// County Cavan Town and Village Revitalisation Plans

REVITALISATION PLANS

Prepared for County Cavan 26th September 2018 - Issue 02 FINAL

CAVAN TOWN







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PROJECT OVERVIEW



Cavan County Council has taken the lead in developing Town and Village Revitalisation Plans for 20 Towns and Villages across the County.

These plans have been developed in recognition of the importance of supporting and developing the physical and social fabric of these towns. The objective is to enhance our Towns and Villages as more attractive places to live and to work.

The plans are ambitious and will act as blueprints for the development and enhancement of our Towns and Villages over the next ten to fifteen years.

An integral part of the success of these plans will be the role that communities within the towns and villages take in leading out in their implementation in conjunction with Cavan County Council and other relevant bodies. Identification of a broad range of projects within the plans will enable communities to easily prioritise and develop project applications.

1. The Context for County Cavan Towns and Villages

Towns and villages play a key role in terms of serving the economic, social, cultural and community needs of the people and their hinterland. However, many towns and villages throughout Ireland are experiencing huge changes in terms of their commercial, aesthetic and cultural landscape. Provincial towns and especially provincial villages are under serious threat from the polarising effect of the larger city economies.

County Cavan is no exception to these changes. But while it shares the generic planning challenges that most provincial towns face such as out-of-town retail and residential development leading to dereliction of established town centres, Cavan County has also some very specific characteristics and needs. In particular South East Cavan due its proximity to the Greater Dublin Area has seen significant rise in population resulting in significant commuter numbers in some of the towns. In contrast parts of West Cavan, nested within pristine landscapes but in remote locations are suffering from population decline. County Cavan also faces challenges on account of its proximity to the border with Northern Ireland.

Within this context, as both the towns and villages experience huge changes across County Cavan, there is a greater importance placed on developing places that will be resilient and sustainable in the years and decades to come. In this context, County Cavan Council aim to harness local community and entrepreneurial spirit, in order to develop Revitalisation Plans for the towns and villages of Cavan.

2. Project Purpose and Outcomes

In September 2017, Tyréns UK and GCAL were commissioned by County Cavan Council to undertake the Town and Villages Revitalisation Plans project. The project will complement studies already undertaken by County Cavan and local Councils aimed at securing the long-term future of Cavan's towns.

The project encompasses the revitalisation of the following 20 towns and villages:

Cavan Town Kingscourt Ballyhaise Swanlinbar Virginia Belturbet Shercock Butlersbridge Bailieborough · Mullagh · Killeshandra · Blacklion Ballyjamesduff · Ballyconnell · Arva · Lough Gowna Ballinagh Kilnaleck Cootehill Dowra

The purpose of this study is to prepare plans showcasing how improvements can enhance the town as an attractive place in which to live, play, work, and visit. The Revitalisation Plans will seek to enhance and improve town and village functions both on a day to day basis, while also seeking to improve the long term socio economic, cultural and environmental benefits for residents, businesses, communities and visitors.

The outcomes of the Revitalisation Plans are three-fold - to deliver successful strategies across spatial development, economic development and community development. The project will seek to ensure that the design of these town and village plans recognises the diversity that exists in the County of Cavan and will tailor each plan for the site specifics of each settlement.

3. Project Structure

The project has been structured as follows:

STAGE 1 - BASELINE

- \cdot $\;$ Review of background material, reports, studies and strategies
- · 'What makes Cavan Cavan' engagement campaign
- · County wide analysis
- · Review of consultation findings

STAGE 2 - REVITALISATION PLANS

- · Individual Town and Village Revitalisation Plans
- · Consultation workshops

4. Objectives and Role of this Report

This report is one of a sequence of twenty reports providing a final summary of the proposals and proposals prepared as part of the County Cavan Towns and Villages Revitalisation project. This report is the final revitalisation report for Cavan (town 01 of 20).

The report sets out a series of proposals focusing on spatial, economic and community development, establishing recommendations for implementation timescales. The proposals are action-based and spatially focused and provide an urban design and public realm framework to inform local planning policy and future development and/or regeneration proposals, covering place-making, open space, transport, parking, heritage, iconic features and vistas, natural environment etc.

The report also compiles findings from the community engagement. The current design for Cavan is the result of a collaborative process with County Cavan Council, citizens, stakeholders and neighbours groups.

5. Project Deliverables

The following reports have been or will be delivered as part of County Cavan Town and Village Revitalisation Plans project documentation:

STAGE 1 - BASELINE

 Draft and Final Baseline Report - Site Analysis including SWOT analysis of each town and village and a County Wide analysis

STAGE 2 - REVITALISATION PLANS

· Draft and Final Individual Town and Village Revitalisation Plans

6. Project Programme

The early stages of the project - October 2017 to January 2018 - were dedicated to understanding the towns and villages context. During this period community engagement events were carried out as part of the 'What makes Cavan - Cavan' campaign.

Following this stage, from January to early February 2018, a County Wide Strategy has been prepared establishing a shared vision for County Cavan's towns and villages, identifying unique selling points, focus areas and themes for the Revitalisation Plans.

From February to May 2018, Revitalisation Plans have been prepared for each individual town. These plans have been supported by a series of workshops with the community.

7. The Tyréns and Gaffney & Cullivan Architects Approach

The GCAL and Tyréns team bring global thinking and local knowledge to the project. GCAL as Lead Architect bring expertise, extensive experience and considerable local knowledge of County Cavan. The practice specialises in built heritage which leads to proactive conservation architecture and renewal. Tyréns is a European multidisciplinary masterplanning, urban development and sustainable infrastructure consulting firm specialised in community and regional planning. The combination of Tyréns international experience coupled with GCAL's wealth of more local knowledge brings a unique perspective to the project.

Disciplines inputting to the project include urban design and planning, landscape architecture, transport and community capacity building. Working with the council's team, Tyréns and GCAL approach centre around people, their needs, their habits and their vision to inform the design of urban space. Tyréns and GCAL's goal is to activate factors that allow towns and villages to flourish as attractive places in which to live, work and socialise in.

INTRODUCTION



This report details the proposals aimed at revitalising Cavan. It is structured in the following way:

Section A - County Wide and Town Specific Proposals

Section A of the report identifies and describes proposals that are recommended to be implemented both county wide and on a town-by-town specific basis.

The section begins by presenting County Wide Proposals (referenced as CWP) that are recommended to be rolled out in each town across County Cavan. The report continues to outline a series of potential Town Specific Proposals (referenced as SP) that are recommended to be implemented in specific towns and villages across County Cavan only. The town specific proposals will be relevant to only some of the towns, and will be explored with further clarity in each report.

Each proposal is also associated with a suggested priority rating and predicted cost. This assumption is based on findings from consultations and feedback from members of the public. Both ratings are represented alongside each proposal with the following icons:

Priority rating:

- High
- Medium
- Low

Cost rating:

- **Standard Upgrade €0 €25,000**
- € Standard Plus Upgrade €25,000 €100,000
- €€ © Premium Upgrade €100,000 +

Section B - Cavan Proposals

Following from this, the report outlines the proposals identified for Cavan. Firstly, a map is used to illustrate the location of both the County Wide Proposals (CWP) and Cavan Specific Proposals (CSP). On the map, each proposal encompasses a series of physical elements such as waste bins, lighting and seating etc. These items are identified by icons. These items are colour coded in reference to the key themes used in the Stage 1 framework to illustrate the challenges and opportunities affecting County Cavan's towns and villages. The themes are as follows;

- 1. Accessibility
- 2. Streetscape
- 3. Amenities and Services
- 4. Builtform
- 5. Initiatives and Events

Proposed themes and their associated icons are as follows;

ACCESSIBILITY

- Signage
- Maps
- Information Panel
- Bus Shelter
- Crossing Point

- Footpat
- Cycle Path
- Traffic Calming
- Car Parking
- Pedestrianisation

STREETSCAPE

- 🏥 Planters
- Trees
- Tree surrounds
- Public Art
- Fountains
- Approach to town

AMENITIES

- Seating
- Outdoor Gym

Road Surface

Pavement Surface

Kerb Finish

Flexible Pavilion

- Playground
- River Amenity Space

street Façade / Building

SERVICES

- Waste Bin
- Orinking Fountain
- Charging & Wifi Station
- Lighting

Following the summary map, each proposal for Cavan is detailed with supporting text, existing and proposed imagery or graphics.

Section C - Summary

In Section B, a table summarises all the proposals for Cavan and presents estimated costs and phasing.

Section D - Consultation Findings

A first draft of the proposals presented in this report has been subject to a public consultation which led to the revised and final suggestions of this final report. A summary of the process and findings of the public consultation can be found in Section D.





COUNTY WIDE PROPOSALS



This section outlines recommended proposals to roll out in all 20 towns and villages across County Cavan. Proposals have been categorised into 'Standard', 'Standard Plus' and 'Premium' upgrades.

