



Cavan Town Team Plan 2023 – 2026

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1. Introduction and Background to Cavan Town Team

Cavan Town Team is one of four in the county, set up in 2016-2017 to respond to community and business needs in the town and its hinterland. Town Teams bring people and groups together through a Team that is representative of the different stakeholders. The Town Teams act as a catalyst to encourage businesses, local communities and others to work together to energise and reinvigorate their towns and communities in collaboration with public authorities and other service providers.

Cavan Town Team has made a number of successful improvements over the past 7-8 years. These have included:

- Seating area in the town square and original idea for the square;
- Painting scheme for shop fronts, residential and retail units;
- Murals in and around the town;
- Ensuring lights available and put up for festive events. New festival lights purchased in 2020;
- Funding was sought in 2023 for the restoration of the railings in Farnham St. to their former state;
- Funding has been secured for a study to examine the feasibility of developing walks and greater access to Swellan Lake;
- Part of the consultations for Con Smith Park and the Town Hall development;
- Plans were drawn up for a boardwalk along the river in Cavan Town and may be further considered within the new plan.



2. Process for this Plan

This plan was drawn up with support and facilitation of Ómra Support Agency, who were contracted by Cavan Co. Council. It sets out what Cavan Town Team hopes to achieve over the next 3 years. It was drawn up between June 2023 and February of 2024 and commenced with a review of progress made under the last plan. A number of meetings were held with Cavan County Council to discuss various ideas and concerns and a public workshop was held in February. The draft plan was then discussed and finalised over a number of meetings.

3. Members of Cavan Town Team

Name	Sector / group represented
Martin Connolly (Chairperson)	Tidy Towns, Shop Steward in Abbots (Cootehill)
Paul Connolly (Secretary)	Optician
Brian Allen	Tidy Towns, retired Council employee
Catherine Reynolds (Treasurer)	Festive lights, Drapery shop owner
Karen McMaster	Festive lights, Jewellery shop owner
Tomas Young	Accountant
Danny Barr	IT Specialist
Damien Smith	
Margaret O'Reilly	
Louise Swords	
Rhona Creegan	

4. A Vision for Cavan Town

Cavan Town is approximately 700 years old and is the only Gaelic-built county town in Ireland. It is the capital of the ancient kingdom of East Breifne. This rich history is well worth celebrating and Cavan Town Team feel strongly that doing so under the banner of “Breifne” speaks best to that past.

Currently, plans are underway by Cavan County Council for two significant, flagship projects, that will change how Cavan Town is viewed and experienced by locals and visitors alike. These are the Abbeylands development – a regeneration of the town centre where derelict structures, green space and back land areas will be re-developed and a new multifunctional public plaza and event space will be created within the Abbey tower grounds. This project is very much focused on the future while preserving and enhancing the heritage of that area.

A second major development is that of a regional sports campus being developed by Cavan County Council in partnership with the GAA and the Royal School.

What became evident during the process of discussions and the workshop session was that they felt there was a lack of a shared vision between the Town Team, Cavan Co. Council and some members of the wider community. While it is clear that all the players want Cavan Town to be vibrant and attractive to those in the town and to visitors, this is where full clarity stops.



It is recommended here that the Town Team and Cavan County Council work together on developing and agreeing a collective vision for the town. If possible, this should extend beyond these two players into the wider community but a process involving both players would, at the very least, help to set out a route map and would strengthen the partnership that needs to further develop between them.



Swellan Lake: a key project under the new plan, currently subject of a feasibility study



MaryIn Gaffney painting: this was part of the last plan. Seeking to have further paintings like this and murals are also in the new plan

TOWN TEAM PROPOSALS FOR CAVAN

Diversity, inclusion and accessibility will be cross-cutting themes throughout all projects

Project	Key Players	Time scale to completion			Progress
		Short-term (1 year)	Medium-Term (2-3 years)	Long-term (4+ years)	
1. Develop Swellan Lake as an amenity a. Secure funding for a feasibility study. b. Work with consultant appointed. c. Seek funding for implementation of project, if feasible. d. Develop lake as an amenity.	Town Team, Cavan Co. Council.	Complete X	X	X	
2. Restore protected railings on Farnham St. a. Reapply for funding to prepare a conservation plan on the protected railings on Farnham St. b. Discuss with property owners the implementation of the plan and the possibility of painting the railings the same colour.	Town Team, Cavan Co. Council.	X X			

<p>3. Design and create a route map of Cavan Town and immediate environs, under the banner of Breifne, that draws together walkways, cycle tracks, historical buildings and walks, activities such as the park run, local walking group, other active pursuits and the planned new sports development project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work to ensure visual and physical improvements are made and that there are appropriate facilities in place to support this including murals, accessible, safe and clean footpaths, public toilets and bicycle racks. - Promote these routes as a means of increasing activeness, connection and awareness of what Cavan Town has to offer, to both visitors and residents. 	Town Team		X		
<p>4. Improve the attractiveness and vitality of the town centre:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Seek funding for a second round of grant-aiding the painting of shop fronts, residential units, etc. in the retail area of the town; b. Seek to have further murals put in place. 	Town Team, Cavan Co. Council, Arts Office, Youth Groups	X			
<p>5. Create a boardwalk over the Cavan River from Cavan No1 School as far as Bridge Street and from the Old Mill Building to Crowe's Butchers on Connolly Street when flood management works are underway.</p>	Cavan Co. Council, Town Team			X	

6. Work with the Arts Office in relation to a St. Patrick's Day event.	Town Team, Arts Office	X	X		
7. Work with Cavan Co. Council in relation to the Breffni Park to Royal School entrance to the town with a view to significantly improving its appearance and with regard to overall safety as part of sports development. Identify if some medium-term improvements to this approach can be made before then.	Cavan Co. Council, Town Team, GAA			X	
8. Keep up to date on Abbeylands project, liaise with Cavan Co. Council in relation to community and youth facilities and support local groups and residents to have their voices heard.	Town Team, Cavan Co. Council, PPN (Public Participation Network)	X			
9. Seek to have a civic space developed in front of the Courthouse.	Town Team, Cavan Co. Council			X	
10. Continue to provide lights for events, festivals, etc, and seek further funding for same.	Town Team sub-group	X	X		
11. Raise various issues with Cavan Co. Council that are important for people including public toilets, parking and railings along steep hills.	Town Team, Cavan Co. Council	X			

