MILLTOWN TOWN CENTRE FIRST MASTERPLAN

November 2025

Ár dTodhchaí Tuaithe
Our Rural Future

Lár Bailte ar dTús
Town Centre First

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Rialtas Áitiúil Éireann
Local Government Ireland

Comhairle Contae Chiarraí
Kerry County Council

DESIGN TEAM

DOWNEY

Wilson Architecture

Mitchell + Associates

Sheehan & Barry Architects

NRB Consulting Engineers

Connect the Dots

Conway McBeth

Enviroguide Consulting

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Kerry County Council and the project design team extend their heartfelt gratitude to all those who have generously shared their time, knowledge and vision during the planning and development of this plan.

The Milltown Town Centre First Plan is driven by the local community and businesses in collaboration with Kerry County Council who is supported by the Town Regeneration Officer within the Council.

The Town Team was formed in 2023. In all, there are 19 team members supported by additional volunteers on sub-groups.

TOWN TEAM FOREWORD

The Town Centre First is a Government of Ireland initiative that places local people at the heart of shaping vibrant, resilient communities. In 2022, Milltown was proud to be selected as one of the first 26 towns in Ireland to receive €100,000 in funding to develop a Town Centre First (TCF) Masterplan. This recognition is an acknowledgement of the town's importance and its potential, and it marks a welcome and community-centred approach to planning and place-making.

Like many rural towns, Milltown faces a range of challenges; our population has grown very rapidly in recent decades, and services and infrastructure have failed to keep pace with growing demands and pressures. However, Milltown has a wealth of strengths on which to build. Our town has a long and distinctive history and a rich heritage, and this plan affords us an opportunity to think strategically, carefully and creatively about how we shape our future. We are fortunate to have a strong community spirit, a young, vibrant and diverse population, a mixed local economy, rich natural and built heritage, distinctive landscapes, and an enviable location at the heart of Mid-Kerry. These are the foundations of our future – our local assets – and the Masterplan aims to make the best possible use of them.

In September 2023, a town team was established, bringing together a broad cross-section of people from across the community. Working in partnership with Kerry County Council and the project design team, the town team has played a vital role in preparing a draft Masterplan that reflects the values, ideas, and aspirations of Milltown. We want to sincerely thank everyone who has contributed to the process so far – your insights, time and passion have shaped the plan in a meaningful way.

This document is more than just a plan – it is a framework for place-making: for shaping Milltown into an even better place to live, work, do business, and visit. It is a vision for how we can grow in a way that is inclusive, locally driven, and sustainable – ensuring we protect what makes Milltown special, while respecting and harnessing what we have, and improving the quality of life for everyone.

The next phase – public consultation – is a crucial opportunity for all voices in the community to be heard. Whether you are a resident, a business owner, a volunteer, a young person, or someone who simply cares about the future of the town and wider locality, your perspective matters. We invite you to stay involved, to share your views, and to help shape the actions and projects that will bring the plan to life.

The Masterplan has the potential to unlock significant opportunities and attract investment to Milltown. But it is not a finished product – and it will not succeed on paper alone. What will make the difference is the continued involvement of our community: the ideas, leadership, and collaboration that only local people can provide.

Together, we can build a stronger, more connected, and more vibrant and resilient Milltown – for ourselves and for future generations.

Stewart Stephens - Chair, Milltown Town Team

COLLABORATION & COMMUNICATION

01

MILLTOWN TOWN CENTRE FIRST PLAN

The Government launched the Town Centre First Policy ("TCF" hereinafter) in February 2022, it is a new initiative, which seeks to revive town centres, it aims to create 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.

The TCF Policy recognises that Irish towns are facing significant challenges, having experienced continued decline for many years, with high levels of vacancy and dereliction and a general lack of direction. However, many of these towns possess considerable opportunities for rejuvenation which requires a coordinated and comprehensive response, in order to address the decline.

The TCF Policy also recognises that every town is unique and accordingly requires a tailored response to address the issues that exists. It lays the foundation for each town to develop their own plan-led approach to revival. This will be expressed through a tailored TCF Policy, which is underpinned with a clear diagnosis of the local strengths and challenges.

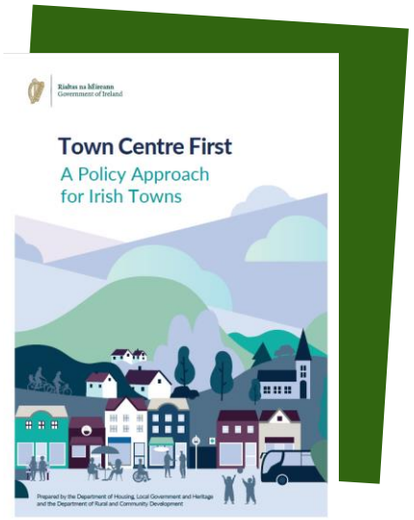
In line with the TCF Policy, Milltown was chosen as one of the 26 towns across the country to receive funding to develop a Town Centre First Masterplan. Milltown is a historic town strategically located in mid Kerry, between the major towns of Tralee and Killarney, approximately 7km from Killorglin.

Historically, Milltown's origin and morphology was closely related to the presence of Kilcoleman Abbey, founded in c. 1216 on the site of an earlier monastery, which had been erected by Saint Colman. Following a seizure of the Abbey during the Irish Confederate Wars by Cromwellian forces and the destruction of the Abbey during the offensive, the Abbey and its surrounding lands were bequeathed to the Godfrey family in the Act of Settlement 1662.

This "Regional Town" experienced unprecedented growth during the Celtic Tiger, whereby its population increased five-fold, 10 times faster than the County. More than half the houses in Milltown were built between 2002-2011. The fast-paced residential development of the Town has led to an imbalance of community and social services in Milltown, whereby the Town is not responsive to its existing and emerging demand. Additionally, like many other Irish Towns, Milltown is challenged by vacancy and dereliction, mostly concentrated at the core of the Town. The public and open spaces in Milltown is congested with vehicular traffic and illegal car parking. In general, there is a lack of quality, safe, and inclusive public realm accessible for all.

The primary goal of this document is to focus on key issues emerged from the extensive public consultation carried out during the course of the project in tandem with baseline assessments undertaken by the Design Team to integrate all into a comprehensive Masterplan to make the town centre vibrant again. This TCF Masterplan will be driven by the local community and businesses as part of a Town Team who will be supported by the Town Regeneration Officer and technical expertise within the Local Authority. The TCF Policy is underpinned by existing funding streams spread across a number of Government schemes, which will provide the basis for the town to deliver the objectives/projects set out in this Masterplan.





PLAN MAKING PROCESS

Kerry County Council engaged in Pre-Draft Baseline Assessments by carrying out TCHC and Vacant/Derelict Site Surveys. The Council appointed a multi-disciplinary design team of land-use planners, architects, landscape architects, urban designers, conservation experts, transport engineers, quantity surveyors, communication experts, and ecologists. Upon appointment of the design team and as the first stage of the preparation of the Masterplan, a full baseline assessment was then carried out.

Mar. –Aug. 2023

BASELINE ANALYSIS, FIELD RESEARCH & APPOINTMENT OF DESIGN TEAM

Assembly of a Town Team was facilitated by Kerry County Council through the Stage 1 Engagement process of the Masterplan, comprising of local community groups and individuals who showed interest in the development and growth of Milltown.

September 2023

ESTABLISHMENT OF MILLTOWN TOWN TEAM

The submissions/observations from Draft Stage Public Consultation process were compiled and synthesised to feed into the Masterplan for Kerry County Council's and the Town Team's review and final sign off prior to adoption of the Masterplan.

July 2025

REVIEW & SIGN OFF OF THE DRAFT MASTERPLAN

September 2023

PRE-DRAFT STAGE PUBLIC CONSULTATION & STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT

Pre-Draft Stage Public Consultation was carried out during 18th Sept. - 2nd Oct. 2023 and was facilitated via an online survey, national and secondary schools' surveys, and online and written submissions. The first meeting with the Town Team was held on 25th Sept. 2023 at 7.00pm. A public drop-in event was held on the Nagle Rice Community Centre from 12.00noon to 7.30pm. Several online meetings were also held with representatives of the Town Team, and calls/ correspondence with key stakeholder groups and organisations.

May 2025

DRAFT STAGE PUBLIC CONSULTATION & STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT

Draft Public Consultation was carried out between May 2025 and June 2025 together with a public consultation workshop event held in May 2025 at the Nagle Rice Community Centre. This was complemented by further stakeholder engagements in liaison with Kerry County Council and the Town Team.

October 2025

STAGE 3 COMPLETION & DELIVERY OF MASTERPLAN

Final amendments and feedback from Kerry County Council and the Town Team were incorporated into the Masterplan by the Design Team. The Appropriate Assessment Screening report accompanies the final Milltown Town Centre First Masterplan.

PRE-DRAFT STAGE PUBLIC CONSULTATION

53 no. Submissions via Primary School Survey

10 no. Written Submissions via Email or hand delivered

32 no. Submissions via Post-Primary School Survey

2 no. Hard Copies of the Survey

An Overall Total of 337 no. Submissions at Pre-Draft Stage

30 no. Written Submissions through the Drop-in Event & the Suggestion Box

210 no. Submissions via Online Survey

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

To set out the public consultation on a step-by-step basis, a Communications Strategy was prepared by the Design Team and in collaboration with the Steering Group. This included proposed methods of public consultation at each stage detailed with dates, time and venues (if applicable), as well as a list of stakeholders to be consulted throughout the preparation of the Masterplan. This was a live, evolving document which was regularly revisited by the Steering Group and the Design Team and updated throughout the lifetime of the plan making process.

The phases of public consultation carried out during the preparation of the Milltown TCF Masterplan included:

(1) Pre-Draft Stage Public Consultation, whereby members of the public were invited to make submissions via email, phone, and in writing. An online survey was designed and made accessible via the dedicated webpage developed by Kerry County Council. Separate questionnaires were designed for primary and post-primary school, shared with children of Milltown through their schools. As a result, a total of 210 no. survey respondents, 53 no. primary school respondents, 32 no. post-primary school respondents, 10 no. written submissions, and 2 no. hard copies of the survey were captured at this stage. Additionally, a drop-in event was held on 9th October 2023 at the Nagle Rice Community Centre with representatives of Kerry County Council and the Design Team to provide an open floor discussion for all community members keen to have a say. 30 further written submissions were collected on the day through a "Suggestions Box" as proposed by the Town Team. This is in addition to working closely with the Town Team and the Steering Group on a regular basis which was facilitated through weekly meetings carried out virtually. Furthermore, the wider Design Team engaged with relevant stakeholders and interested parties to seek their input.

(2) Draft Stage Public Consultation, whereby members of the public were invited to make submissions via email, phone, and in writing. An online survey was designed and made accessible via the dedicated webpage developed by Kerry County Council. Additionally, a drop-in event also formed part of the Draft Stage Public Consultation process.







Figures Above. Flyers designed at Pre-Draft Stage (in English and Irish) to inform members of the public about commencing the preparation of the Masterplan and inviting all to have their say.