Many of the proposals suggested within these reports are recommended to be implemented in all of the 20 towns and villages involved in this study. It is important to consider these County Wide proposals at the scale of the county in order to create an integrated and seamless strategy, whereby items such as street furniture and wayfinding are uniform across multiple locations. Not only is this a cost and implementation benefit, but it will also strengthen the visual identity of Cavan as a County, to residents and visitors alike.

Proposals have been categorised as 'Standard', 'Standard Plus' and 'Premium' upgrades based on cost, together with an indicative priority rating for their implementation.

County Wide (CWP) 'Standard Upgrades' have been identified as:

CWP1 Public Seating

CWP2 Waste and Recycle Bins

CWP3 Planting

CWP4 Information Signs with Wifi/Charging Point

CWP5 Paving

County Wide (CWP) 'Standard Plus Upgrades' have been identified as:

CWP6 Approach Signage CWP7 Murals and Public Art CWP8 Electric Vehicle Charging Point CWP9 Walking Routes

County Wide (CWP) 'Premium Upgrades' have been identified as:

CWP10 Façade Painting

Standard Upgrades €

CWP1 Public Seating

The first County Wide proposal is to provide upgraded and additional public seating throughout the towns. The design could incorporate the town's local history or natural assets by integrating the seat with an art installation, or simply repainting any existing public seating with vibrant imagery. The benches should be of a natural aesthetic (e.g. wood) and of a relatively traditional appearance in order to fit the local character of the area.

Seating could include benches and chairs that would allow people to rest and enjoy the public spaces. The seating should ideally be sourced from a local (County Cavan) carpenter(s) or furniture manufacturer(s) and therefore hopefully made from locally (and/or nationally) sourced materials. This will give the dual benefit for generating local employment/boosting the local economy and having a lower carbon footprint than importing from overseas. As a longer term option, introduce smart seating to key central spaces with integrated wifi, charging and information points.









TL: Sensitive and informative design, Brecon Beacons TM: Smart bench with charging, data collection and wifi hot spot B and TR: Benches painted by the local community

CWP2 Waste and Recycle Bins

Waste bins should also be sourced and fabricated locally. They should be made of natural materials where possible, and should aesthetically fit the local character of the area.

The bins should be secure to prevent theft and should have small openings to prevent people from using them to put their household waste in. Recycling bins should be implemented where possible without proposing bulky and invasive bins.







T: Modern waste bins
B: Underground recycling bins

CWP3 Planting

In order to enhance the visual experience for both residents and visitors, a planting strategy should be implemented across all towns. Planting in the towns and villages could be landscaped using locally sourced stone to create a natural and local character. This character would also reference the topographical landscape of County Cavan. Planters could also be sourced and made locally using timber. They could also include built in planting elements, which could feature a diverse range of seasonal plants that can be enjoyed all year round.

Trees should be added throughout the town/village centres as they provide innumerable benefits to both the environment and residents. A good diversity of tree species should be used in order to create lush vegetation with a healthy flora environment. The introduction of tree surrounds double up as seating, and can be an easy way to create attractive landscaping to the urban environment. Permeable paving can also be used to allow the trees to capture run-off through the design of SUDS.









TL: Trees and seating create event and interaction spaces, Tullamore

TR: Property owners encouraged to use hanging baskets, Cornwall

BL: Trees along the street

BR: Tree surrounds, also acting as seating

CWP4 Information Signs with Wifi/Charging Point

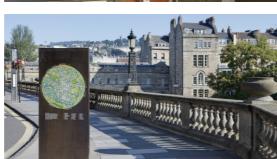
A well conceived signage strategy featuring a combination of signs, maps and information panels is important to effectively inform both residents and visitors, and will create a legible and identifiable town centre. In addition to this basic wayfinding function, good signage will enhance the character of the town, reinforce the hierarchy of spaces and contribute to the streetscape aesthetics.

Design standards should be established and replicated across all signs to ensure they are consistent and complementary. Use materials that fit the character of the town, for example locally sourced timber, which is high in quality, durable and easy to maintain.

All towns across Cavan should feature a principal map with text indicating current location, landmarks, features, routes and other amenities. This principal map should be located on the main public square or similar high pedestrian traffic areas.

Public information panels provide users with more detailed information about their surroundings by explaining the significance of a specific feature or space. Information panels could be interactive or tactile to add interest and encourage use. The information signs could be integrated with wifi and/or charging points for mobile phones. Lighting poles, bus shelters, kiosks and benches can also be used to offer digital services and should be solar powered where possible.









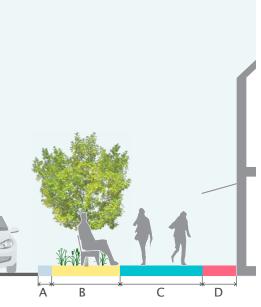
CWP5 Paving

Footpaths are a fundamental and necessary investment for all towns across the county. Often the main streets support high levels of vehicular traffic, and therefore pedestrian access and safety should be a priority. Well designed and maintained pavements encourage walking by making it safer and more attractive, but also support socialising and generate active streetscapes. Pavements should be provided on all urban streets, be accessible to all users and be uncluttered of unnecessary furniture. Pavement surfaces and kerbs should make use of locally sourced natural stone where possible.

Good quality footpaths should feature in the following zones:

- Buffer Zone (A) should be of appropriate scale and delineated by vertical or horizontal separation - trees, kerb extension etc. - from traffic to foster a sense of safety for pedestrians.
- Street Furniture Zone (B) sits adjacent to the buffer zone and is where street furniture and amenities should be located and aligned.
- Clear Path (C) is the primary, dedicated and accessible pathway that runs
 parallel to the street. It should be at least 1.8-2.4 m wide to ensure that two
 people using wheelchairs can pass each other. It must be free of fixed objects
 and deformities that would make it inaccessible.
- Frontage Zone (D) is at the edge between the clear path and buildings and should focus on how to make both attractive.





L: Pavement of the main street of a small town, with a landscaped buffer zone R: Location and width of footpath zones as described above.

Standard Plus Upgrades €€

CWP6 Approach Signage

The various approaches to towns are critical to creating a strong and welcoming sense of arrival. Furthermore, as all towns and villages within County Cavan are located in rural areas with scenic views of the countryside, the approaches are sensitive spaces that can either support or be detrimental to the integration of the town into its surroundings. These approaches also signify a threshold, whereby the streets become less car oriented, more pedestrian and cycle focused in the town centre.

Bespoke signage should be introduced at the approach to the county itself and to each town and village. Signs should illustrate the location within the county, and could provide additional information such as population and an interesting unique fact. Towns should encourage the design of colourful planting and landscaping to the surrounds of the new signs to further enhance the arrival experience. An effort should be made to limit billboards.

CWP7 Murals and Public Art

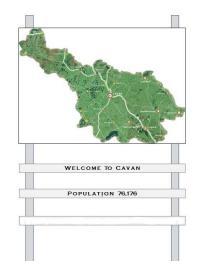
Public art is the most effective way to promote a town or village's individual character. Tourism will be encouraged furthermore through the marketing of local culture and art through social media platforms and the internet.

Various types of public art should be considered as part of an overarching strategy for each town and village. Ideas include; creative structures and pavilions, sculptures and street art, which should be designed for key public spaces.

There is existing public art in the form of street art and mural paintings across many of the towns and villages including Ballinagh, Swanlinbar and Kilnaleck.

CWP8 Electric Vehicle Charging Point

To encourage behavioural changes towards using more sustainable transport solutions, additional electric car charging stations should be provided across the county. These should be located at convenient and central locations to strengthen the benefits of having an electric car. Stations could be incorporated into lighting poles to avoid cluttering the streetscape with additional items.





DROITWICH SPA



TL: Proposed design of approach signage for County Cavan towns TR and B: Welcome sign enhanced with colourful planting







T and BL: Example of murals referencing the local heritage of the town and created by the local community
BR: Existing street art in Ballinagh



E-car charging station

CWP9 Walking Routes

Each town should have a variety of walking trails in order to encourage residents and visitors to explore the built, natural and tourism assets as part of well signed routes. Trails could also include information panels at specific points of interest along the way.

Premium Upgrades €€€



CWP10 Façade Painting

Well maintained and aesthetically pleasant street façades account for creating a welcoming and vibrant atmosphere in towns, and can also add to the character of the streetscape. This can be achieved through the implementation of a façade painting scheme, improvements to shopfronts and building frontages, or the commissioning of artwork murals, lighting schemes etc. Special treatment should be given to historic buildings that provide a special architectural, cultural or heritage value to the townscape. Landmark buildings that strengthen the identity of a town should also be well maintained and presented within the streetscape. Derelict sites should also be addressed, as they are often key spaces which could add to the character and experience of a town. Such schemes can be phased, by prioritising proposals at key locations, at entrances to town, at key nodes, and at areas around public spaces. Acting as a catalyst for future improvements, the upgrading of key sites and buildings will create maximum impact and encourage incremental changes across other parts of town.







