draft aims attempt to encapsulate aspirations for the future of the town centre. Rooted in a understanding of the town's voice and unique character, they serve as guiding principles for strategic development in Carrickmacross. The vision encompasses creating a town that not only preserves its rich history but also propels itself into a sustainable, vibrant, and interconnected future.

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



A town that fosters a warm, inclusive and inviting environment

An active and supported community and flourishing economy

A town steeped in history that thrives and evolves preserving its cultural heritage and embraces change

A cleaner and far greener environment for people and nature

A compact town for walking and cycling, while making the most of strong regional links

The Town Centre First Plan delineates five aims, 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 fulfil these aims, whether individually or collectively within a single proposal.

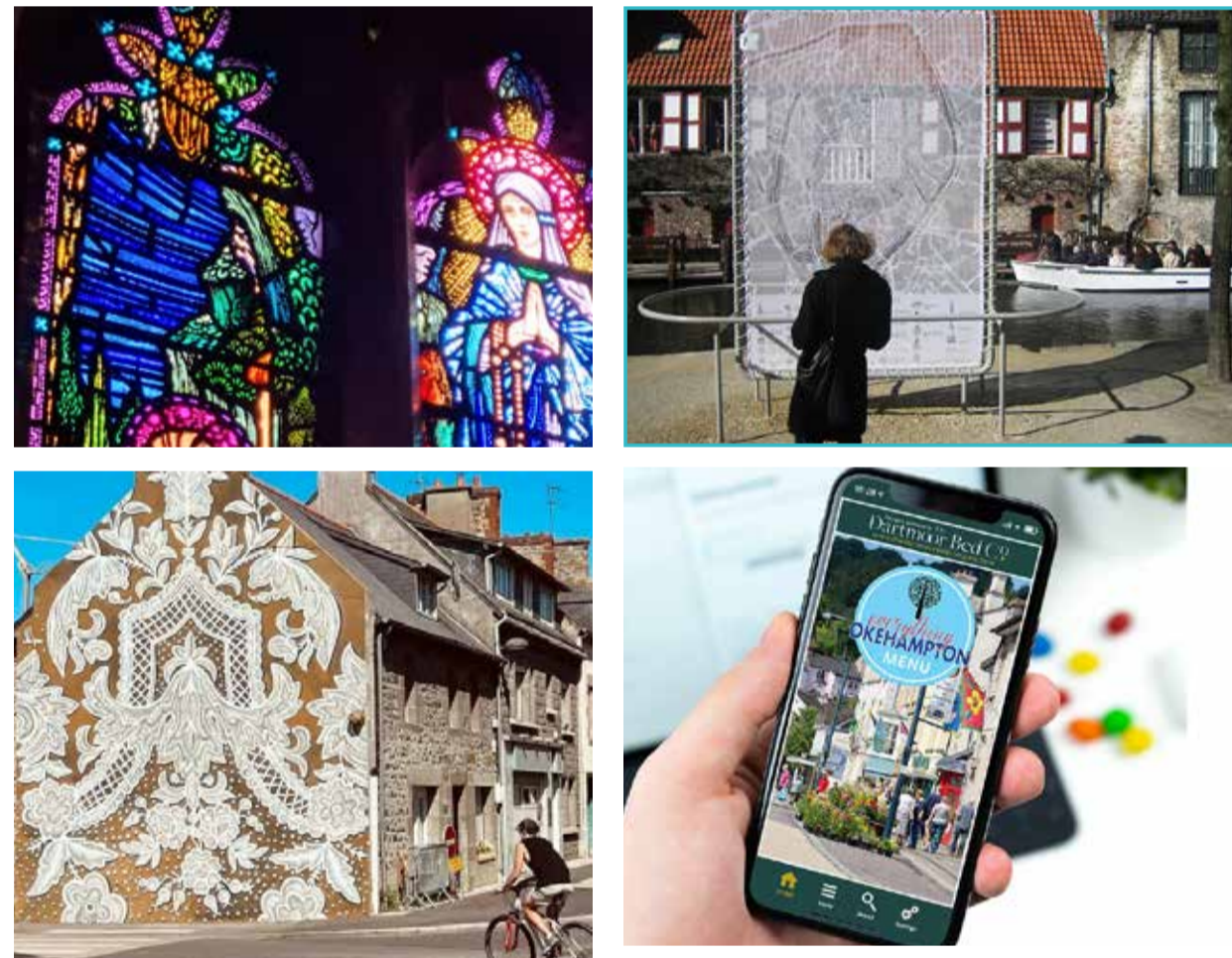
welcome to Carrickmacross

Explore the town through the project: 'Welcome to Carrickmacross.' It is more than an invitation; it is a journey into a town where tradition meets modern life. This project captures the essence of our unique community, blending history with today's energy. Join us in discovering and connecting with Carrickmacross, where a warm welcome awaits you.

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

Carrickmacross, nestled in the heart 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 the gateway to Ulster within the framework of a Town Centre First Plan.

- Develop a town Place Brand
- Promote Carrickmacross, including digital platforms