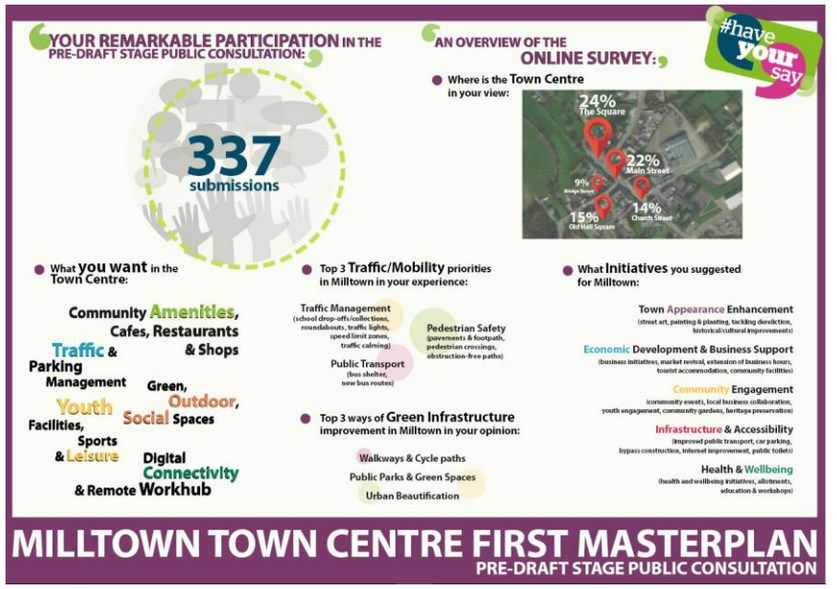
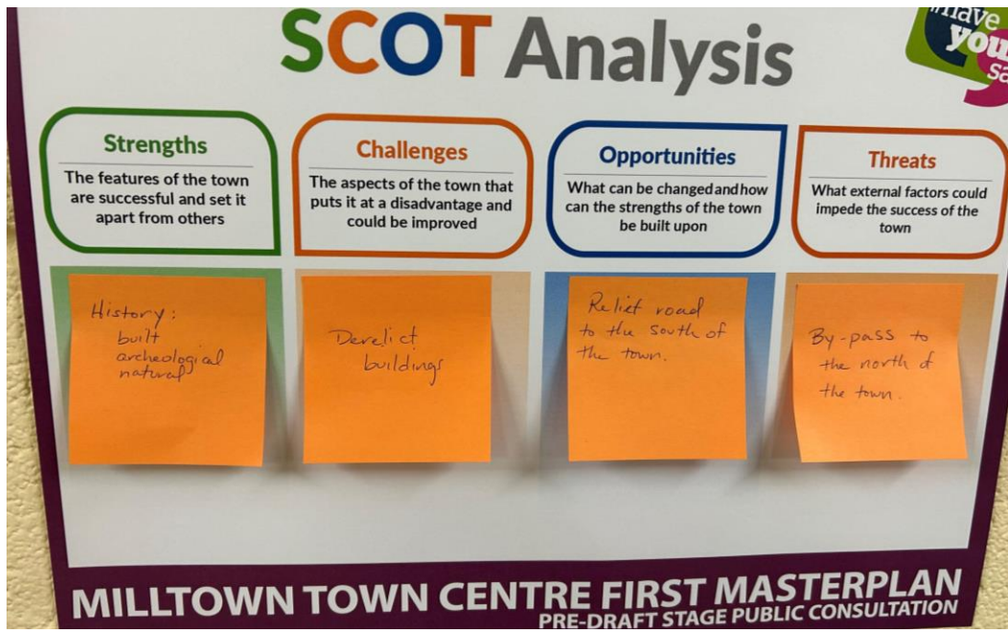


Figure Above. Samples of materials produced by the Design Team and in collaboration with the Steering Group to incorporate within the public consultation process and keep the members of the public informed.

Figure Above. Samples of materials produced by the Design Team and in collaboration with the Steering Group to incorporate within the public consultation process and keep the members of the public informed.

As part of the Pre-Draft Public Consultation Stage, a drop-in event was held on 9th October 2023 with Kerry County Council and the Design Team to provide an opportunity for all to have their say and share their insight.







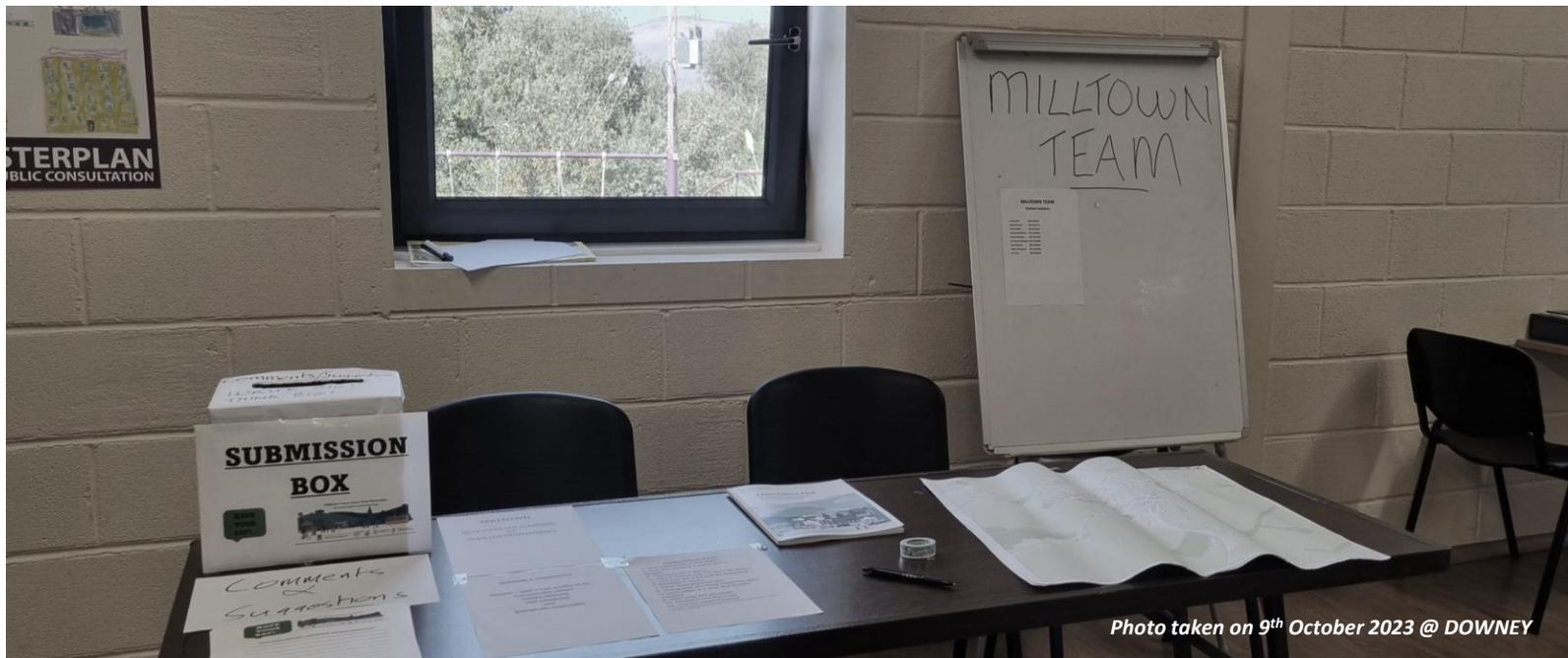


Photo taken on 9th October 2023 @ DOWNEY

WHERE IS THE TOWN CENTRE FROM THE COMMUNITY'S PERSPECTIVE



WHAT MILLTOWN WANT IN THEIR TOWN CENTRE

- ☆ Community Amenities
- ☆ Cafés, Restaurants & More Shops
- ☆ Traffic & Car Parking Management
- ☆ Youth Facilities
- ☆ Sports & Leisure
- ☆ Green, Outdoor, Social Spaces
- ☆ Digital, Connectivity Remote Workhub

TOP 3 TRAFFIC/MOBILITY PRIORITIES IN MILLTOWN

☆Pedestrian Safety:

- Pavements & Footpath
- Pedestrian Crossings
- Obstruction-free Paths

☆Public Transport:

- Bus Shelter
- New Bus Routes

☆Traffic Management:

- School Drop-offs/Collections
- Traffic Lights
- Speed Limit Zones
- Traffic Calming

FEEDBACK FROM YOUNG PEOPLE

What young people like most about Milltown:



What young people dislike about Milltown:



FEEDBACK FROM YOUNG PEOPLE

☆ Young people's Top 3 Priorities for Milltown:



☆ What young people would like to see in Milltown:



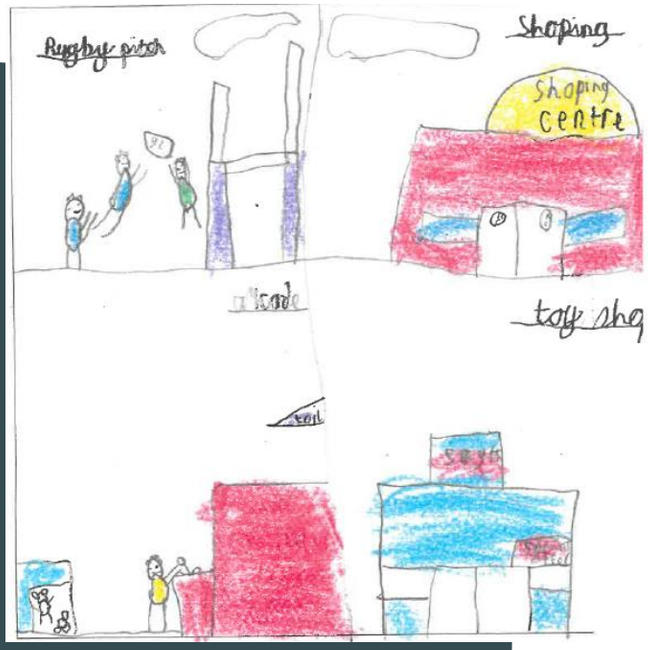
PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS' VISIONS FOR MILLTOWN

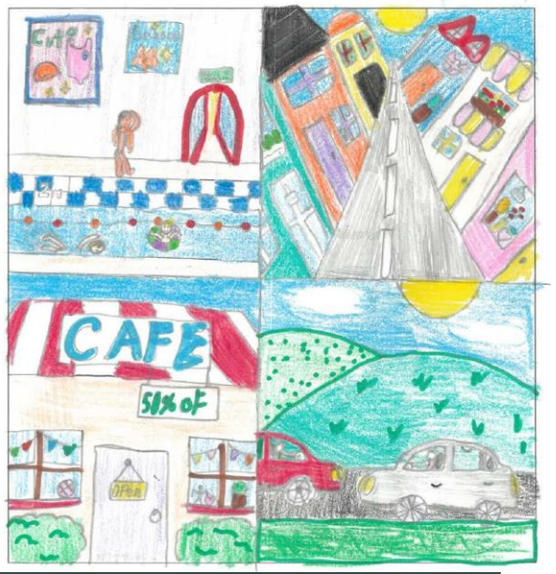




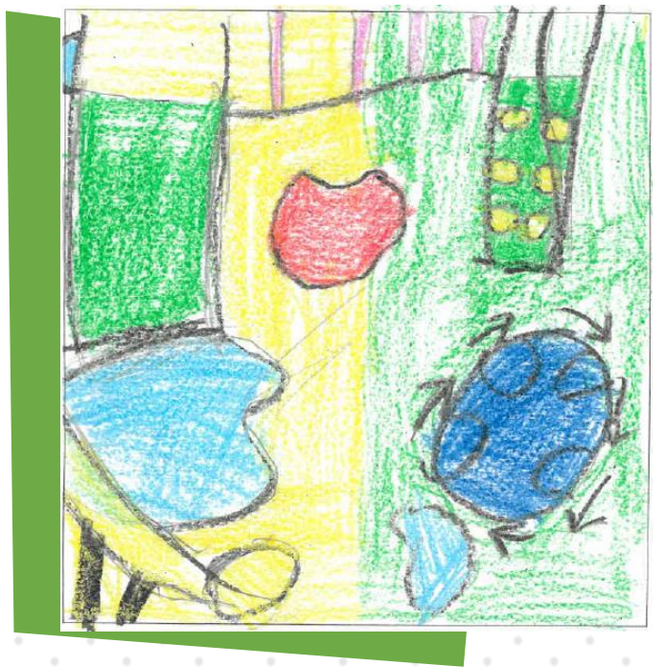








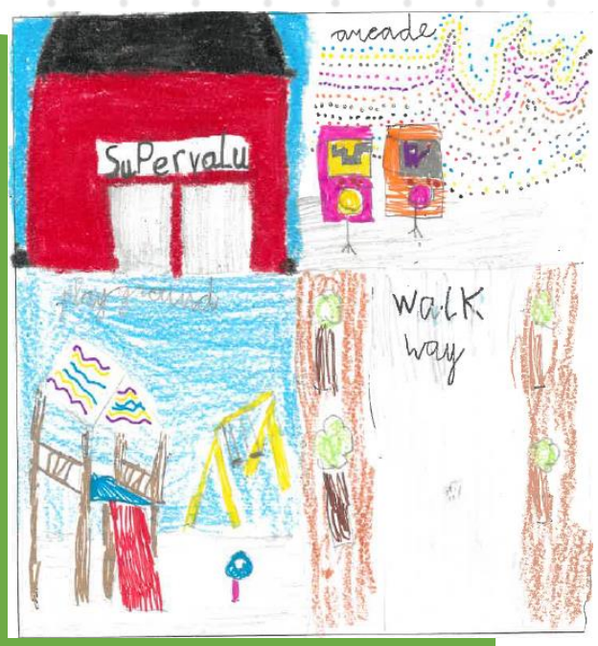
PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS' VISIONS FOR MILLTOWN