Variety of sign design along countryside walks







Recent painting scheme in Mullagh

TOWN SPECIFIC PROPOSALS



This section outlines some possible proposals that will be specific to the towns across County Cavan. As within the County Wide section, proposals have been categorised into 'Standard', 'Standard Plus' and 'Premium' upgrades.

N.B: these proposals hold no priority rating as they are location specific. Priority ratings are summarised on page 38.

Standard Plus Upgrades ®®

SP1 Street Redesign

Given that many of the 20 towns and villages are located along regional and local roads, through-traffic and parking are major issues experienced throughout County Cavan. These towns suffer from huge volumes of cars and industrial sized vehicles traveling along the main street. This makes for an unfriendly and dangerous pedestrian and cycle environment, that is often worsened by a lack of crossing points, narrow and damaged pavements.

Key street sections should be redesigned to create 'complete streets' that are safe and to be enjoyed by all users. Proposals could include new crossing points and refuge islands, cycle paths and associated facilities, high quality intersection surface treatment, contemporary lighting and street furniture that reflects the character of the area, shared surfaces where appropriate, traffic calming features and parking control measures. Road surfaces should be renewed when necessary to make streets both safer and more aesthetically pleasant. In particular, the use of different materials could reduce the reliance on road markings.







TL: Use of differentiated paving to strengthen the visibility of the crossing TM: Cycle physically separated from traffic on the main street BL: Shared surface

R: Example of context sensitive lighting solution

SP2 Car Parking

Generally there is a good provision of parking across most towns and villages in Cavan. However many car parks and on-street parking could benefit from a redesign and/or realignment, enhanced with the introduction of landscaping, lighting and furniture.

Designated parking spaces for car users with disabilities should also be provided in every town and village across the County. These should be located next to key amenities with dropped kerbs to allow easy wheelchair access. Poorly designed disabled parking should be avoided: bays should not be fitted into leftover space but should instead be purposely designed from the start as part of a holistic strategy.







TL: Successful town centre car parking integrated with a landscaping scheme TR: The use of multiple surface materials to add texture and visual interest.

BL: Disabled parking bay and sign, Ireland

BR: Efficient car park layout with clear pedestrian routes and furniture.

Premium Upgrades €€

SP3 Public Space

Improvements to the existing public space can activate and bring key amenities to previously lifeless towns. Plazas, squares and urban parks should be transformed into multi-use destinations, supporting a variety of civic and community uses including markets, events, seasonal programming etc. Public spaces are also spaces to rest, meet, interact and play, and should therefore incorporate seating, informal play items, canopies, landscaping and water features. The creation of new public spaces in the existing urban fabric can take advantage of building setbacks or wide roads. Community involvement in the co-creation of public spaces should be encouraged, as a way to foster a community's sense of pride and shared ownership of the town.

Public spaces could integrate flexible pavilions, which could trigger various uses and activities including pop up food stalls, amphitheatres for mini-concerts, performances, meetings, spaces to host yoga, cooking or meditation courses, offer of local services etc. Pavilions could also be made bookable by the local community in order to organise and host their own events. The design of pop up and transportable structures would also enable usage across multiple locations.







TL: Temporary activation of the public space TR: Pavilion dedicated to the discovery of urban gardening in Aarhus, Denmark B: Leyteire urban garden

SP4 Pedestrianisation

In the larger towns of the county, such as Cavan Town or Bailieborough, the pedestrianisation of some streets could be explored. Pedestrianisation can activate streets for new uses, foster interaction and encourage pedestrian movement. Overall, it makes the street more active, safer and healthier. It can also boost the local economy by generating higher footfall levels in retail areas.

In order for the concept of a shared or pedestrianised street to be well received locally, the proposal could be phased over time through small incremental measures. This could begin with pavement extensions, the creation of a shared street, the reduction of carriageways to single lane, the licensing of outdoor seating for cafés and pubs. Similarly, a short section of the road can be redesigned with space for a cycle track, large planters, trees, seating spaces and terraces. The community can also be encouraged to reinvent the public realm through the flexible and temporary programming of streets, such as events, street parties, markets, play streets, open streets, pedestrianisation one day a week etc.

These proposals will demonstrate the diverse ways in which a street may be utilised and may lead over time to more permanent transformations of the rightof-way.







T: A Parklet event - temporary pavement extension for amenity on parking spaces - and temporary street pedestrianisation, Hammersmith, London

SP5 Outdoor Gym and Playground

Playgrounds and outdoor gyms can inspire people to engage in healthy, active and outdoor lifestyles. They also serve as spaces to meet and socialise. To ensure high levels of use, they should be located near residential areas and be easily accessible by both pedestrian and cycle routes.

Playgrounds should be specifically designed for the space and context they sit in, and also make use of the available natural materials and planting. They should feature disabled friendly items and sensory rich equipment, encourage both ordered and informal play activities and support an assortment of games to appeal to different user groups. Such playgrounds should foster a sense of freedom, inspire creativity and boost the physical abilities of children.

Outdoor gyms provide public accessible places to train alone or in groups with numerous structures. Each gym should have its own character with an attractive design solution. The design should be versatile to allow users to develop their own exercises and for people of all fitness abilities to use and enjoy. In more rural areas, fitness trails could be a more appropriate solution.









B: Outdoor gym in Brisbane and trim trail in Tom Ruana Park, Mayo, Ireland

SP6 River and Lakeside Amenity Space

Those towns and villages located near a river or a lake should aim to create amenity areas by the water for leisure, sport and recreation. These would positively contribute towards quality of life by providing an opportunity for all residents and visitors to access good quality open space facilities year round.

The range of activities offered could include: horse riding, cycling, picnicking, competitions, festivals, bird watching, nature trails, photography, orienteering, climbing, camping, swimming, boating, canoeing etc. Light structures such as a shelter or pavilion can facilitate the provision of a food and beverage offer and could facilitate scheduling events such as concerts and competitions. Legible pedestrian links from the amenity space to the town centre should be developed in parallel.

The promotion of the amenity value of rivers and lakes should be coupled with a strong focus on ecology by ensuring that developments do not disproportionately impact on the landscape and natural areas. The appropriate location, sitting and design of proposed spaces will ensure that the natural resources which form the basis for recreation are protected and effectively managed.







T: Amenity space for walking, resting, fishing and sport in Lünen, Germany and Annecy, France B: River dedicated to swimming in Rostock, Germany