(a) place brand & promotion

(b) welcome gateways

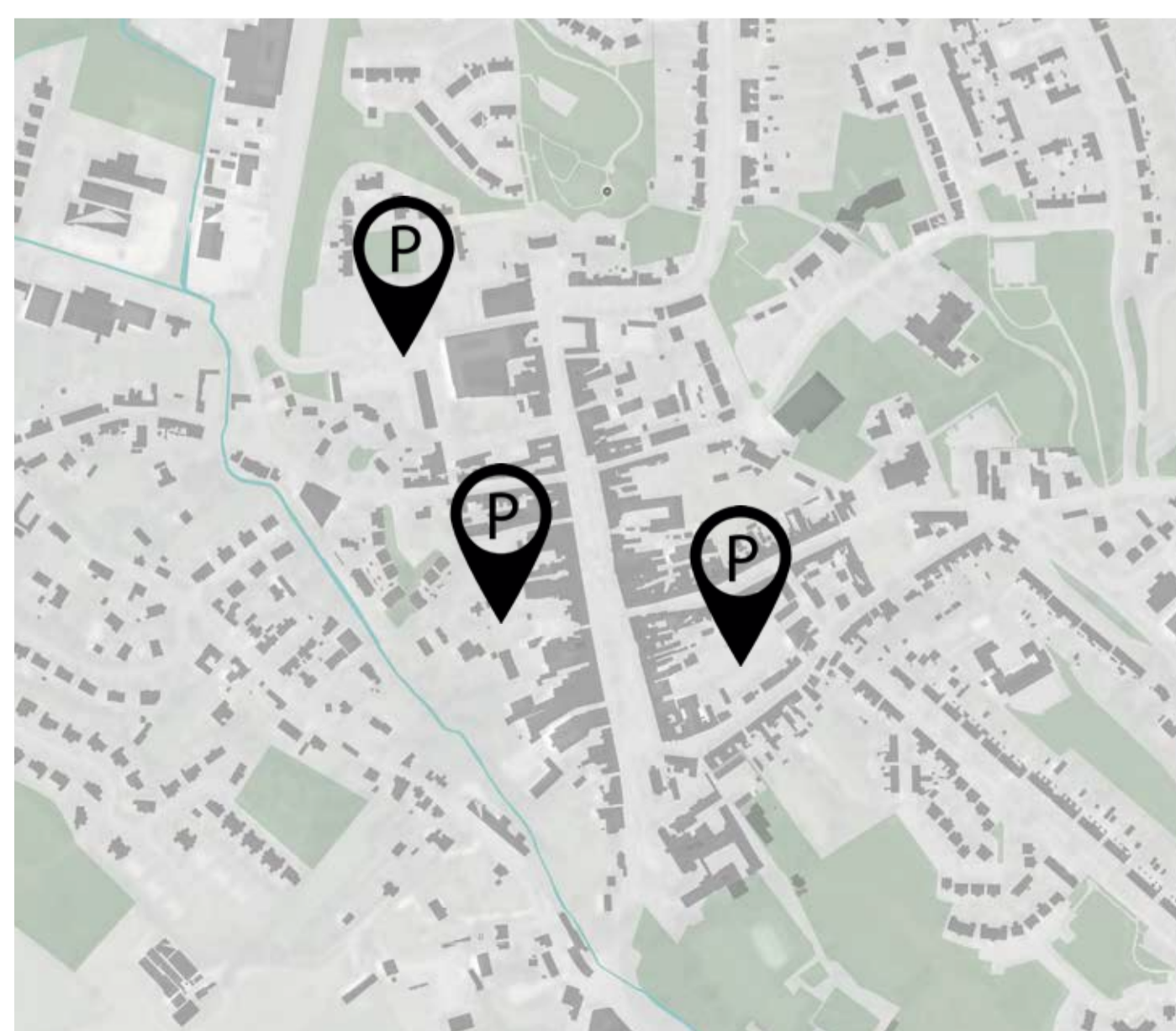


Welcoming everyone into Carrickmacross should be achieved through the establishment of Town Gateways. Working with local artists and designers, these unique features would involve sculptural landmarks, lighting and high quality planting.

- Commission Gateway Designs

Town centre parking requires management to help people park in the right places (eg vistiors, workers, commuters) while ensuring parked cars do not overly dominate streets and public spaces. A Town Car Parking Strategy developed in 2021 should now be implemented. Furthermore as the town embarks on the journey towards more sustainable transportation, the enhancement of the bus public transport system must also take a lead role.