DRAFT STAGE PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Online Survey
2nd May 2025
- 13th June 2025

52 no. Submissions via Online Survey

Public Drop-in Display Event
12th May 2025
4:00-7:30PM

Total of 90 no. Submissions at Draft Stage

Email Submissions
2nd May 2025 – 13th June 2025

35 no. Written Submissions at Drop-in Event

4 no. Email Submissions from 3 no. groups

KEY THEMES OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

A comprehensive synthesis and analysis of the submissions at Pre-Draft and Draft Stage Public Consultation reveals 9 key themes that need to be addressed by the Masterplan. These are summarised as follows:

Traffic, Mobility & Public Transport

Road safety concerns (speed/traffic).
Pedestrian and cycling infrastructure.
School drop-off points.
Enhanced parking provision.
Increased public transport services.
Provision of bus stop shelters.
Accessibility for wheelchair users.
Provision of EV charging points.

Amenities & Services

Establishing a youth club.
Providing recreational activities for all ages.
Increasing the number of health facilities including mental health.
Renovating Milltown Community Hall.
Broader range of sports facilities.
Further outdoor spaces available for all.

Retail & Commercial

Promote local business & shops.
Attracting further restaurants & cafés.
Strengthen the local economy.
New boutique hotel for tourism.
New supermarket (Lidl/Aldi/Tesco).

Youth Services

Need for youth clubs, hang out areas, and recreational activities.
Lack of facilities for teenagers.
Increased public transport to bigger towns in the Area.
Further sports facilities for teens.
Provision of a youth-café as a dedicated socialising space.

Town Heritage & Character

Signage for key historical sites.
Revive historical festivals.
Protect and maintain historical sites.
Regular clean-up of the Town.
Planting flowers & trees in the Town.
Redevelop derelict buildings.

Sports & Leisure

Increased facilities needed (Pitches, Playground, Gym, etc.).
Providing walkways in the area.
Enhanced green areas.

Economic Development

Promote local businesses.
Host market fairs and events.
Investment in historic buildings.
Welcoming a wider variety of commercial entities.

Digital Connectivity

Enhanced phone network connections.
Provision of high-speed broadband.
Public Wi-Fi spaces.
Provision of a Digital Hub.

Health & Wellbeing

Offer wellness programmes & community health initiatives.
Creating community allotments.
Provision of a gym.
Access to hospital and doctor's clinic.

TOWN CENTRE FIRST VISION

02

TOWN CENTRE FIRST THEMES

As outlined in the Town Centre First policy document, the process of town analysis and appraisal will set the basic "building blocks" for a responsive TCF Plan that provides a holistic response that builds upon existing assets, directly addresses pressing issues, and identifies future challenges.

That said, the building blocks that framed Milltown TCF Masterplan are driven from: (1) A comprehensive review of the submissions previously made to the Local Area Plan for the Corca Dhuibhne Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2021-2027, (2) submissions to the Pre-Draft Stage Public Consultation Milltown TCF Masterplan, and (3) baseline analysis of the Town in collaboration with Kerry County Council and relevant stakeholders including several site visits of Milltown. These building blocks are as follows:

Role: *Milltown is a Regional Town currently accommodating a portion of the working commuting population of Killorglin, Killarney, and Tralee. However, in keeping with the relevant planning policy, it aims to provide a balance of social and community services and infrastructure that caters for the community of Milltown, as well as the wider rural hinterland.*

Image: *Milltown will be known for its vibrant, lived-in Town Centre promoting a mix of uses and activities, embedded with accessible, inclusive and well-designed public realm, all interlinked via safe pedestrian and cycle routes.*

Vibrancy and Vitality: *By having accessibility and diversity of uses at the heart of the Masterplan, all embraced with quality designed public realm, Milltown will benefit from a dynamic, vibrant, and attractive Town Centre.*

Inclusion: *The Town will offer a wide range of activities corresponding to all age cohorts living in Milltown.*

Heritage and culture: *Based upon the historical significance of Milltown, the Masterplan aims to celebrate and utilise the historical and heritage assets of the Town by increasing their visibility to the public in tandem with the public realm and placemaking strategy.*

Climate: *Through consolidating the growth, re-using existing building stock of the Town, and enhancing broadband accessibility, sustainable development of the Town with a focus on climate resiliency is to be encouraged as part of the Town's future development.*



PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

A comprehensive review of the national, regional and local policy pertaining to Milltown that sets the foundations of this Masterplan has been carried out, with reference to the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This is prepared under a separate cover as "Baseline Report", hosted on the Milltown Town Centre First Webpage, which we respectfully invite the readers to refer to for full details. As illustrated below, this planning policy review demonstrates the Masterplan's alignment with the following policy documents, strategies, and projects/schemes.

The overarching strategy is to reverse rural decline and stimulate growth at the core of small towns like Milltown by implementing sustainable targeted measures that prioritises addressing the issue of dereliction and vacancy.

This is further reinforced by public realm interventions, provision of amenities, acquisition of sites, and the provision of services. By capacity building through the introduction of the concept of "Town Team", the TCF Policy ladders up "public engagement" within the process of plan making to re-define it as a more pro-active role that extends beyond plan making, becoming the main driver of implementing the plan.

The TCF policy 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.

EU Level Planning Policy

- UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- The Birds Directive (Directive 79/409/EEC)
- The Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)
- The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive

National Planning Policy

- Project Ireland 2040: National Planning Framework First Revision & National Development Plan and National Development Plan Review 2025
- Housing for All; A New Housing Plan for Ireland
- Heritage Council Collaborative Town Centre Health Check Programme
- Climate Action Plan 2025
- All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025
- Tourism Destination Towns Guidelines
- Making Remote Work: National Remote Work Strategy 2021
- Future Jobs Ireland 2019: Preparing Now for Tomorrow's Economy
- Our Rural Future; Rural Development Policy 2021-2025
- Kerry Public Participation Network; Our Vision for Community Wellbeing
- Town Centre First; A Policy Approach for Irish Towns 2022

Regional Planning Policy

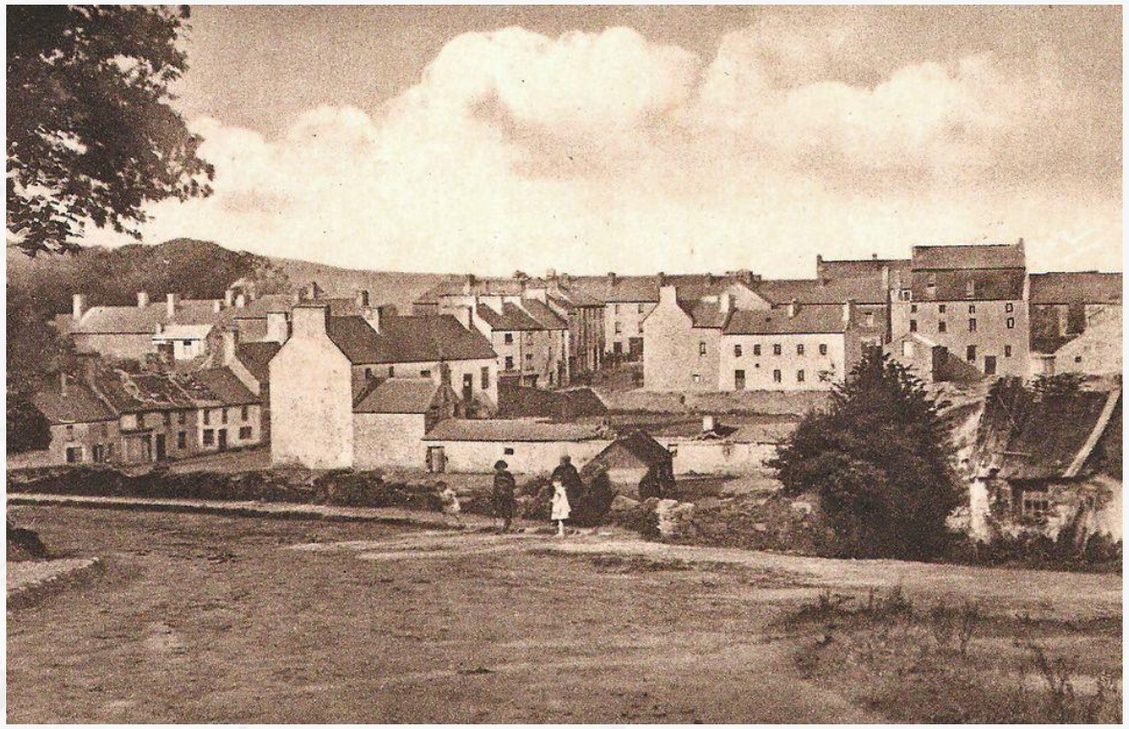
- Southern Regional Assembly: Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy
- Wild Atlantic Way Regional Tourism Development Strategy 2023-2027

Local Planning Policy

- Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028
- County Kerry Tourism Strategy & Action Plan 2016-2022
- Corca Dhuibhne Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2021-2027
- Kerry Local Economic & Community Plan 2016-2022
- County Kerry's COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan 2021
- Healthy Kerry Framework 2021-2027
- Digital Town Blueprint; 2023 Town Report (Milltown)
- Kerry County Council's Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029

A VISION FOR MILLTOWN





Left-hand Figure. Centre of Milltown, early 20th Century[1]
Right-hand Figure. Milltown in 1920[2]

To celebrate and utilise Milltown's rich natural and built heritage and strategic location to unlock its full potential as an attractive, vibrant and progressive town, creating a better quality of life for all through a community driven long-term plan with a focus on placemaking, social, economic, cultural and environmental strategies to ensure a prosperous and sustainable future for all.

UNDERSTANDING MILLTOWN

03

AN OVERVIEW OF MILLTOWN

Situated on the Iveragh Peninsula on the N70 road, Milltown (*Baile an Mhuilinn, the town of the mill*) is a historic town strategically located in mid Kerry, between the major towns of Tralee and Killarney, and approximately 7km from Killorglin. Historically, Milltown's origin and morphology was closely related to the presence of Killagha Abbey, founded in c. 1216 on the site of an earlier monastery, which had been erected by Saint Colman. The abbey was dissolved under Elizabeth 1 and given to the Spring family. Under the Cromwellian settlement, the Spring estate was given to the Godfrey family.

The modern-day settlement, Milltown, was developed by Captain Godfrey in the 1750's, to increase the prosperity of the estate through rents, market tolls, and the promotion of industries. This "Regional Town" experienced unprecedented growth during the Celtic Tiger, whereby its population increased five-fold, 10 times faster than the County. More than half the houses in Milltown were built between 2002-2011. With a population of 1,118 in 2022, the current Development Plan sets a housing target of 214 dwellings for Milltown during the Plan period (2022-2028).