B: Pedestrian Street in Boulder



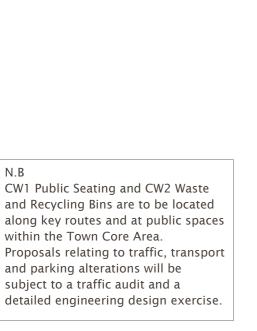


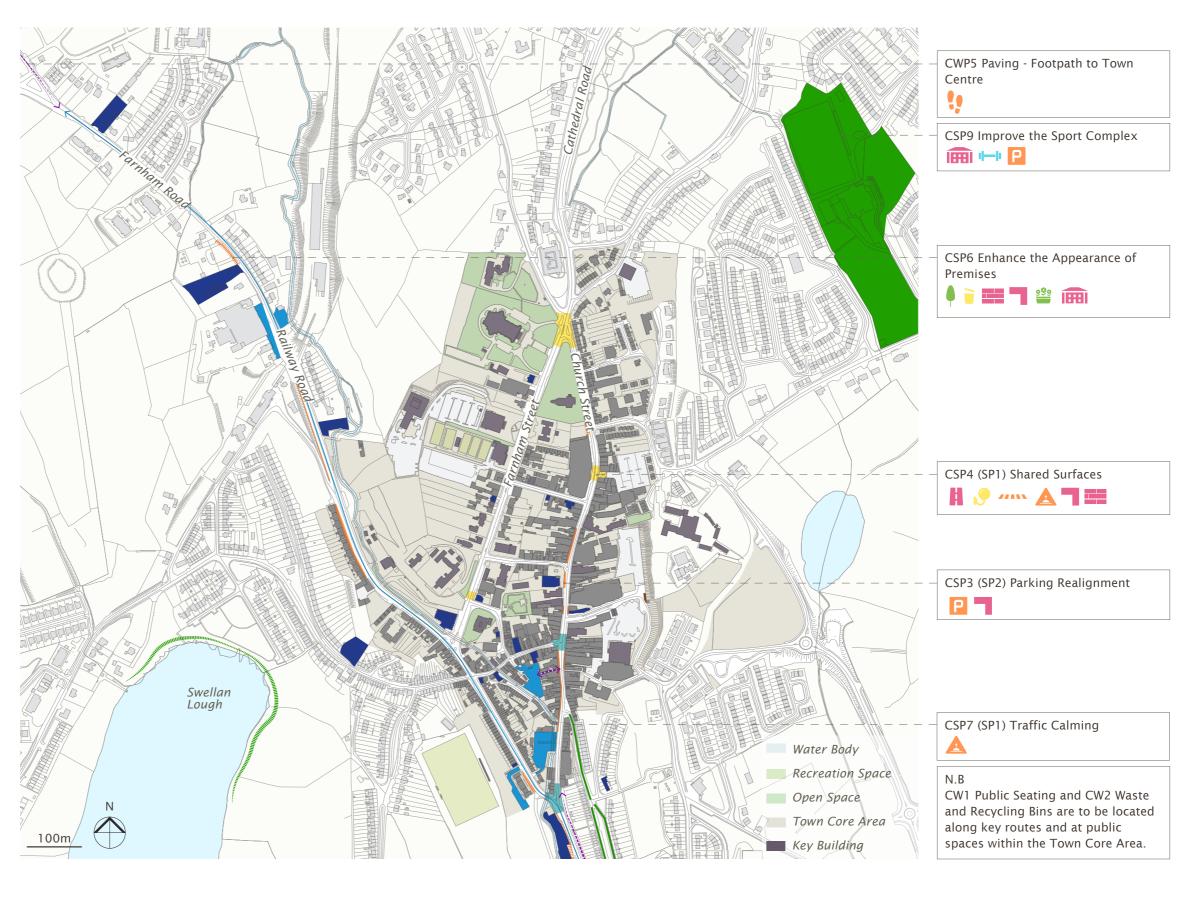
PROPOSAL MAPS



Potential civic and cultural redevelopment opportunity

* Please note: CSP - Cavan Town Specific Proposal CWP - County Wide Proposal

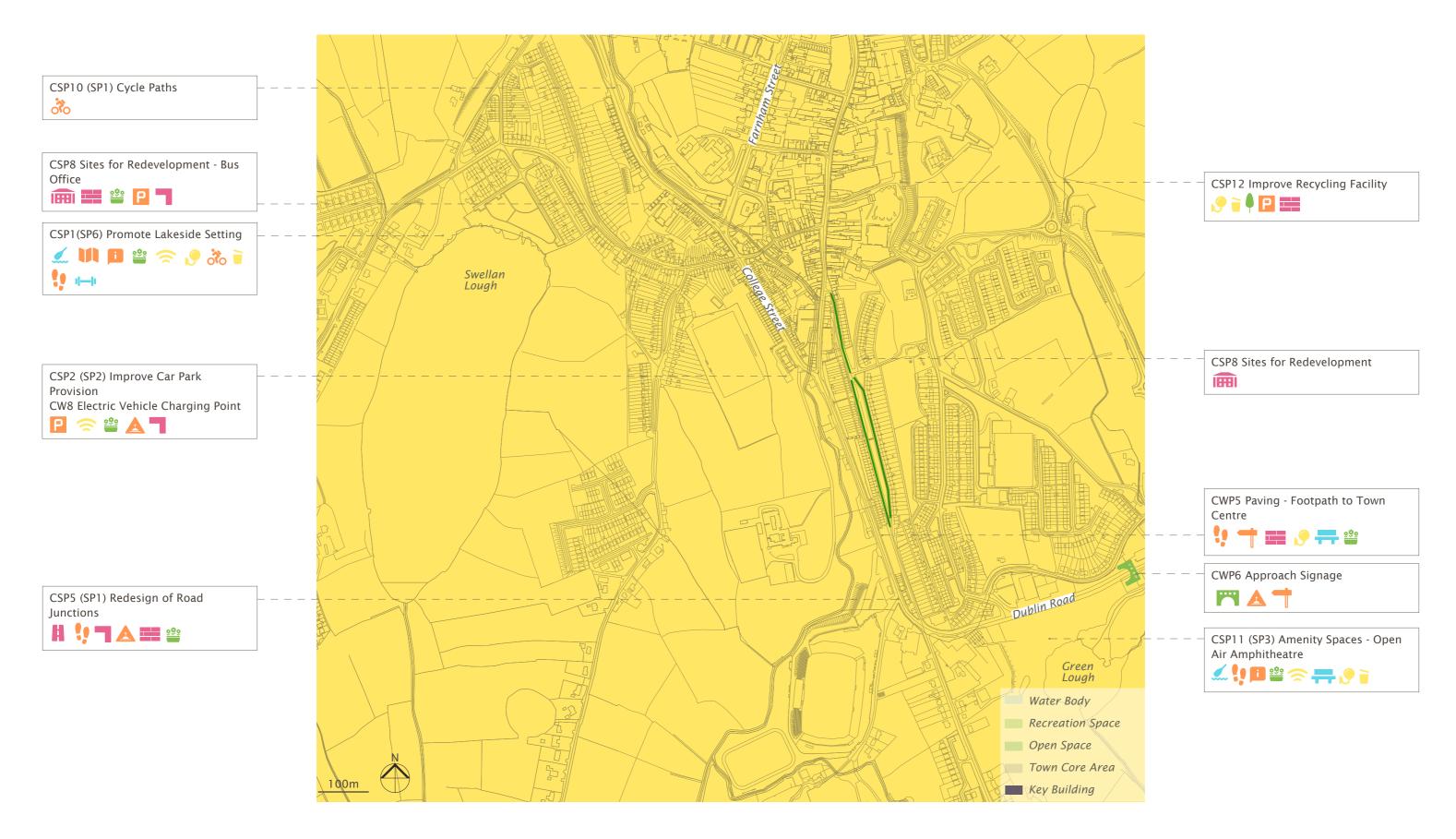




within the Town Core Area.

and parking alterations will be

subject to a traffic audit and a



CAVAN TOWN CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT A Dublin-based investment fund has acquired a 2.42 acre block of retail and development space in Cavan Town centre. The site is within a masterplan area under the Cavan Development Plan 2014 - 2020, which encourages new buildings to establish a vibrant town core and facilitate back-land development to form a civic space. Such a new development could foster revitalisation elsewhere in the town centre and attract further

CSP11 (SP3) Amenity Spaces - Courthouse

CWP5 Paving - Redesign Pavements



CSP14 Enhance Built Heritage



investment.

CSP8 Sites for Redevelopment - Abbeylands











CSP15 Access to Church Parkland

CSP11 (SP3) Amenity Spaces - Pocket Parks



CWP7 Murals and Public Art



CWP4 Information Signs with Wifi/ Charging Point



CSP13 (SP3) Activate Squares



CSP4 (SP1) Shared Surfaces







County Wide Proposals

CWP2 Waste and Recycle Bins

discourage misuse of the bins.



CWP1 Public Seating



In keeping with the county wide proposals, a key item to consider for upgrade or replacement in Cavan Town is public seating. There is currently a lack of seating available along key routes and in open spaces within the town centre. Additional provision would encourage pedestrian use and create a more active centre.

As illustrated opposite, the bench design should be durable, and resistant to long term weathering. The seating should be securely fixed to the paving, and be made of local and traditional materials if possible. Benches should be minimal in design, and allow for multiple views by the user by not having a structural back. New seating should be introduced as a priority along main roads and at key open spaces within the Town Core Area as shown on the proposals map.

In conjunction with the county wide proposals discussed previously in this report, new combined recycling and waste bins should be positioned within Cavan Town and across other towns in Cavan. New bins should be introduced as a priority along main roads and at key open spaces within the Town Core Area as shown on the proposals map. Having been designed with small openings, this will

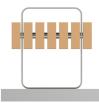


Cavan Town - existing: a lack of provision of public seating



Cavan Town - existing: waste bins - no allowance for recycling.



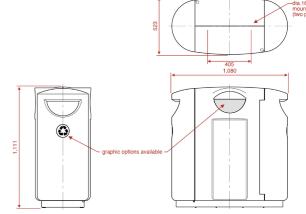






Proposed: above: durable public benches to be specified in multiple locations. Below: curved seating to be implemented in parks and open spaces.





Proposed: Cast Ductile Iron litter bin with 3 compartments; litter and recycling.

0173-REP-03-01 County Cavan Town and Village Revitalisation Plans // Cavan Town Revitalisation Plan // Issue 02 // 26.09.2018 // Tyréns

€ CWP3 Planting



To enliven the streetscape throughout Cavan Town and better position it as an attractive county town, existing landscaped areas should be improved by using planting to soften new or unattractive developments. Use planting to improve the appearance of roadways and enhance the atmosphere of both the town centre and residential streets.

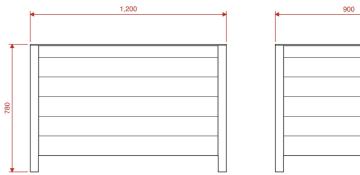
On the National route, provide planting along the highway to enhance the existing landscaping to the front of houses and retaining walls by introducing non-deciduous planting. This should allow privacy to be maintained whilst improving the visual approach to town. Throughout the town centre, use wide footpaths to introduce high canopy trees. At the junction between Railway Road and Farnham Street, the trees are overbearing and cause significant shading and can obstruct views. They should be managed and maintained at a more suitable height.

Trees and planting should be located as per the proposals map. Native and diverse plant species could be used to enhance biodiversity.