- Implement Parking Strategy
- Establish Commuter Car park
- Assess Public Transport Needs
- Provide Enhanced Infrastructure



(c) parking strategy & public transport



(d) orientation & wayfinding system



It should be as easy as possible to navigate the town centre by foot and cycle, helping everybody find their way around (including to and from car parks) and encouraging visitors to immerse themselves in the rich cultural and historical fabric that characterises the community. This would involve a development of town's signage and mapping systems, both on-street and on-line.

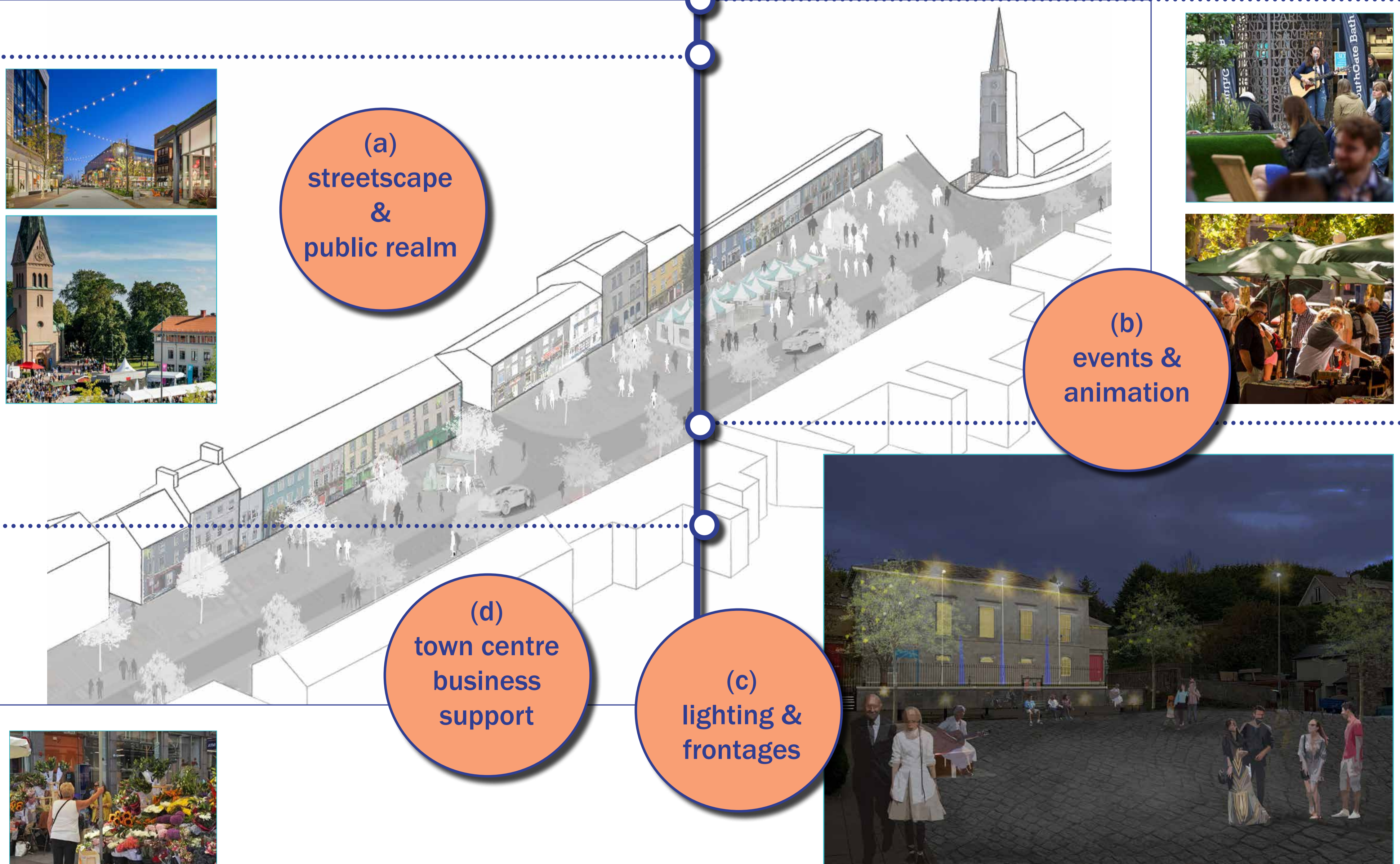
- Shape Wayfinding Strategy
- Provide signage and mapping
- Develop digital systems