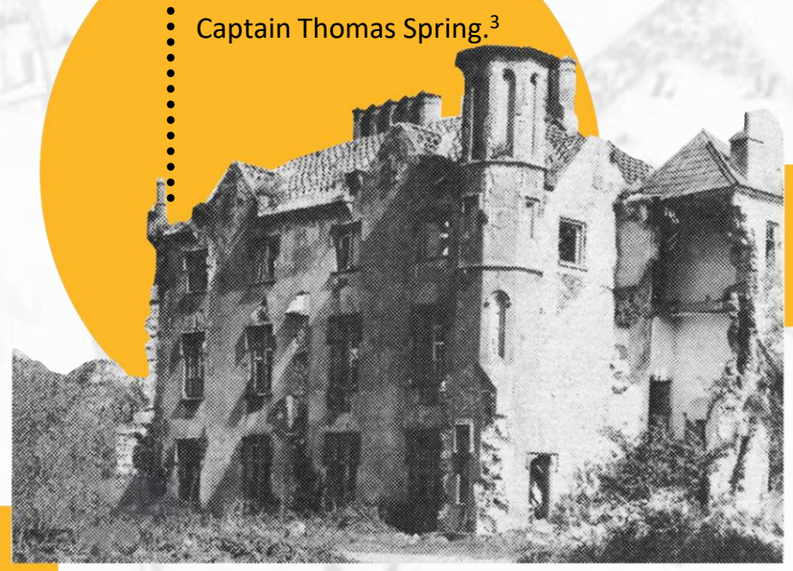
Figure Above. County Kerry Location in Ireland zoomed into Milltown within the Hierarchy of Settlements according to Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028. Milltown is situated in proximity to the knowledge triangle of Killorglin, Tralee and Killarney.

THE STORY/HISTORY OF MILLTOWN

1500s

Some improvements were made in the abbey church, most probably in the fifteenth century. The beautiful east window was put in, also a handsome double-lancet window at the south side of the chancel, an aumbry within the sanctuary, two Gothic doors leading to the church from the south side, and a square window of three lights in the western gable. The ownership of the Abbey changed a few times, with a lease in 1576 to Thomas Clinton for 21 years (said to last less than 7 years) and a lease in 1588 to Captain Thomas Spring.[3]



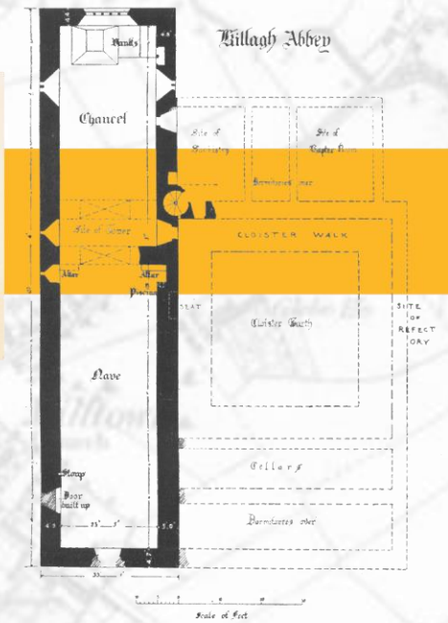


1216

Situated one and a half miles north-west of Milltown on the banks of the River Maine, the Abbey of Killagha was erected on the site of the Monastery of St. Coleman by Geoffrey de Marisco for Canons Regular of St. Augustine and dedicated to Virgin Mary. Hervey de Marisco, one of the first Norman Knights who came to Ireland, acquired large tracts of land in Tipperary, Wexford, and Kerry. He died without descendents, and his large estates passed to his brother, Geoffrey, Justiciary of Ireland in 1216.



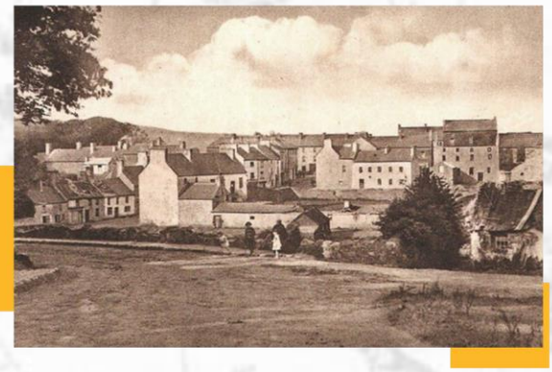
1649



The church is the only portion of the abbey buildings that at present remains; a few feet of masonry attaching to the south side of the chancel are all we now see of what was once the Abbey of Killagha. The church is of rubble masonry, and, though of plain workmanship, is solidly constructed. The dwellings of the monks abutted on the church at the south side and formed three sides of a square.

1750s

Following the Irish Confederate Wars, the Abbey was granted to the Godfrey family. The modern-day settlement at Milltown was developed by Captain John Godfrey in the 1750s as the central town of his estate. The development of Milltown was a deliberate attempt at urban planning by the Godfreys who hoped such development would increase the income and prosperity of their estate through rents, market tolls and the promotion of industries.



1886

The Milltown Halt railway station opened on 1 November 1886 and closed on 1 February 1960. Milltown Halt railway station was on the Great Southern and Western Railway which ran from Farranfore to Valentia Harbour.







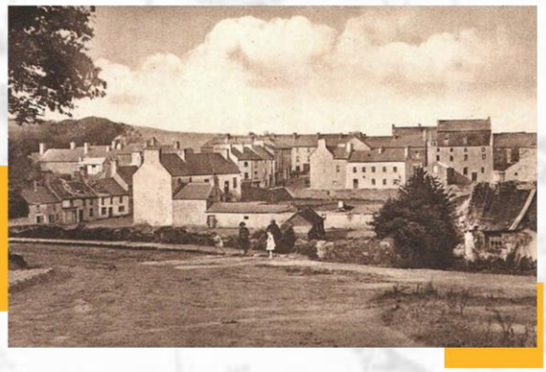
1800s

Bushfield House was built for Sir William Godfrey, 1st Baronet in the 1770s after the original Bushfield House, a long low thatched house was destroyed by fire. More or less abandoned from 1800 to 1818, Bushfield was renovated under the second Baronet, Sir John Godfrey, according to plans drawn up by the architect, William Vitruvius Morrison and renamed Kilcoleman Abbey. The house was the centre of a 6,000-acre estate and was lived in continually by the Godfrey family until 1958.

1977

The last owner, Miss Phyllis Godfrey, confronted by an infestation of dry rot, was forced to abandon the house for the gate lodge where she died in December 1959. The house was eventually demolished in 1977.





1889

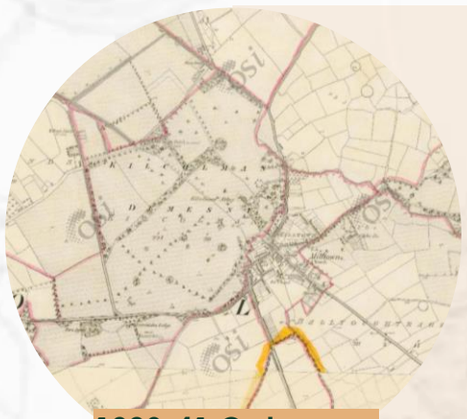
The Milltown GAA club was founded in 1889, though the exact date is unknown. After 1913, Milltown GAA Club no longer appears to have contested the County Football Championship. Early in the 1950s it amalgamated with Castlemaine and as Milltown-Castlemaine won this championship in 1953, 1955, 1957, 1961, 1962, 1972, 1989, 2001, 2007, 2008 and most recently in 2010.

Killagha Abbey, Milltown, Co. Kerry (source: Wikimedia)

TIMELAPSE MAPS OF MILLTOWN'S GROWTH



1656-58 Down Survey Map



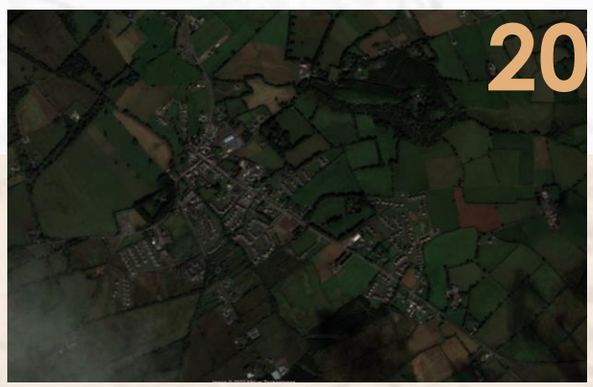
1829-41 Ordnance Survey Map



1890 Ordnance Survey Map

















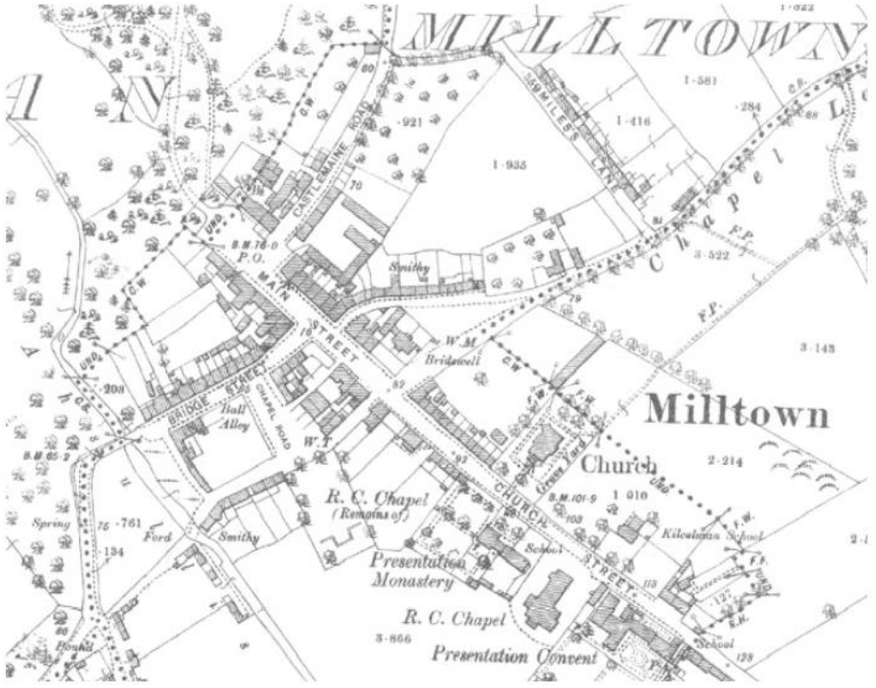
BUILT HERITAGE OF MILLTOWN

Built Heritage provides a sense of place and gives a unique quality to each town. It is one of the most important factors in creating a sense of community and attachment to the particular character of one's home place. Milltown is a planned estate town. This gives the small urban core of the town a distinct quality. The town was laid out by the Godfrey family in the middle of the eighteenth century in order to provide an ordered and vibrant economic and social hub for their estates. In particular, the space immediately in front of the gates to the family seat at Kilcoleman Abbey was consciously laid out as a ceremonial space in front of the demesne gates for reviews of the militia, meeting of the hunt and as a grand sweeping entrance. Although the house was demolished in 1977 after many years of neglect, the formal space remains and acts as an architectural node or distinct place within the town. It forms the end of the long straight vista of Church Street which in turn is linked to the main Killarney Road, thus underlining the formal axis of the town. The Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028 listed several structures for formal protection under the Record of Protected Structures. The Planning & Development Act defines the need for local authorities to add structures of note and sufficient importance to the list. It also allows for the creation of Architectural Conservation Areas, which recognise that parts of a town or village may have cumulative qualities which should be preserved. Milltown has an ACA, which is also recognised and defined within the Development Plan. Both of these formal devices seek to reinforce the need to conserve both specific structures and wider areas of the town.



Figures. The Milltown Architectural Conservation Area is defined by the blue hatched areas. It incorporates the buildings to either side of the square in front of the old Kilcoleman Abbey gates along with the structures on the south side of the Main Street elevations where they meet with the corner of Bridge Street. An isolated structure further to the south along Church Street is also included.