Cavan Town - existing: a lack of trees and planting in the public space





Proposed: durable wooden planters



CWP4 Information Signs with Wifi/Charging Point



As per the county wide guidance, run down or missing signage within Cavan Town should be replaced with newly installed information signs for all users, including pedestrians, cyclists and vehicle drivers.

The format, layout, colours, fonts and over all design should be in conjunction with signage found in all other towns within County Cavan. This should also include upgraded information panels which are clearly legible and provide information on the local area, the history and upcoming events.



Cavan Town - existing: information signs



Proposed: Interactive information panel

€ ● CWP5 Paving



Unclutter, upgrade and widen pavements where required throughout the town. In particular, the current footpath on Barrack Hill is unsafe due to its stepped format. Here, consider altering the pavement to create a lower ramped footpath which can access the upper parts of the street. This may require a one-way traffic system, as proposed in the Cavan Towns and Environs Integrated Framework Plan 2020: Transportation Study.

On Fair Green Hill, Tullacmongan, Saint Brigids Terrace and Railway Road, consider extending the pavements to create linkages within the town centre and better protect the pedestrians from traffic. In a similar way, consider the continuation of the footpath on Golf Links Road toward Farnham School to the west and Loreto College to the northeast. This would encourage walking to local amenities such as schools and the hospital. Finally, a footpath terraced into the higher level green area as an alternative to the low level footpath along Dublin Road should be created. This new footpath would allow pedestrians to walk to town centre in a safer and more pleasant setting, buffered from vehicular traffic.





Introduce welcoming signage, colourful planting and speed regulation on the approach roads to town as per the county wide guidance.

In particular, consider the removal of ad hoc and temporary signage on Dublin Road, as it creates a poor arrival to the County Town. Regulate signage, frame the road with specimen trees and introduce planting or art installations on roundabouts.



Cavan Town - existing: Dublin Road section, featuring a wide carriageway, narrow footpath and area of overgrown vegetation.



Cavan Town - existing: a lack of welcoming approach signs.



Proposed: redesign Dublin Road section with the introduction of a cycle lane and of a footpath protected from adjacent traffic.



Proposed: use of county wide signage with local information and fact. (N.B information will be town specific in detailed design).

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CWP7 Murals and Public Art



Commission of sculptures and artwork murals by local artists and schools to enliven blank walls and enhance the streetscape. Potential locations for art and murals have been identified on the proposals map and are sited in places of high footfall such as car parks, retail streets, parks or road junctions. The commissioned pieces of work should reflect the local folklore and history of Cavan. Such artwork could also serve as an informal wayfinding system.



Cavan Town - existing: public spaces lacking art installations.



Proposed: reinstate key buildings and façades with murals related to the town's features and heritage. (Ledwidge mural).



CWP8 Electric Vehicle Charging Point



With an increasing numbers of electrical vehicles being used, towns should ensure that there is sufficient provision of electrical charging points. These should be located within close proximity to the town's retail streets or close to key attractions. As per the proposals map, additional charging points should be located within the redesigned or newly created car parks.



Cavan Town - existing: e-car space in Cavan Town.



Proposed: provide additional e-car charging points with designated parking spaces.

€€ • CWP9 Walking Route

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This study recommends the creation of a 3.8 km walking loop around the town centre, allowing visitors to discover the key landmarks, views and natural assets of Cavan Town. It is recommended that this walk features interpretative and interactive signage materials.

The walking route can also link with the proposed Greenway development which is currently in the planning stage.



Proposed: markers along the walking routes



Cavan Town - existing: view of the river in Cavan Town.



Proposed: Cavan Town urban walking route



Encourage the redecoration of dishevelled façades by introducing a painting scheme. This would enhance the character and streetscape of Cavan Town, and protect its identity.

In particular, on College Street, facilitate grants to maintain the two storey terrace houses as these are characteristic of the town. As such, encourage painting and maintenance of the chimney and decorative brickwork to protect the street's appearance in the long term.



Cavan Town - existing: key façades in need of refreshment



Proposed: encourage property owners to paint their façades with a set colour palette to create a bright and uplifted town centre.

Cavan Town Specific Proposals (CSP)



CSP1 Promote Lakeside Setting



Swellan Lough is a key natural asset in close proximity of the town centre. Consider capitalising on this valuable site further by creating an amenity space for recreation, exercise, walking and water sports. To ensure good use of the lake, create high quality linkages from the town centre and lakeside loop walk. Such footpaths could be used by local schools wanting to schedule outdoor classes by the lake.

In conjunction with lakeside improvements for amenity use, ensure the protection of biodiversity and wildlife. Dedicated well-signed footpaths should be created in order to prevent damage and preserve the natural surroundings. This will contribute to the picturesque character of the lake.



Cavan Town - existing: views over Swellan Lough



Proposed: above: create an amenity space for leisure and recreation that is usable by all age groups and easily accessible.



CSP2 Improve Car Park Provision



In order to relieve on-street parking pressure throughout town, improve and increase the car parking provision.

As such, improve retail parking by redesigning the parking area on Farnham Road along commercial premises. This car park currently suffers from traffic congestion and dangerous parking practices, notably on Mart days. The creation of a dedicated entry and exit system together with the realignment of roads markings, improved sightlines and the creation of an area dedicated to trucks-only would allow it to function more efficiently.

Similarly, redesign the Main Street car park layout to make optimum use of space available: a one way system utilising the existing entry and exit could be created with improved sightlines.

Also encourage further usage of Bridge Street car park by emphasising linkages from Main Street through the archway. The archway should be enhanced with lighting, renewed paving, clear signage and planting. Within the car park, consider widening pavements and prevent the bay being occupied by bin stores. It is also recommended to incentivise all day parking in the multi-storey car park in order to free up other car parks and on-street parking for shoppers and visitors.

Finally, consider the creation of a car park on the vacant plot on College Street behind the new Plaza development, which backs onto Terry Coyle GAA Park. At present, the GAA car park is very tight for space the creation of a new car park could cater for the GAA needs.





Cavan Town - existing: T: inefficient and unsafe retail car park layout on Farnham Road. B: the archway to Bridge Street car park is not attractive and visible.





Proposed: redesign of the existing car parks to create more bays and introduce planting and varying materials in order to make them more attractive.

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CSP3 Parking Realignment

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In conjunction with the improvements to car parking provision, consider realignment to on-street parking throughout town. This would ease traffic flow, enhance safety levels and improve the streetscape.

As such, allow for parallel parking-only along the Dublin and Railway Roads in order to eliminate cars reversing into traffic. The residual space could be used for planting high canopy trees to soften adjacent developments.

Similarly, reduce the number of parking spaces along the most narrow sections of both Main Street and Farnham Street, and minimise parking to one side only of Fair Green Hill and Main Street. This would ease traffic flow, reduce pollution levels and make for a more pedestrian friendly environment.



Cavan Town - existing: dangerous perpendicular parking layout on the R198.

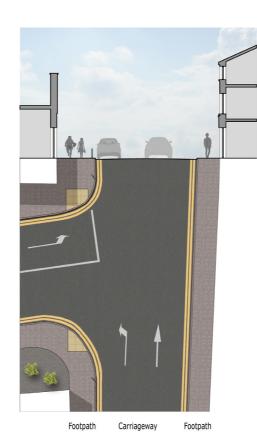


Proposed: realign the parking to one side of the street only. Parallel parking should be integrated with a widened footpath and new planting.

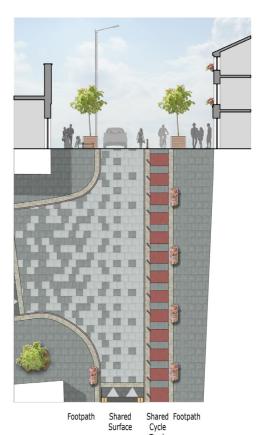


In order to passively slow traffic as it approaches the town centre, create safer crossing points and link up disjointed pieces of pedestrian paving, consider the creation of raised shared surfaces on Farnham Street and Church Street.

On Main Street, create a shared surface with distinctive pavements, added seats and planters, integrated with defined parking spaces. This would calm traffic, enhance the commercial atmosphere and encourage pedestrians to remain in this area. Also study the feasibility of pedestrianising (part of) the street during festivals or bank holidays.



Cavan Town - existing: Main Street is the primarily retail street in Cavan Town but suffers from insufficient space dedicated to pedestrian.



Proposed: potential redesign of Main street into a shared street with no segregation between pedestrian, cycle and vehicular flows.



CSP5 Redesign of Road Junctions

A number of road junctions throughout Cavan Town are currently unsafe for pedestrians and cyclists, can be visually unappealing, and as such should be redesigned.

Redesign the Dublin Road and James Connolly Street junction by adjusting markings to a conventional road geometry. This would allow the use of the residual space to create a wider path with ramp access to the higher level footpath leaving town. Alternatively, consider changing traffic lanes to only allow left turning through the junction. Traffic turning right could be rerouted through the current car park to assist with higher levels of parking use and allow for wider pavements.