Do we currently have the right balance between cars and places for people?

town centre streets

This initiative is a dedicated effort to revitalise and reimagine the heart of Carrickmacross. From enhancing the streetscapes to fostering a vibrant community atmosphere, 'Town Centre Streets' is a commitment to creating a more engaging, pedestrian-friendly, and visually appealing town centre.

Transforming our unique Main Street as a place for people, supporting community, business and tourism.



Main Street, complemented by its adjoining streets, is arguably one of the finest town centre streets in Ireland. This important project would see the redesign of the space to significantly upgrade the quality of the environment for people, while creating a better setting for its historic buildings and businesses. As per the 2019 plan, natural stone paving and semi mature street trees would be used to calm traffic, create wider footpaths, provide space for seating, stalls, events and some parking. Achieving the right balance between people and cars will be key.

- Main St Public Realm (phases)
- Adjoining Streetscapes
- Court House and Square

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.

- Review and increased operating efficiencies
- Support for innovation and digitisation
- New business start-up programmes



(a)
streetscape
&
public realm

(b)
events &
animation

(d)
town centre
business
support

(c)
lighting &
frontages



Fostering a vibrant, inclusive, and thriving community hub, the Events and Animation Project aims 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.

- Event Calendar Design
- Flexible and Pop-Up Spaces
- Businesses Collaborations

It is important that Carrickmacross not only looks fantastic day and night, but that it also feels safe and welcoming. Improved frontages and lighting an important role to play in contributing to this evening atmosphere, while highlighting the town's many architectural assets.

- Frontage and Signage Design Guide
- Heritage Restorations
- Smart Street Lighting Upgrades
- Historic Building Illumination
- Public Spaces and Parks Lighting



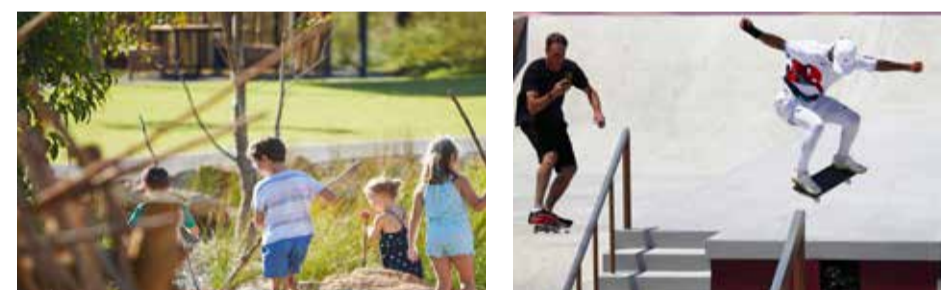
green and blue Carrickmacross

With many green and blue spaces, this project is a testament to our town's commitment to sustainability, environmental stewardship, and the overall health and well-being of Carrickmacross. By enhancing green spaces and water features, we aim to create a town that not only flourishes ecologically but also provides a serene and enjoyable environment for all its residents, young and old.