Figures Above. Details of the OSI historic survey maps (1897-1913 survey) top figure and (1829-41) bottom figure, indicates the square in front of the gates of Kilcoleman Abbey addressing the long straight streets of Main Street joining with Church Street. The core layout of the town, as laid out by the Godfrey family in the 18th century, remains essentially intact today.

KEY PROTECTED STRUCTURES

The Former Church of Ireland Church (RPS-KY-0837) adds a particular character to Church Street retaining its original character and setting. Dating from c. 1819 the church is a typical 'Board of First Fruits Church' with simple square tower and finely detailed lancet windows.





The Church of the Sacred Heart (RPS-KY-0838) was constructed c. mid 1880s and remains a corner stone of the community. It retains fine interior features and addresses the street with confidence. Its proximity to the former Church of Ireland church across the road provides this part of the street with particular interest and architectural quality.





The Former Presentation Monastery (RPS-KY-0839) was constructed in stages between 1840 to 1860. It adjoins the Church of the Sacred Heart and reinforces the interest and quality of this portion of Church Street. Its scale and quality of construction bring a presence and stature to the street with well-tended grounds between the structure and the street.



1 Kilcoleman Abbey Square (RPS-KY-0836) adjoins the former gates of Kilcoleman Abbey and is perhaps the finest structure within the town square. As evidenced in this photograph the building is in a neglected state. From appearance and architectural proportion, the house was built in 1785, with well-proportioned window openings and a steeply pitched slate roof set on a plain eaves. This is a key structure and its conservation and reintroduction as a vital element within the square would be an aspiration worth supporting and facilitating.



The **Former Corner Shop** at the corner of Main Street and Bridge Street (RPS-KY-0841) retains its simple and understated shop front. These were key components of most Irish towns and added considerably to their character. This is also the case here in Milltown.



The **Former Bridewell and Courthouse** of c. 1830 on Church Street (RPS-KY-0840) sets a stern and robust countenance characteristic of the building type which was, in its nature, defensive. The fine stonework and separate gateway create a strong architectural presence and retains a formal courtyard in front of the building. Its potential to contribute to the streetscape and life in the town is clear.





The **Gates to the Kilcoleman Abbey Demesne** are one of the few built elements that survive of the estate. They are included under the RPS under reference RPS-KY-0835. The gates are dated to 1835 and signal the gothic revival character of the house which was demolished in 1977. They perform an important town planning function as they contain the square and delineate the boundary between the town and the more open parkland style landscape and the view.







The **Grandest House on Main Street** is a five bay three storey house built in 1790 which is also located within part of The Architectural Conservation Area. The RPS refers to a 'terraced house' under reference RPS-KY-0842 and appears to refer to this structure. This fine house retains its sash windows and original doorcase and adds interest and architectural heritage value to the street.

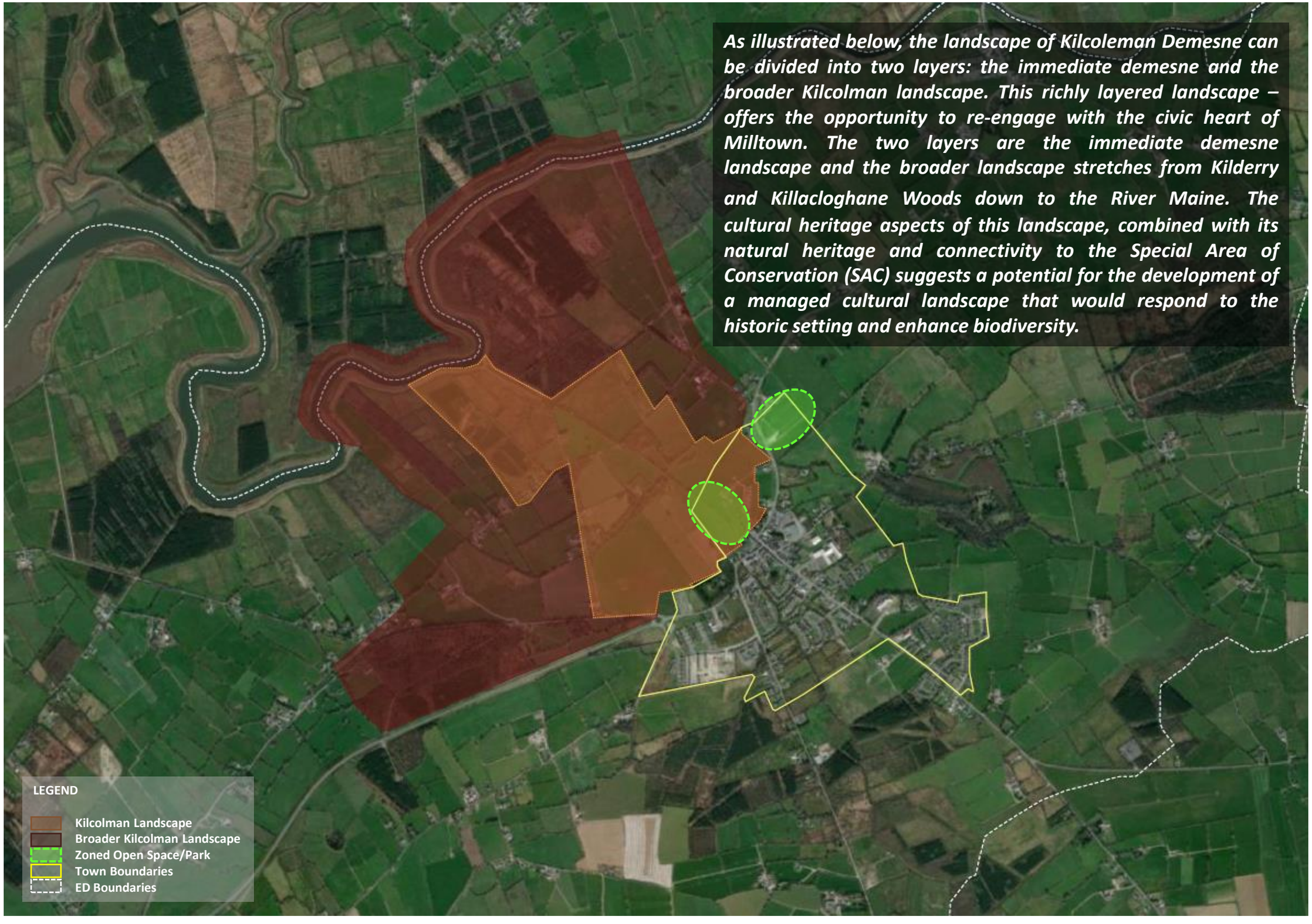




The **Stone Built Industrial Building** (RPS-KY-047-018) is a detached L-shaped three- and four-storey industrial building, set in courtyard setback off main street. Rubble stone walls and pitched roofs with mixture of slate and corrugated metal sheeting coverings. Modern metal sheeting to openings. Building may still be partially in use. The scale of this building means it has a significant presence in the Town, and it is visible beyond single-storey buildings from a number of locations. Its significance lies in its survival as a relatively intact, stone building in the centre of the Town, where there are likely to have been other such buildings in the past. Although in need of conservation-led renovation, the external form of the building remains relatively intact, and it could be converted to a modern use while retaining much of its industrial character if its scale and materials were to be retained.



CULTURAL HERITAGE OF MILLTOWN



Kilcolman Demesne and Abbeylands Milltown Heritage Park

The lands to the north and west of the Square in Milltown are part of the former Kilcolman demesne, an 18th century designed parkland, now predominantly farmland.

The landscape is the setting for archaeological sites, killagha Abbey, the White Church and later the development of the demesne parkland, around the 'big house' Bushfield later renamed Kilcoleman Abbey. The latter was demolished in the 1970's and replaced with a housing scheme. The Ahsullish stream (Glaise Átha Solais) bisects the land and becomes canalised as it reaches the Maine river and the Castlemaine Harbour Special Area of Conservation.

The transport infrastructure line of the Killorglin Branch of the former Great Southern and Western Railway traverses the lands between the Abbey and Maine river.

This richly layered landscape presents the opportunity to re-engage with the civic heart of Milltown. The cultural heritage aspects of this landscape, combined with its natural heritage and connectivity to the Special Area of Conservation (SAC) suggests a potential for the development of a managed landscape that would respond to the historic setting and enhance biodiversity. It would also be capable of responding to a need for open space available to Milltown, with the added benefit of being an interesting and engaging enough place to become a tourist attraction.

The connectivity of Killagha Abbey, the integrity of the components of the demesne landscape, and the riparian corridor are important considerations in how a Milltown Heritage Park may evolve.









Over the course of preparation of the Milltown Town Centre First Masterplan, three various boundaries were utilised within the baseline assessments. As illustrated here, the solid yellow line is the Town boundaries as identified within the local planning policy. The dashed green line is the CSO 2022 Urban Areas boundaries which provides for demographic and socio-economic assessment of the Town. The dashed white line is the CSO 2022 Electoral Division ("ED" hereinafter) boundaries. Considering that Milltown is a designated "Regional Town/Level 3 Retail Centre" according to Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028, the serviceability of the Town extends beyond the Town boundaries to include a wider catchment, i.e., the Milltown ED. This is used within the community and social infrastructure assessments.

East
Castlemaine
Brackhill
Ballymacandy
Ardmeelode
Rathpoge West
Rathpoge East
Milltown
Kilcolman
Kilburn
Callanafersy East
Ballyoughtragh South
Farranmanagh
Tinnahally
Knockavota
Ballykissane
Tinnahally
Coolroe North
Corbally
Lissavane West
Knockyline
Banshagh
Dromin West

LEGEND

- CSO 2022 Electoral Division Boundaries
- CSO 2022 Urban Areas Boundaries
- Settlement Boundary

date of mapping: 20/October/2023 @ ESRI

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF MILLTOWN

Milltown's population stood at 1,118 in April 2022, representing a growth of 190 people since 2016 (a growth rate of +20.5). Previously, Milltown has undergone significant growth over the last 20 years recording a rate of 236.7% since 2002. The 2011 census showed that Milltown was the fastest growing town in Kerry between 2006 and 2011, whereby this is associated with delivery of residential development followed by the influx of residents to the community, most of whom have been attracted by the relative affordability of housing and its proximity to the knowledge triangle of Killorglin, Tralee, and Killarney.