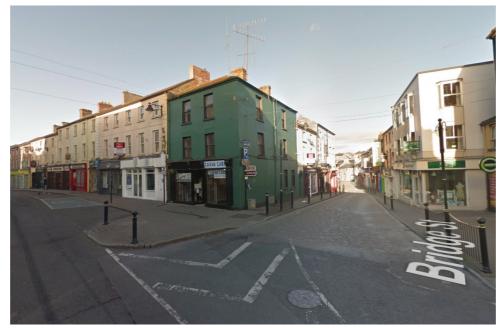
Redesign the Main Street and Bridge Street junction by substituting existing unsightly road markings for widened kerbs. This would make the junction more effective, improve space for pedestrians and calm traffic at this entry point to the shared street.



CSP6 Enhance Unsightly Premises

The town aesthetics are undermined by a number of unsightly commercial or industrial premises located both on the approach road to town and within the town centre. Consider upgrades to their façades, roofs, fences, finishes and yard space. Alternatively, introduce a hard and soft screening to improve visual amenity.

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Cavan Town - existing: Unappealing and unsafe Main Street and Bridge Street junction.



Cavan Town - existing: unsightly industrial premises in a central location in town.



Proposed: redesign the junction to widen space dedicated to pedestrians and cyclists as well as to calm traffic.



Proposed: screen industrial premises by using fencing and planting, while ensuring a high level of maintenance of the buildings.

€ € • CSP7 Traffic Calming

Consider the conversion of Fair Green Hill, Tullacmongan Street and St Brigids Terrace into one-way streets to calm traffic, increase child safety in this residential area and to create more space for pedestrians. Such a measure should be introduced in conjunction with public realm improvements such as upgraded or renewed pavements, seating and planting. This would encourage local residents to spend more time outdoors and to walk within the town.



Cavan Town - existing: unappealing and unsafe residential street featuring cars encroaching the narrow pavement and two-ways traffic flows.



Proposed: a one-way system, to dedicate space to wider pavements, planting and seating.





The town suffers from a large amount of empty or under-utilised properties, particularly on the southern approach. Consider offering incentives and encourage owners to redevelop these abandoned properties for either residential, community, sports and youth uses. Vacant properties located at gateway points to the town should be prioritised.

In particular, study the potential to refurbish the existing bus office on Farnham street into an attractive building, which will act as a landmark to mark an arrival point of the town. The space in front of the building should be kept bus free and landscaped. The pavements should be widened and feature high quality paving materials.

A new 'Quarter' could be created in Abbeylands, centred around vacant premises/ sites. These could be developed as civic spaces, pedestrianised streets and appropriate town centre uses maximising the potential of these underutilised sites.



Cavan Town - existing: abandoned property within the town core.



Proposed: potential for sensitive redevelopment of derelict properties within the town centre for mixed uses.



CSP9 Improve the Sport Complex

The existing Sport Complex has potential for more intensive use by the community coupled with further expansion of the established offering. There is also a recognised requirement for a running track within the town and county. As such, consider the extension of the swimming pool, and the creation of a running track which could serve the whole of County Cavan. As the car park is currently at capacity during peak times, consider potential extension and redesign of the existing layout. Sports Capital Funding could be considered as a source of funding available for these projects.



Cavan Town - existing: the Sport Complex is under-used and features a poorly designed car park.



Proposed: creation of a running track serving the whole county, together with the extension of the swimming pool and car park.



In order to encourage non-vehicular trips and active lifestyles, consider the creation of cycle paths along Dublin Road, Railway Road and Farnham Road. These cycle paths would provide links from the town centre to the existing cycle lanes at Cullies and Latt. This would ease peak time traffic congestion and reduce requirements for parking. These paths should be physically separated from vehicular traffic and should have associated bike repair stations and storage facilities.



Cavan Town - existing: road supporting high levels of vehicular traffic and thus unsafe for cyclists.



Proposed: creation of cycle paths physically separated from traffic flows to encourage non-vehicular trips to the town centre and adjacent residential areas.

€€€ • CSP11 Amenity Spaces

Open spaces throughout Cavan Town have been assessed and analysed in order to enhance and increase the provision of valuable amenity spaces. As such, create a series of diverse green spaces throughout town, providing opportunities for different activities, which should be usable all year round.

At Green Lake, consider the creation of an open air amphitheatre space built into the hill side, which could offer scenic views towards the water. Such a space would become a destination both for residents and visitors. It could be complemented by the improvement of the existing amenity space by the lake.

Within the town centre, uplift the unused space in front of the Courthouse to re-establish it as a usable pocket park for walking and recreation. Introduce soft landscaping, seating and footpaths. Such a park would benefit both staff and visitors, together with enhancing the Courthouse setting. Similarly, upgrade existing pocket parks on Church Street and Fair Green Hill with renewed seating, paving, lighting and planting. The pocket park on Church Street would create a space to rest in the town centre, whilst the park on Fair Green Hill would provide a small amenity space for local residents.

On the residential outskirts of Cavan Town, consider the potential to convert the under used green space on Fair View Terrace into a park offering views over the town. Introduce seating, footpaths, lighting and planting. This new park could provide pedestrian links with the existing view point area and the multi storey car park. Also consider the opportunity to transform the existing overgrown banks of Fair Green Hill and St Brigids Terrace into a community allotment space. Alternatively, this space could be enhanced with landscaping and seating to form a small residential park for leisure uses.

Finally, consider improvements to Terry Coyle Park as this space is a great local resource, however its location is very restricted and can cause high levels of traffic at game times. As such, the GAA club should liaise with Cavan County Council to improve access and upgrade facilities for the wider community.



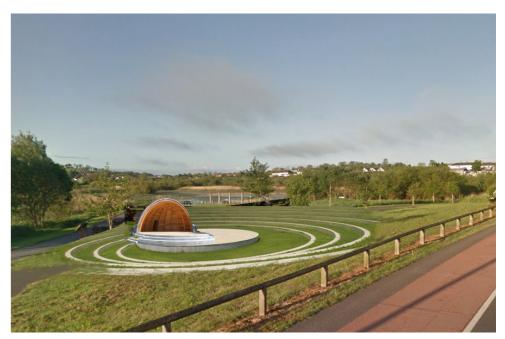
Cavan Town - existing: the Courthouse open space does not address adjacent public realm and is not inviting for quiet recreation uses.



Cavan Town - existing: views over Green Lake.



Proposed: creation of a small park with seating, planting and public art. This would also allow to further promote the architectural value of the Courthouse.



Proposed: creation of a small amphitheatre for cultural uses.

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CSP12 Improve Recycling Facility

The existing recycling facility is located at a busy junction, with multiple cars parking to unload items causing a hazard to vehicles and pedestrians. Consider the relocation of designated parking bays elsewhere in the car park and widen existing pavements. To enhance the appearance of the facility, consider the provision of underground bins and the introduction of trees. Alternatively, hard and soft screening to the bins could improve the visual appearance of the area.



Cavan Town - existing: visually unappealing and dangerous recycling facility.



Proposed: realign parking, widen pavements and consider the introduction of underground waste bins to improve the aesthetics and functioning of the facility.



Enhance squares and public spaces throughout Cavan Town to further position it as a vibrant and lively county town.

Uplift the Main Street Square by introducing a sculptural and contemporary canopy. This would create the idea of an enclosed urban plaza which could be further strengthened by adding planting and introducing wifi stations. Additionally, consider enlarging the square on Main Street to eliminate space for illegal parking and better funnel traffic.

With regards to Town Hall Square, further develop the public square and small garden adjacent to the Town Hall, by providing improved seating, paving, planting and signage. This would enhance the visual appearance of the square and better position the Town Hall as a landmark building within the town.



Cavan Town - existing: Main Street Square, featuring renewed paving, seating and planting but lacking activation.



Proposed: introduce a canopy to foster civic, community and social uses of Main Street Square and allow for all year uses.



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Cavan Town benefits from a number of interesting and well maintained historic buildings which add to the quality of the streetscape. It is greatly encouraged to further capitalise on this local heritage.

As such, promote Farnham Street built heritage by further developing walking tours and associated historical information panels. Encourage the use of uplighting to create an attractive atmosphere at night time along this street.

In the longer term, similar lighting schemes could be rolled out elsewhere in town.



Cavan Town - existing: Farnham Street features a number of well maintained historic buildings that add character to the streetscape.



Proposed: introduce a lighting scheme to further promote these buildings as valuables assets and landmarks in town.





In order to ease pedestrian flow within the town centre, consider the creation of gates to access the Church parkland from the Farnham Street and Church Street junction. This would allow pedestrians to use the parkland as a daytime amenity space and as a "clean air route" alternative to existing footpaths. The gates could be closed at night if required.



Cavan Town - existing: no entrance to the Church parkland from Farnham Street and Church Street.