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

This project envisions a steady transformation of existing parks and spaces, breathing new life into these cherished areas. Through thoughtful design, we aim to create inviting and dynamic environments that cater to the diverse needs of our community, especially young people. Exciting potential also exists for a new town park in the south of the town.

- Community Greening Strategy
- Gallows Hill Landscape Masterplan
- Community Allotments
- Clough Valley Park Masterplan
- Carrickmacross Linear Park New Town Park (Lands between Civic Centre and St Louis School)



(a)
town centre
parks &
spaces

(c)
green energy
town



Faced with the climate crisis and the cost of living, it is essential that Carrickmacross saves energy and promotes the use of renewable sources. By working together Carrickmacross should lead the way in green energy.

- Measure our carbon footprints
- Employ energy saving measures
- Increase urban renewable energy
- Provide more EV charging points



The Greenways, Blueways and Cycleways project will link spaces and places, encouraging more people to walk and cycle in safety, leaving the car at home. This aims to provide not only recreational opportunities but also a renewed connection to the natural landscape, while promoting active travel and well-being.

- Greenway Corridor Development
- Multi-Modal Transport Integration (links to car parks, bus stops etc)
- Blueway Access Points (River and Lakes)
- On Street Cycle Lanes



(b)
greenways,
blueways,
cycleways

(d)
biodiversity
& habitats



The project aims for diverse and flourishing habitats take centre stage, carefully crafted to support local flora and fauna, fostering healthy local ecosystems. Inspired by the local work of Tidy Towns, from community gardens to pollinator-friendly spaces and dedicated wildlife zones, the project is rooted in the principles of community led biodiversity conservation.

- Biodiversity Action Plan
- Community Biodiversity Projects



How do we encourage more cycling in Carrickmacross?

St. Louis Convent Greenway Concept

town centre neighbourhoods

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

Town Centres are not just places in which to shop and visit. They must also be great places in which to live. In Carrickmacross there exists much potential for new housing within the town centre. These are largely located on vacant or underused sites, often located ‘around the back’ from our principal streets.

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

This initiative envisions a blend of mixed-use spaces, town housing, and diverse tenures, guided by design principles.