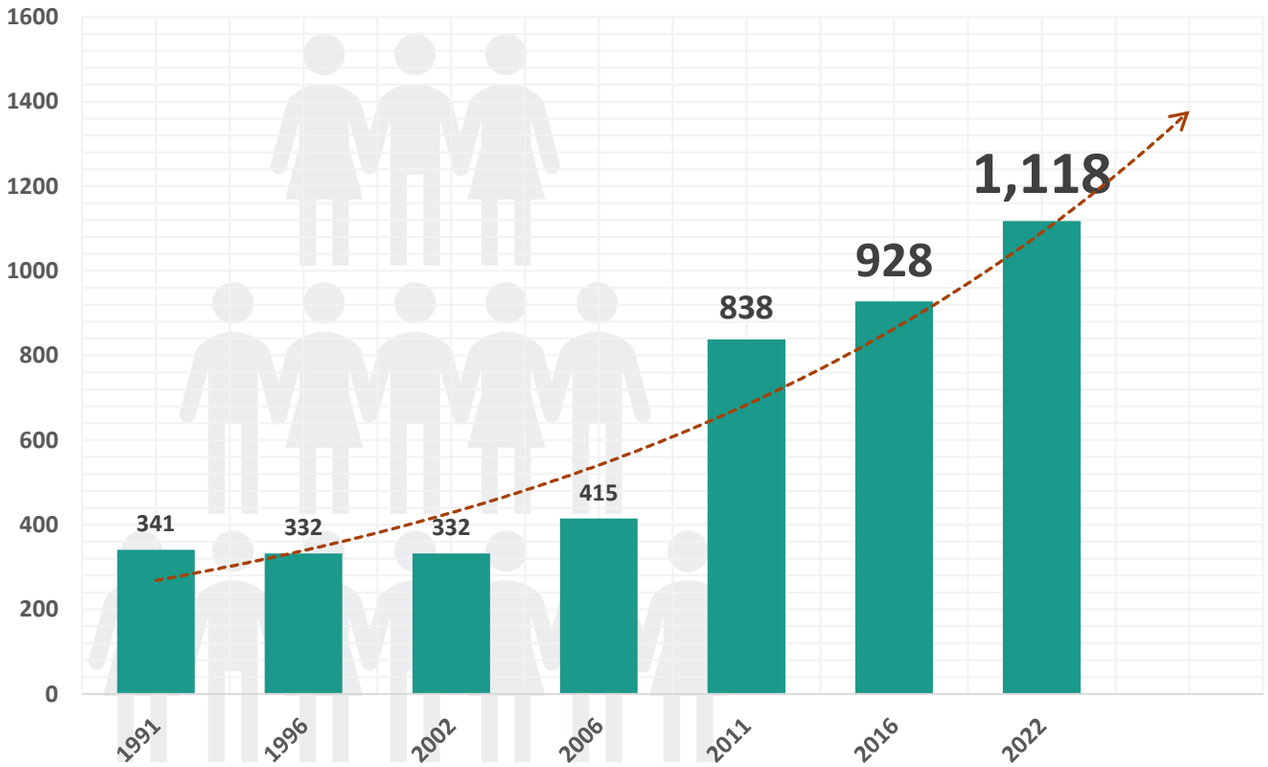


Figure Above. Demographic trending of Milltown during 1991-2022 whereby dotted line illustrates this growth in a linear regression model.

Half of the dwellings in Milltown were built during 2006-2011 whereby the new building is most evident on the outskirts of the town, particularly along the Killarney Road. This profile suggests that Milltown's demographic expansion is associated with the growth of Killorglin, as well as increased commuting to/from Tralee, Killarney, and further afield. Census 2022 shows 75% of the working population residing in Milltown were community to work by car.

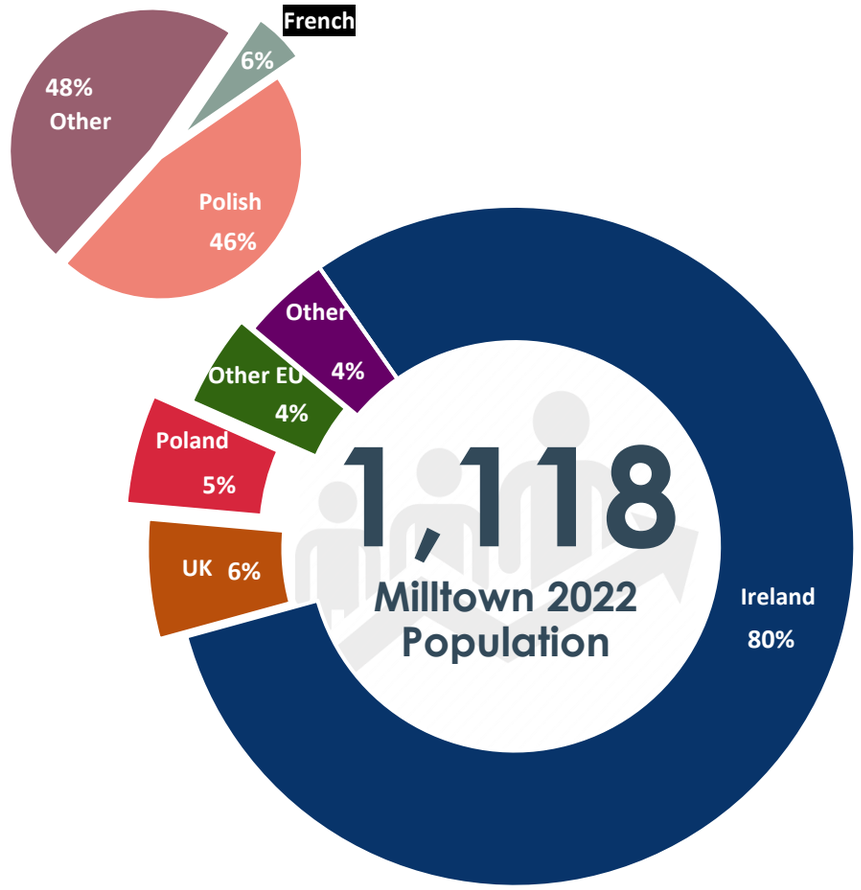


Figure Above. Milltown population by place of birth, gender, and language, Census 2022.

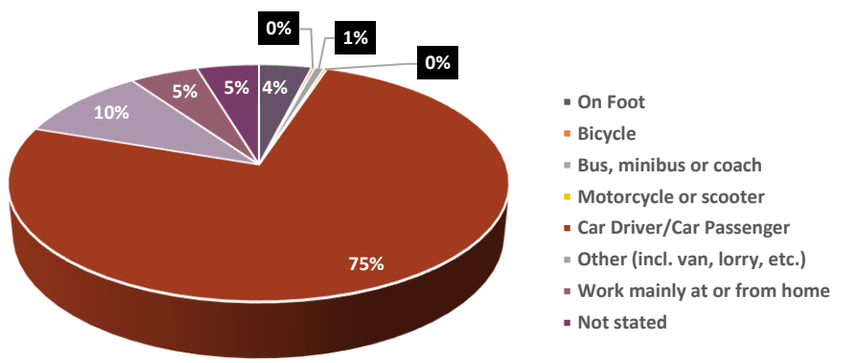


Figure Above. Working population of Milltown by means of transport, Census 2022.

Milltown has a much younger population than County Kerry as a whole. The age cohorts of the town indicates that almost a third of the population (26.6%) is aged between 0-14 years with the bulk of the population aged between 15-64 (59.2%). While currently only 160 people residing in Milltown are aged 65+ years (14.3% of the town).

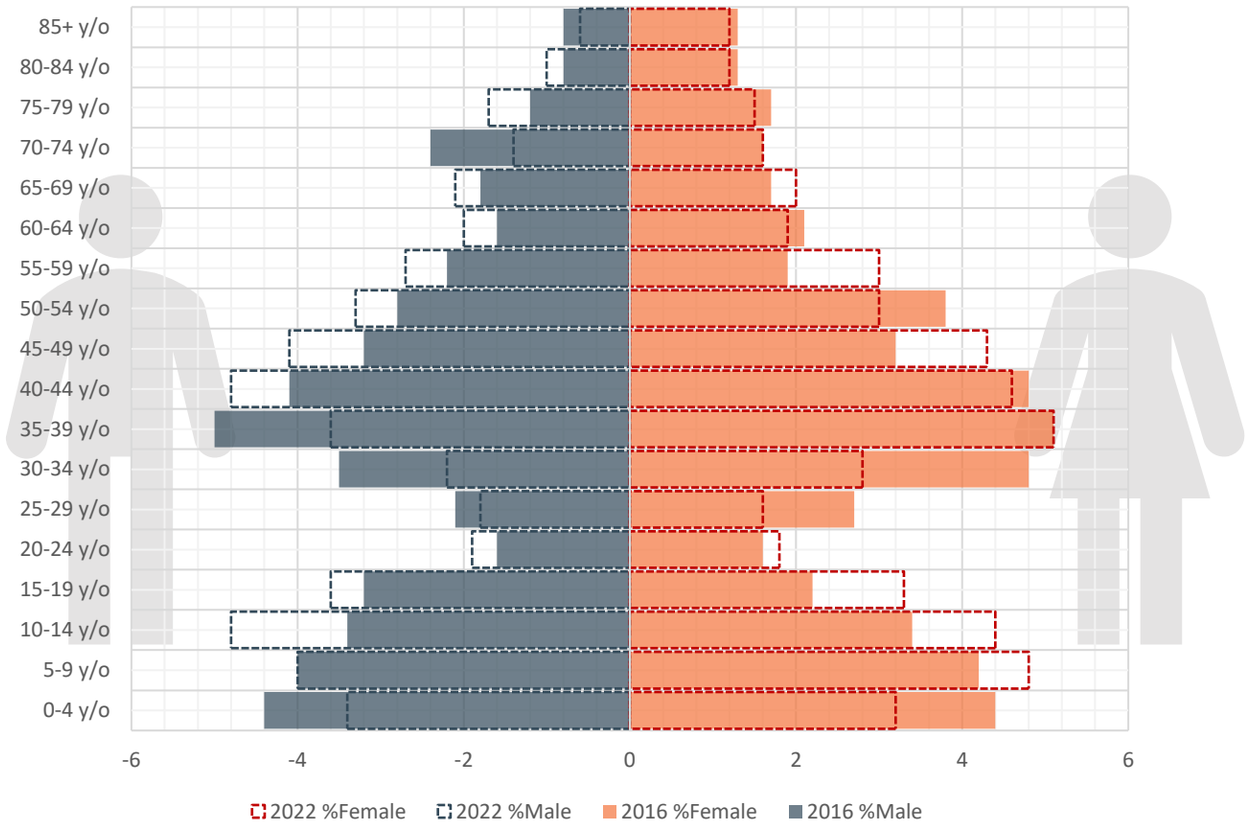


Figure Above. Age Pyramid of the Milltown ED for the years 2016 and 2022, revealing lesser population in 0-4 y/o (less births) and more in 5-24 y/o age cohorts. There is also lesser population in the 25-39 y/o cohorts which can be a result of out-migration. There is also more population in the more adult age groups of 40-84 y/o that potentially points to the deep-rooted part of the community residing in Milltown and/or adult families moving to Milltown recently built residential estates which are more affordable compared to the rest of the County

As per Census 2022, the Town recorded an average household size of 2.8 (1,069 people in 380 private households) which is a slight growth since 2016 whereby the average household size was 2.7 (889 people in 334 private households). In an ED level, the same pattern applies whereby the average household size slightly increased from 2.7 (2,094 people in 782 private households) in 2016 to 2.8 (2,399 people in 858 private households) in 2022.

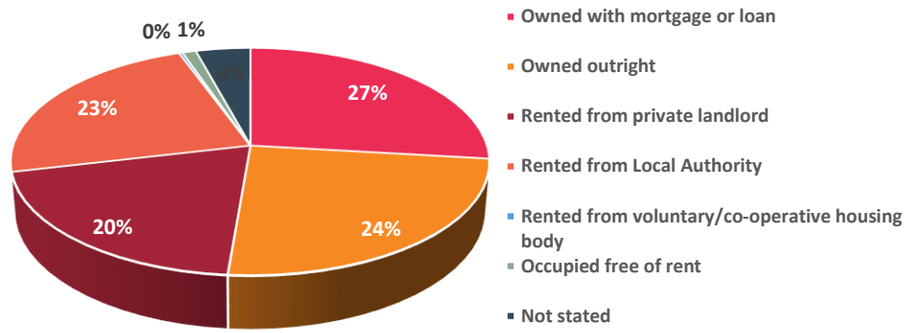


Figure Above. Permanent private households by type of occupancy, Census 2022

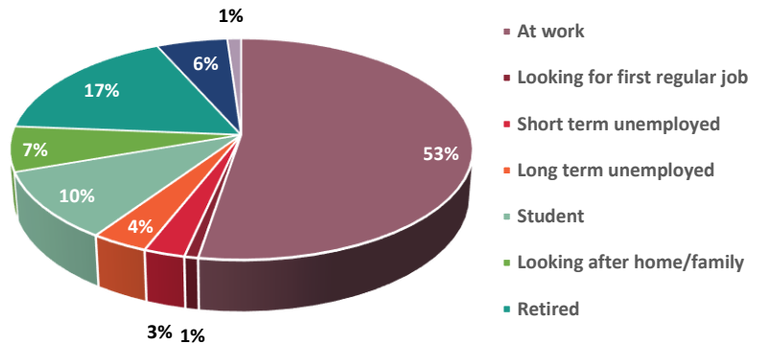
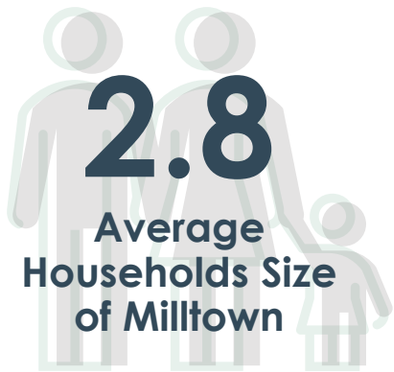


Figure Above. Milltown Employment, Census 2022



HOUSING MARKET OF MILLTOWN

A comprehensive review of the planning applications recorded within Kerry County Council's planning search portal since 2019 indicates that there are nearly 136 no. applications registered within Milltown of which the majority of applications are extension planning permissions for an existing dwelling and/or provision of a singular new dwelling unit.