Proposed: introduce gates to create a pleasant and quiet pedestrian path in the town centre as well as to open a new amenity space to local residents and workers.



€€€ CSP16 Improve Views to River

At present, the river in Cavan is poorly framed and not very visible from within the urban streetscape. It is flanked by retaining walls and fencing which, preventing it from acting as a pleasant amenity feature.

As a first step in improving this asset, tidying up the river banks and walls, introduce planting and improve the seating along Dublin Road and James Connolly Street would be recommended. This would enhance the river visual amenity. In the longer term, consider plans for the river banks to open up the river as a public space with seating and kiosks, or the creation of a riverwalk outside of town.



Cavan Town - existing: the river is not visible and untidy.



Proposed: works on the riverbanks to re-naturalise the river and open it up to public uses.





The houses along Wolfe Tone Street and College Street appear on the 25 inch series in their current layout. A conservation scheme should be implemented along this street to retain the houses in their current form and prevent unsympathetic changes such as PCV windows.



Cavan Town - existing: houses along Wolfe Tone Street.



Proposed: introduce a conservation scheme to protect the rich built heritage of the street and ensure it is well maintained in the future.







SUMMARY

This table summarises the proposals for Cavan Town and associated implementation timescale and costs.

	PROPOSAL	NOTES	PRIORITY RATING	COST RATING			
County Wide Proposals							
CWP1	Public Seating		Medium Priority	Standard Upgrade			
CWP2	Waste and Recycle Bins		Medium Priority	Standard Upgrade			
CWP3	Planting		Medium Priority	Standard Upgrade			
CWP4	Information Signs with Wifi/Charging Point		High Priority	Standard Upgrade			
CWP5	Paving		High Priority	Standard Upgrade			
CWP6	Approach Signage		High Priority	Standard Plus Upgrade			
CWP8	Electric Vehicle Charging Point		Low Priority	Standard Plus Upgrade			
CWP9	Walking Routes		Low Priority	Standard Plus Upgrade			
CWP10	Façade Painting		Medium Priority	Premium Upgrade			
Cavan Town Specific Proposals							
CSP1	Promote Lakeside Setting		High Priority	Premium Upgrade			
CSP2	Improve Car Park Provision		Medium Priority	Standard Plus Upgrade			
CSP3	Parking Realignment		Low Priority	Standard Plus Upgrade			
CSP4	Shared Surfaces		Medium Priority	Standard Plus Upgrade			

PROPOSAL		NOTES	PRIORITY RATING	COST RATING
CSP5	Redesign of Road Junctions		Medium Priority	Standard Plus Upgrade
CSP6	Enhance facade of premises		Medium Priority	Standard Upgrade
CSP7	Traffic Calming		Medium Priority	Standard Plus Upgrade
CSP8	Site for Redevelopment		High Priority	Premium Upgrade
CSP9	Improve the Sport Complex		High Priority	Premium Upgrade
CSP10	Cycle Paths		High Priority	Standard Plus Upgrade
CSP11	Amenity Spaces		High Priority	Premium Upgrade
CSP12	Improve Recycling Facility		High Priority	Standard Upgrade
CSP13	Activate Squares		High Priority	Premium Upgrade
CSP14	Enhance Built Heritage		High Priority	Premium Upgrade
CSP15	Access to Church Parkland		Medium Priority	Standard Upgrade
CSP16	Improve Views to River		Medium Priority	Premium Upgrade
CSP17	Conservation Scheme		Medium Priority	Premium Upgrade

Cost rating:

Standard Upgrade: €0 - €25,000

Standard Plus Upgrade: €25,000 - €100,000

Premium Upgrade: €100,000 +





CONSULTATION FINDINGS

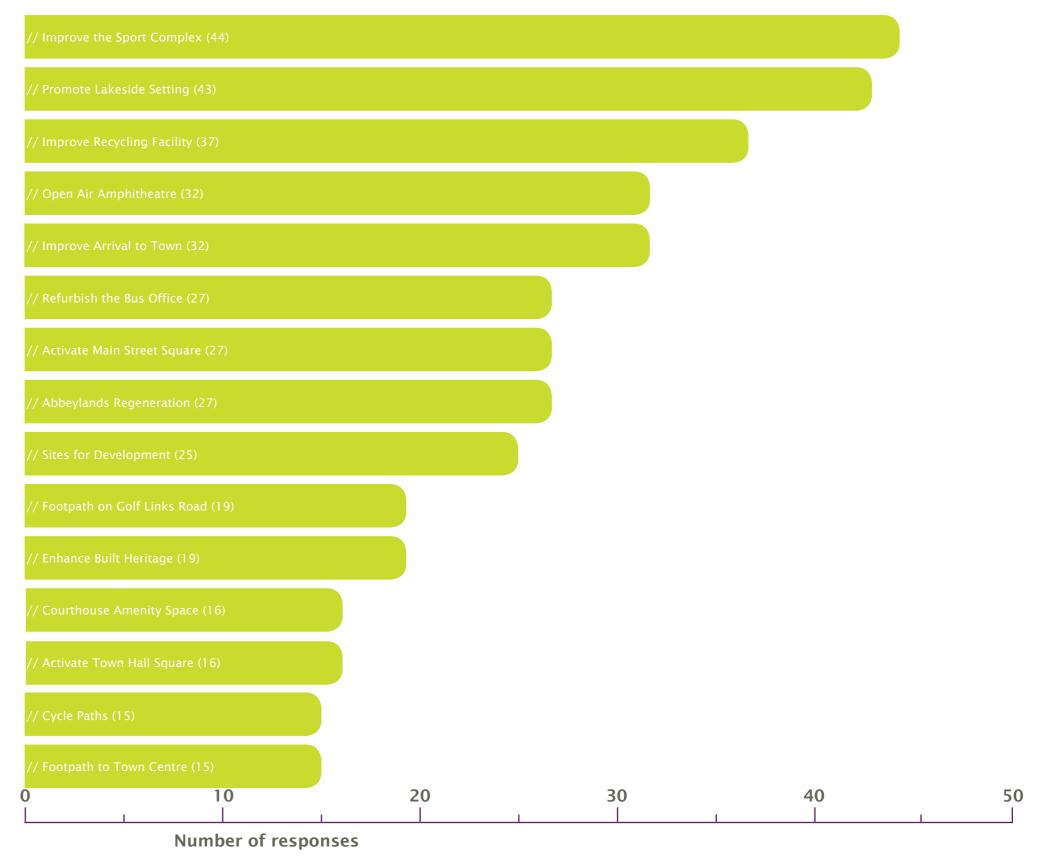


This section presents the summary of the findings of the public consultation.

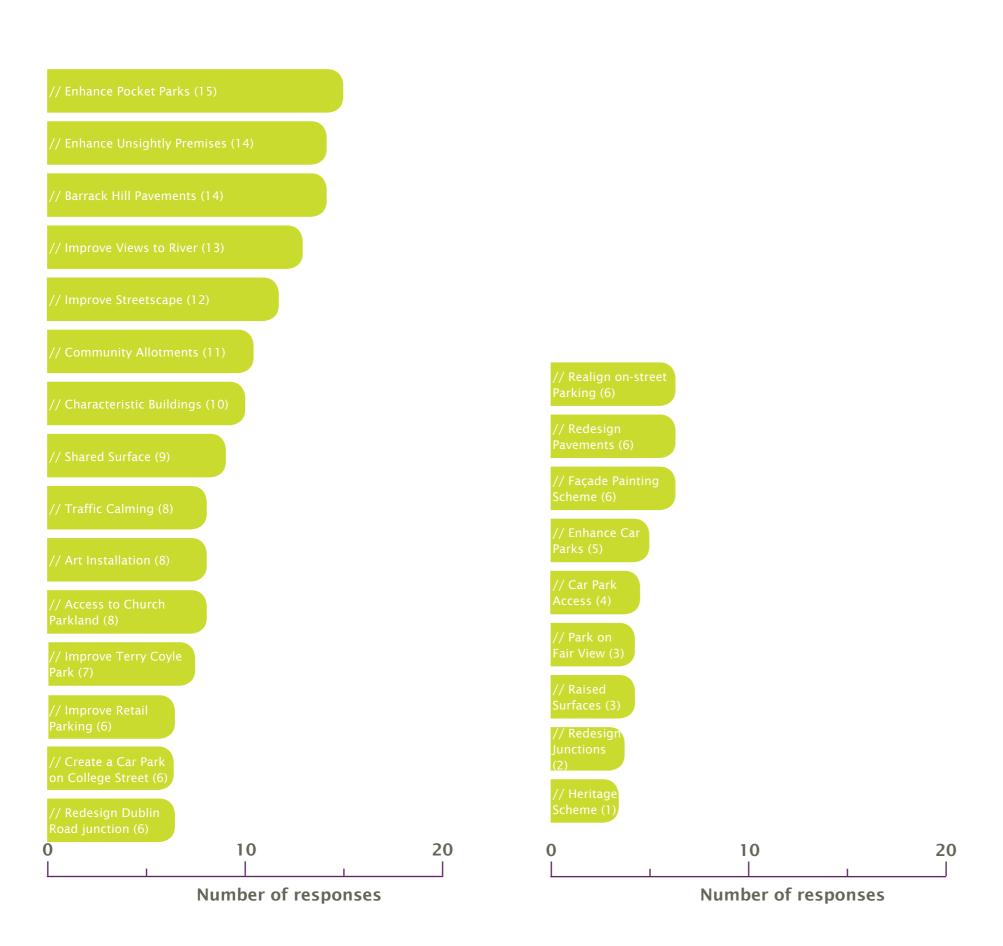
A draft of the proposals presented in this report has been subject to a public consultation which led to the revised and final suggestions of the present report. The proposals were presented and members of the public were invited to provide feedback as to which proposal they thought would be most likely to improve Cavan Town, and which they thought were least likely to improve the town.