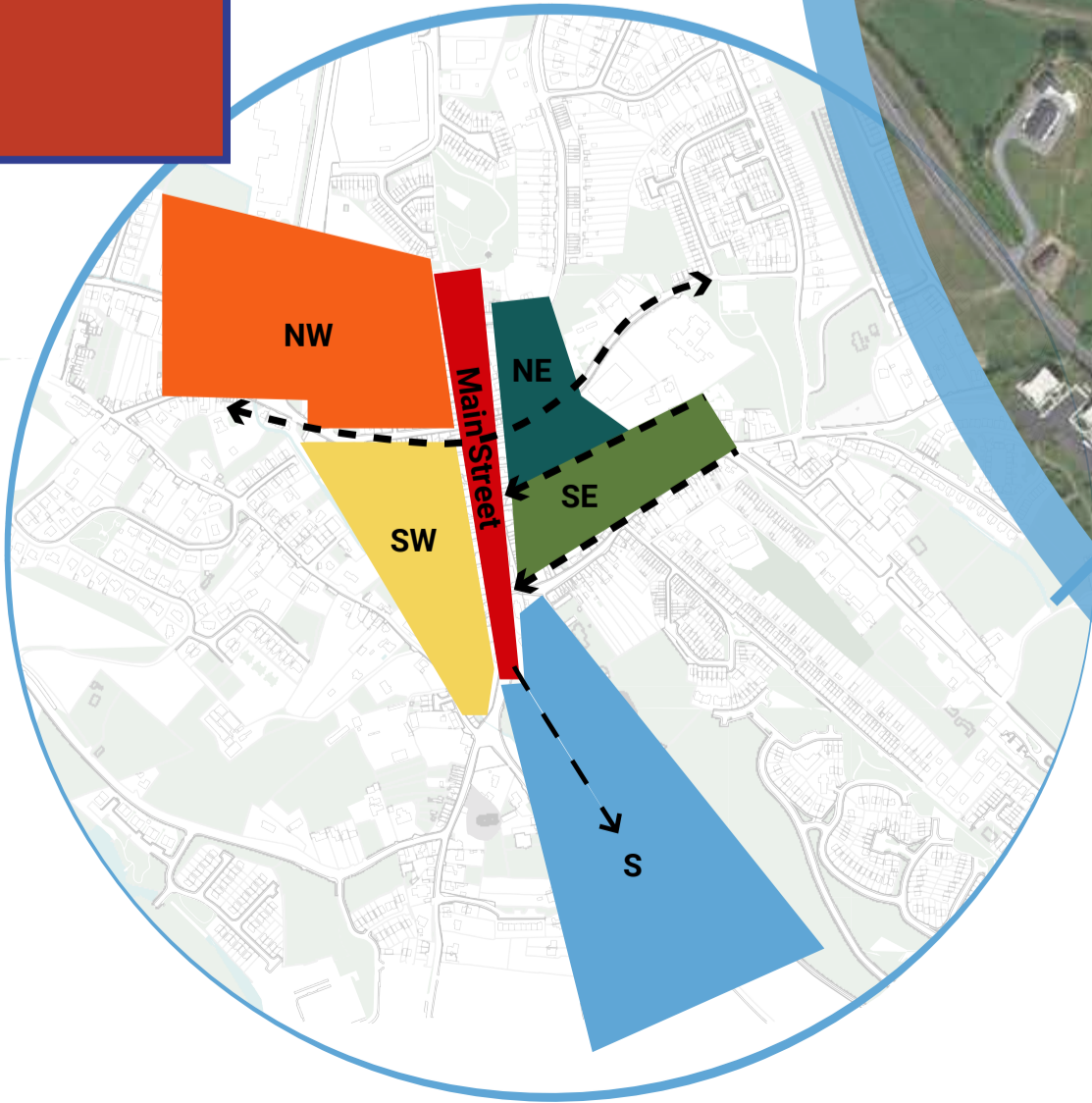
As the majority of these spaces are in private ownership, this plan aims to help guide and inspire landowners in bringing forward high quality developments.

There are 5 focus areas for development

- NW (Drummond Etra / Parnell Street)
- SW (Shirely Hse Lane / Mullinary Road)
- NE (Monaghan Street / O’Neill Street)
- SE (O’Neil Street / Farney Street)
- S (Magheross)



urban design principles



1. Retaining heritage assets

Preserving Carrickmacross’s heritage assets is a vital commitment to safeguarding the town’s rich history. From historic buildings to walls, trees and other features, 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 town housing with diversity and density

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

5. Creating Energy Efficient and Digitally Places

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

Focused on the development of vibrant and inclusive neighbourhoods at the heart of our town, this project aims to create a harmonious blend of new residential, commercial, and recreational spaces in the town centre.

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

North East
(Monaghan Street / O'Neill Street)

Vacant and underdeveloped lands in this location have much potential for new town housing, linked by a walk and cycle street connection.

- New town centre streets
- Mixed type and tenure town housing



(a) north east

(b) north west



North West
(Monaghan Street / O'Neill Street)

An important part of Carrickmacross, but with significant opportunity for improvement, including

- Bridewell House restoration
- Drummond Etra redevelopment
- Carrickmacross Workhouse Community Hub

How would you like to see these spaces redeveloped?

South East
(O'Neill Street / Farney Street)

This area has a strong character and thriving businesses. Two projects with potential here are:

- St Joseph's - Further enhancing public spaces and adjacent buildings
- Cross Street Car Park - Improving access and usage



(c) south east

(e) south



South
(Magheross)

Recent developments here have greatly added to the town, (Civic Centre, Primary Centre etc). It is now key this continues in an urban fashion, based on walking and cycling provision where possible.

- Linear Park connections
- Complementary developments

South West
(Shirely Hse Lane / Mullinary Road)

Vacant spaces hold development potential in this location, alongside sensitive consideration of the river corridor.

- Shirely House Lane Car Park
- River corridor restoration
- New town housing



(d) south west