Since 2019 an overall total of 276 no. dwellings have been approved by Kerry County Council/An Bord Pleanála and/or are under review by An Bord Pleanála awaiting a decision. The majority of these permissions are concentrated in the southern parts of Milltown, mostly progressing on developing greenfield lands. There are also some efforts being made within the town centre, and particularly along Castlemaine Road, to utilise existing housing stock.

276
NO. DWELLINGS IN THE PIPELINE

Year	Number of Transactions	Average Selling Price	% Change from Previous Year
2024	25	€290,492	+7.8%
2023	19	€269,421.1	+43%
2022	30	€187,308.36	-6%
2021	18	€199,834.44	+14%
2020	15	€175,872.87	-6%
2019	21	€187,296.43	-
2019-2023Q3	**128 NO. TRANSACTIONS**	**Avg. Selling Price €218,370.87***	-

Table Above. Overview of House Sales in Milltown during 2019-2024 (date of undertaking assessment: 12/03/2025).

From a market activity perspective and as detailed in the left-hand Table below, an overall total of 128 no. transactions have occurred in Milltown's housing market since 2019, recording an average selling price of €218,370.87 during 2019-2024.

As shown, the number of transactions in the Milltown housing market dropped during COVID-19 pandemic years though the prices jumped. The market notably grew in 2022 with the average selling price declined by 6%. Taking this in the context of housing delivery in Milltown, the increased supply in 2022 could be seen as being the main driver in pushing house prices down. This is reflected in the highly accelerated selling price increase from 2022 to 2023 of a notable +43%.

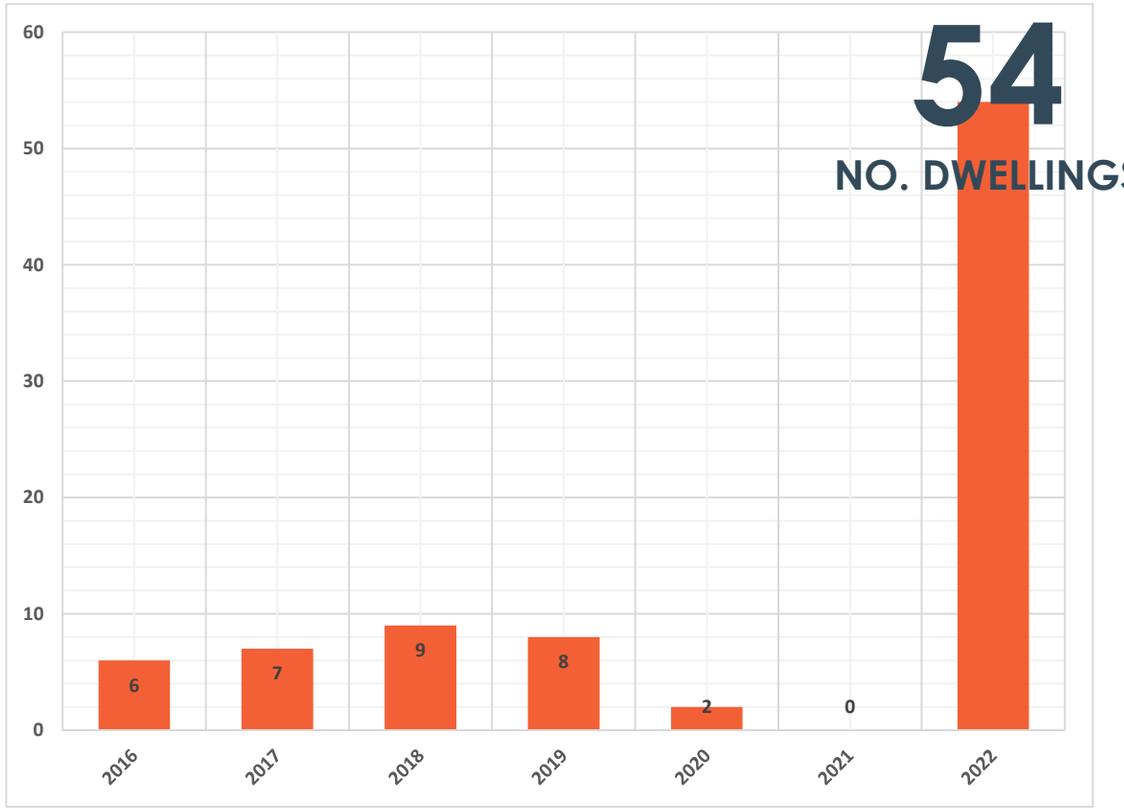


Figure Above. Dwellings Completion in Milltown since 2016.

** It is critical to note the data is captured from the Property Services Regulatory Authority database. Also, the average selling price during 2019-2024 is calculated by adding up all the selling prices, divided by the total number of transactions during the same period (128 no. transactions). This is addressed in full details within the Baseline Report.*

Permitted under Reg. Ref. 224 and commenced in early 2023, this is a 44-unit Social Housing Development at Ard Na Greine, Milltown, County Kerry. Developed in partnership with Clúid Housing Agency, this is providing for 28 no. apartments and 16 no. bungalows.

source: https://thermohouse.ie/

TOWNSCAPE & PUBLIC REALM OF MILLTOWN

The townscape of Milltown at its core is generally defined by terraced buildings ranging between 2 to 3 storeys in height. The buildings height and separation distance at this location is proportionally framing the space to create a comfortable sense of enclosure along these key streets.

At the junction of Main Street and Castlemaine Road, the arrangement of the buildings slightly changes to provide for an openness at the entrance to Kilcolman estate. This opening offers the possibility of creating a focal point at the heart of Milltown which given the historical significance of its architecture could be re-designed and re-branded as the Heritage Quarter of the Town. It is noted that The Square enjoys vistas to the Sacred Heart Church.

The Chapel Lane - Spout Lane connection is another opportunity at the centre of Milltown whereby these lanes interlink the Co-Op Mart with the cluster of buildings along the Main Street (particularly Bridewell) and then to the Old Community Hall that benefits from a square which currently lacks design. Given the role of the Old Community Hall, in addition to holding the yearly festival of Féile Lughnasadh at this square, this space holds exceptional opportunity to be re-designed as the Civic Centre of Milltown. Noted that improvement of Chapel Lane - Spout Lane for pedestrians would also enhance the exposure of Rathpoge East (Ahsullish) Stream in the Town structure and its legibility.

The townscape of Milltown in general is dominated by vehicular traffic. Despite enjoying walkable distances to key destinations and proportionally designed spaces, the dominance of cars currently challenges the image of the Town to be perceived as a sprawled-out settlement. Moreover, the townscape of Milltown is visually cluttered by overhead cables, and this adversely affected existing vistas and views to key buildings visible along the Main Street. It is critical to note that form and morphology of Milltown Town Centre is simple and elegant, and whilst a streetscape project should allow this form to shine, it should not overshadow with fussy detail, the paraphernalia of traffic management and excessive planting of street trees.

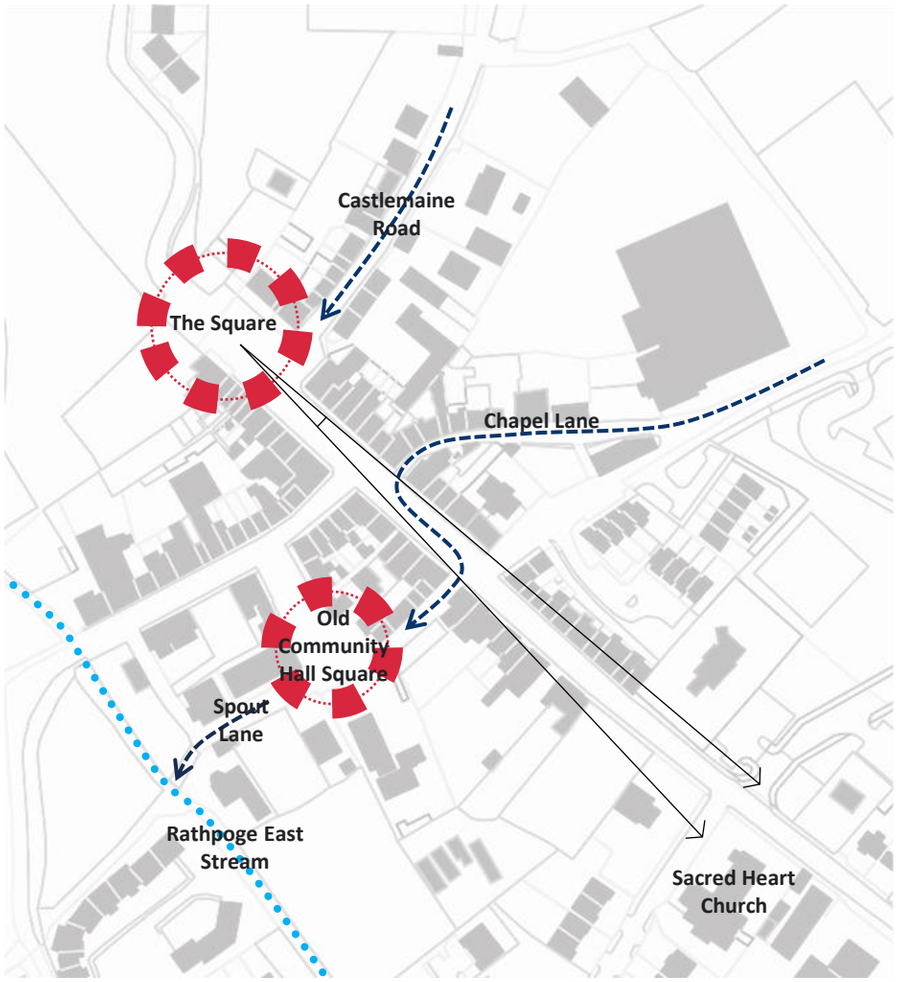


Figure Above. An indication of key opportunities for public realm interventions, linkages, and improvements in the Town Centre of Milltown







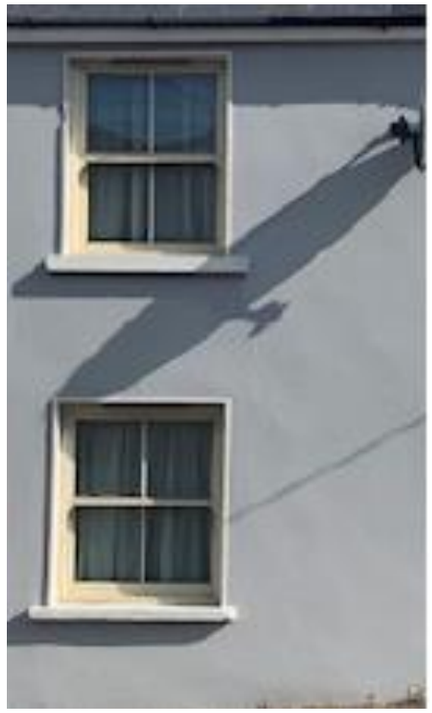
Figure Above. Féile Lughnasadh in Milltown, August 2023

STREETSCAPE OF MILLTOWN

The structures on the north Main Street leading into Church Street retain their historic rhythm in terms of plot size. These plot sizes give a vertical emphasis and urban pattern which gives Irish towns such as Milltown their particular interest and visual attraction. This carries through to the other streets such as Bridge Street and the smaller streets connecting to the main thoroughfares.