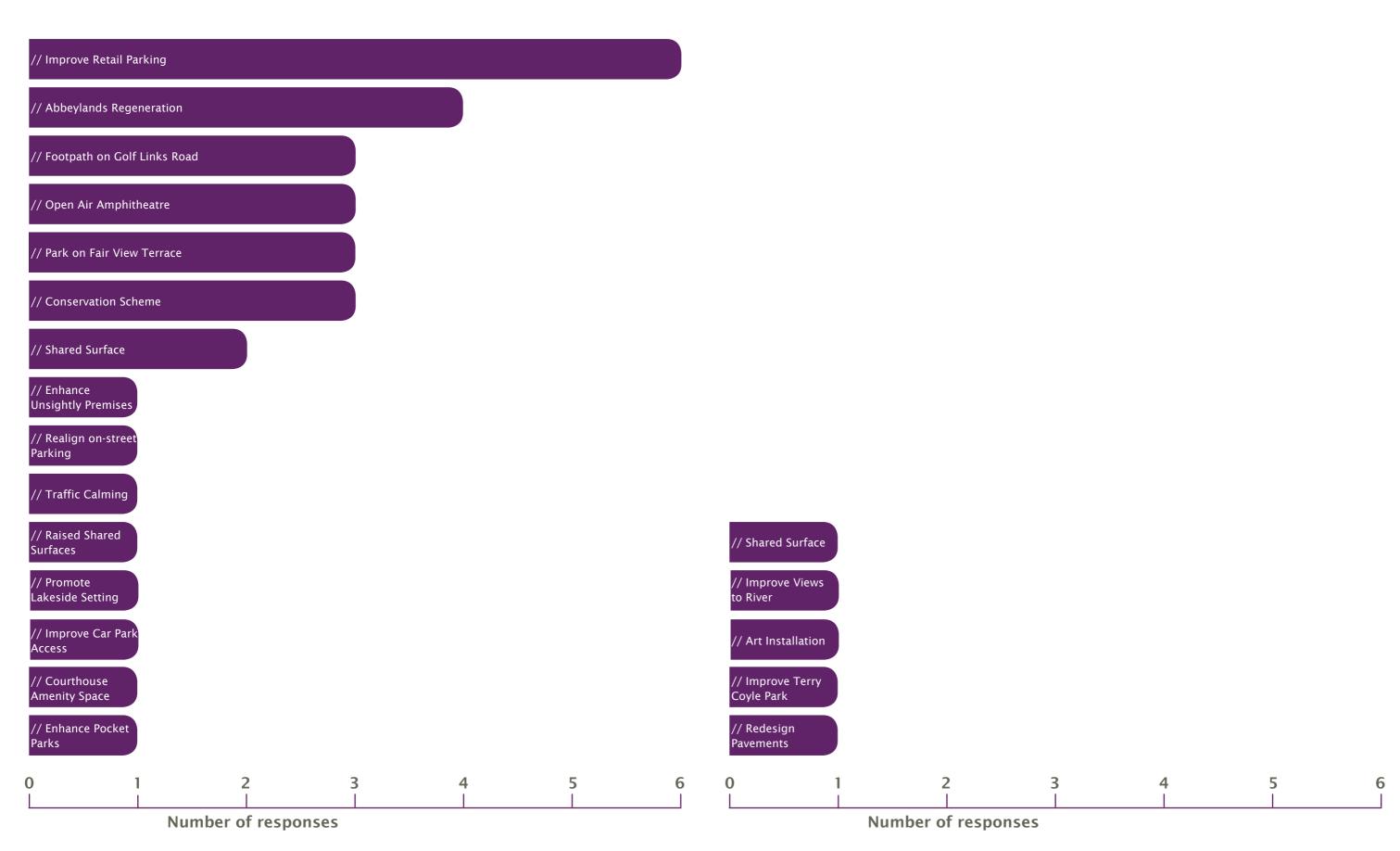
The findings are illustrated opposite, with the improvements to the Sport Complex, the lakeside setting and the recycling facility were considered to be the most effective.

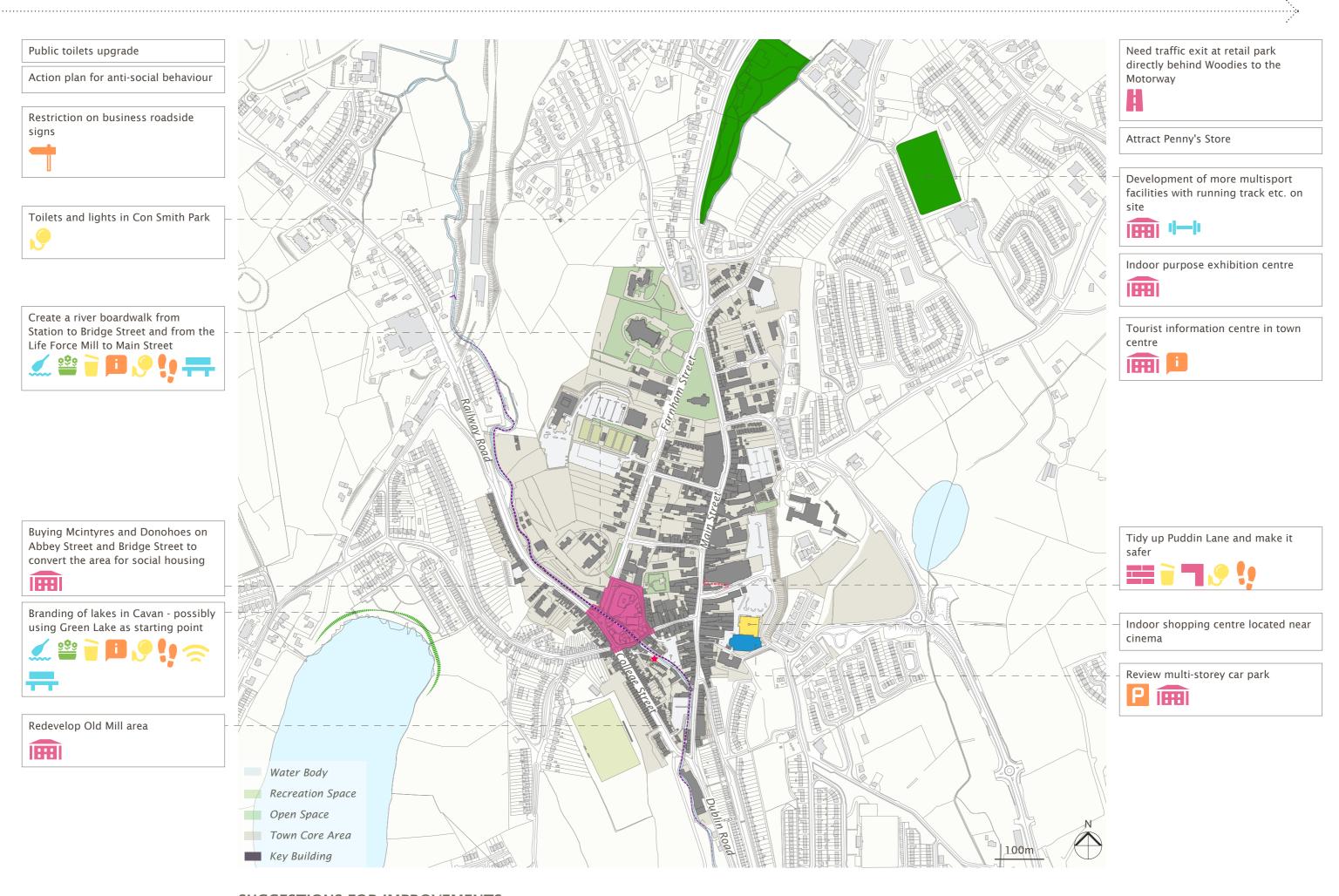
On the following page, additional suggestions provided by the public are illustrated on the map. These suggestions will be considered and incorporated as part of any formal proposals going forward.



PROPOSALS MOST LIKELY TO IMPROVE CAVAN TOWN







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