In order for structures within the historic core of Milltown to be used, they must be comfortable and viable. Linkage to grant funding schemes, as noted in Chapter 5, provides an opportunity to maintain and, in some cases, restore lost architectural features. The SEAI grant system also offers opportunities to upgrade energy performance in areas such as boilers, attic insulation and heating controls. The application of some actions would need to be examined carefully to ensure no adverse impact on the historic character of the town centre.

Each street is composed of its individual elements, and what enhances its allure is the attention to detail. Examples provided above include historic features like the neo-Gothic hood mouldings over the windows along Main Street, which echoed the detailing of Kilcoleman Abbey. Such details, among others, contribute to the historical charm of the Town. Preserving and restoring these elements will further bolster and diversify the appeal of the streetscape.











Street Elevations: The western end of Main Street shows an ordered set of seven buildings, all two bay and three stories in height. This is a conscious piece of town planning and with its well-proportioned windows and continuous eaves and ridge line brings a visual continuity and order to the town core. Details such as windows, doors and shop fronts all add to a sense of coherent historic area. The next section of the north side of Main Street also retains its scale with the exception of the derelict structure on the right. Here its proximity to the important Bridewell structure perhaps offers opportunities for restoration and reinvigoration of this section of the streetscape. As the street moves onwards to become Church Street, the scale becomes more domestic. Three storey yields to two storey but retains a strong emphasis with small plot sizes dictating a clear and typically Irish town rhythm. This street adds strongly to Milltown's core area character and interest.



Figure Above. Western end of Main Street

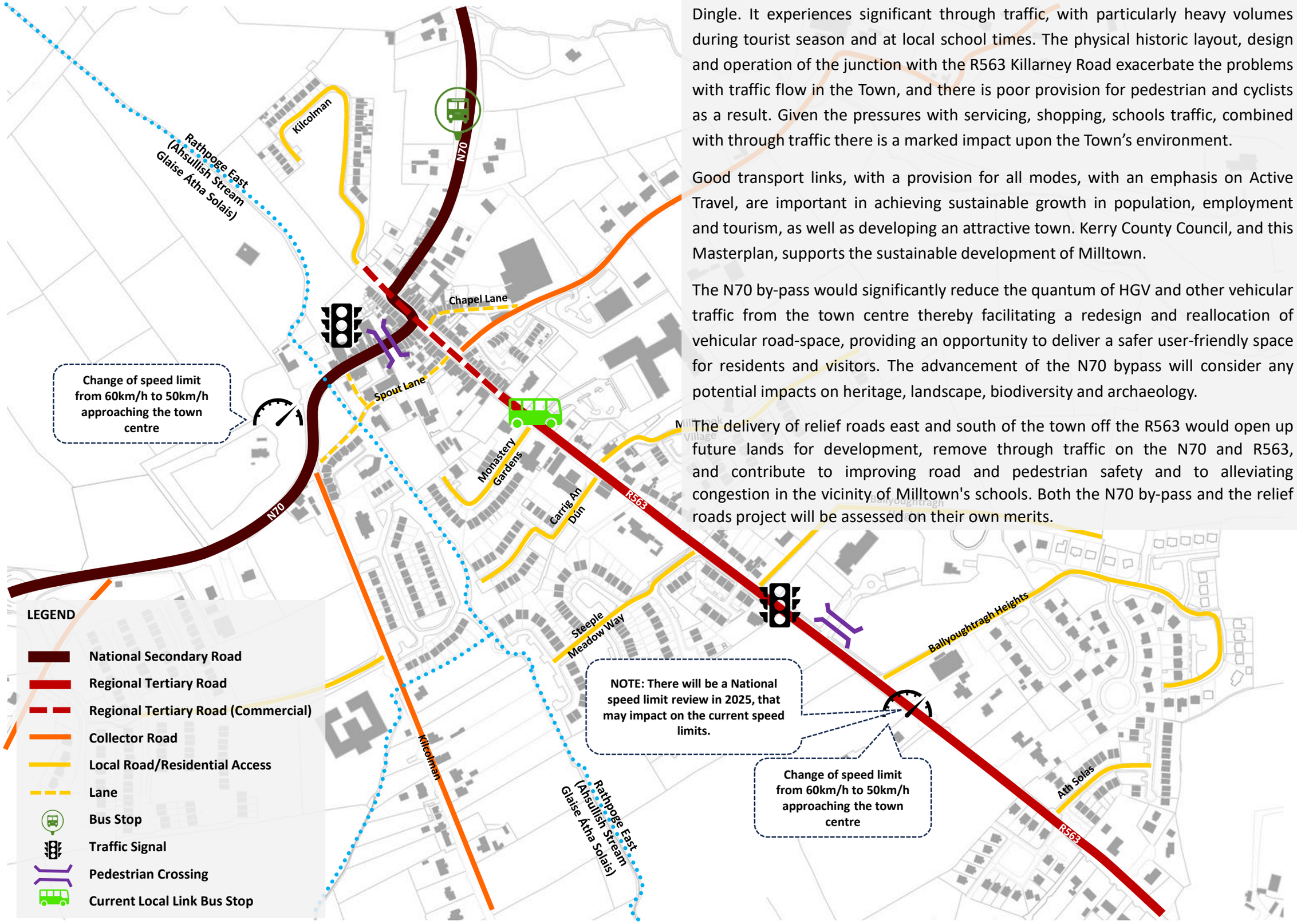


Figure Above. North side of Main Street



Figure Above. Church Street

CONNECTIVITY & TRANSPORT



Milltown is located on the junction of the National Secondary Route N70 and the R563. The N70 is on the Wild Atlantic Way and the R563 connects Killarney and Dingle. It experiences significant through traffic, with particularly heavy volumes during tourist season and at local school times. The physical historic layout, design and operation of the junction with the R563 Killarney Road exacerbate the problems with traffic flow in the Town, and there is poor provision for pedestrian and cyclists as a result. Given the pressures with servicing, shopping, schools traffic, combined with through traffic there is a marked impact upon the Town's environment.

Good transport links, with a provision for all modes, with an emphasis on Active Travel, are important in achieving sustainable growth in population, employment and tourism, as well as developing an attractive town. Kerry County Council, and this Masterplan, supports the sustainable development of Milltown.

The N70 by-pass would significantly reduce the quantum of HGV and other vehicular traffic from the town centre thereby facilitating a redesign and reallocation of vehicular road-space, providing an opportunity to deliver a safer user-friendly space for residents and visitors. The advancement of the N70 bypass will consider any potential impacts on heritage, landscape, biodiversity and archaeology.

The delivery of relief roads east and south of the town off the R563 would open up future lands for development, remove through traffic on the N70 and R563, and contribute to improving road and pedestrian safety and to alleviating congestion in the vicinity of Milltown's schools. Both the N70 by-pass and the relief roads project will be assessed on their own merits.

PEDESTRIAN & CYCLE LINKS

The compact urban structure of the historic town core provides a permeable network of streets and lanes. However, footpaths and street space allocation needs to be amended and upgraded in order to be consistent with modern safe provision for active travel modes.

The Masterplan re-evaluates the urban street space in order to prioritise pedestrian and cycle movement, identifying improvements to provide safer appropriate walking and cycling facilities on direct routes within the town. Provision of these links will promote and facilitate greater connectivity between residential areas, schools and the town core, whilst also providing for connections between Killarney, Killorglin and Tralee. These improvements in pedestrian and cycle infrastructure are consistent with Kerry County Council objectives and National Policy. Such a sustainable provision would significantly increase active travel movement and connectivity within the town.

As can be seen in the photos, Milltown is currently relying on a car-driven town design with little to no provision for other road users, i.e., pedestrians, cyclists, and wheelchair users. There is a lack of consistency in delivery of footpaths and street crossings, and this adversely affected the safety and quality of public realm in the town centre of Milltown.

Over allocation of surface car park spaces, which is mostly characterised with illegal car parking, is another issue in Milltown, possibly revealing a lack of parking regulation. This has resulted in some street blockages, the emergence of an unsightly and cluttered town centre, and a poor-quality public realm rendered with cars and no room for other road users.





Figures. View to and from The Square, cluttered with cars showing the current status of The Square functioning as a car parking.





Figures Above. Lack of road design (Ballyoughtragh Estate along the Co-Op Mart) and overly designed roads with no consideration for users' experience and finish product.

CAR PARKING & PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The car parking provision within Milltown is currently quite poor in terms of quantum, location, demarcation and in particular in relation to parking regulation/enforcement. Particular problems arise at school pickup times during weekdays (which are of short duration), on significant match-days adjacent the GAA club (infrequent) and on the northbound approach to the town on the N70 Bridge Street with unfettered car parking on footpaths affecting pedestrian movement (which is an on-going issue).

There is scope to provide for enhanced parking, for natural discouragement of inappropriate parking through the application of modern design principles.

This masterplan seeks to review and examine all existing car parking. The development of a car parking Management Strategy is recommended with regards the continual management and assignment of spaces to users.

Milltown is served by both Bus Eireann mainline and Local Link Services. There are currently 4 x Local Link Services to the town (R82 Killorglin – Tralee, R33 Milltown – Killarney, R16 Inch – Killarney and R32 Beaufort – Tralee). The bus stops are currently located on the N70, a short distance on the north side of the town. This plan seeks to integrate the bus stops within the built environment of the town centre, in a sustainable manner. This will facilitate the sustainable growth of the town centre in tandem with the inevitable improvements in the bus service provision.

MILLTOWN LAND USE & TOWN CENTRE HEALTH CHECK

Adopted by the Castleisland and Corca Dhuibhne Municipal District Members on 29th April 2021 and came into effect from 27th May 2021, the Corca Dhuibhne Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2021-2027 defines Milltown as a "District Town" and outlines the land use zoning map and matrix of uses for Milltown. Under the current Development Plan, Milltown is designated as a "Regional Town" (Level 3 Retail Provision) that accordingly "*is economically vibrant and vary in terms of scale of retail provision and size of catchment. Generally, these towns have good transport links to larger towns and cities. Many of these regional towns have important connections to key towns which are located within the Key towns and have an important role in Inter-Urban Networks. Where the town is not close to a Key town and there is a large catchment there should be a good range of comparison shopping with a mix of uses and services. These towns should contain at least one supermarket and smaller scale comparison department store to cater for local needs*."

The Land Use map however presents a mixed town core with a clearly delimited town centre where commercial uses give way to residential dominance. The urban form is relatively distinctive extending along the Castlemaine Road and Bridge Street with extremely limited retail offering comprising of a few bars/restaurants and takeaways, a food store, a tire shop, and a garden machinery store. The convenience retail of the Town includes a Spar at Bridge Street, a Londis at Church Street, and Murphys Supermarket at Main Street. Comparison retail is pretty much non-existent in Milltown, and therefore, the residents of the community have to travel to other towns for shopping including their weekly grocery shops.

There is a total building stock of 153 buildings within the Town Centre Boundary. The most common land use within Milltown is a defined use of a residential nature with 103 buildings (67%) defined as being under residential use. Retail land-use composes of 12% of the building stock with 19 buildings.

It is critical to emphasise that, unlike a County Development Plan or Local Area Plan, a Town Centre First Plan is a non-statutory document and mainly focuses on addressing issues within the town core. Consequently, matters related to land use zoning fall outside the scope of a Town Centre First Plan. However, this Town Centre First Plan can help to inform the preparation of the forthcoming LAP.

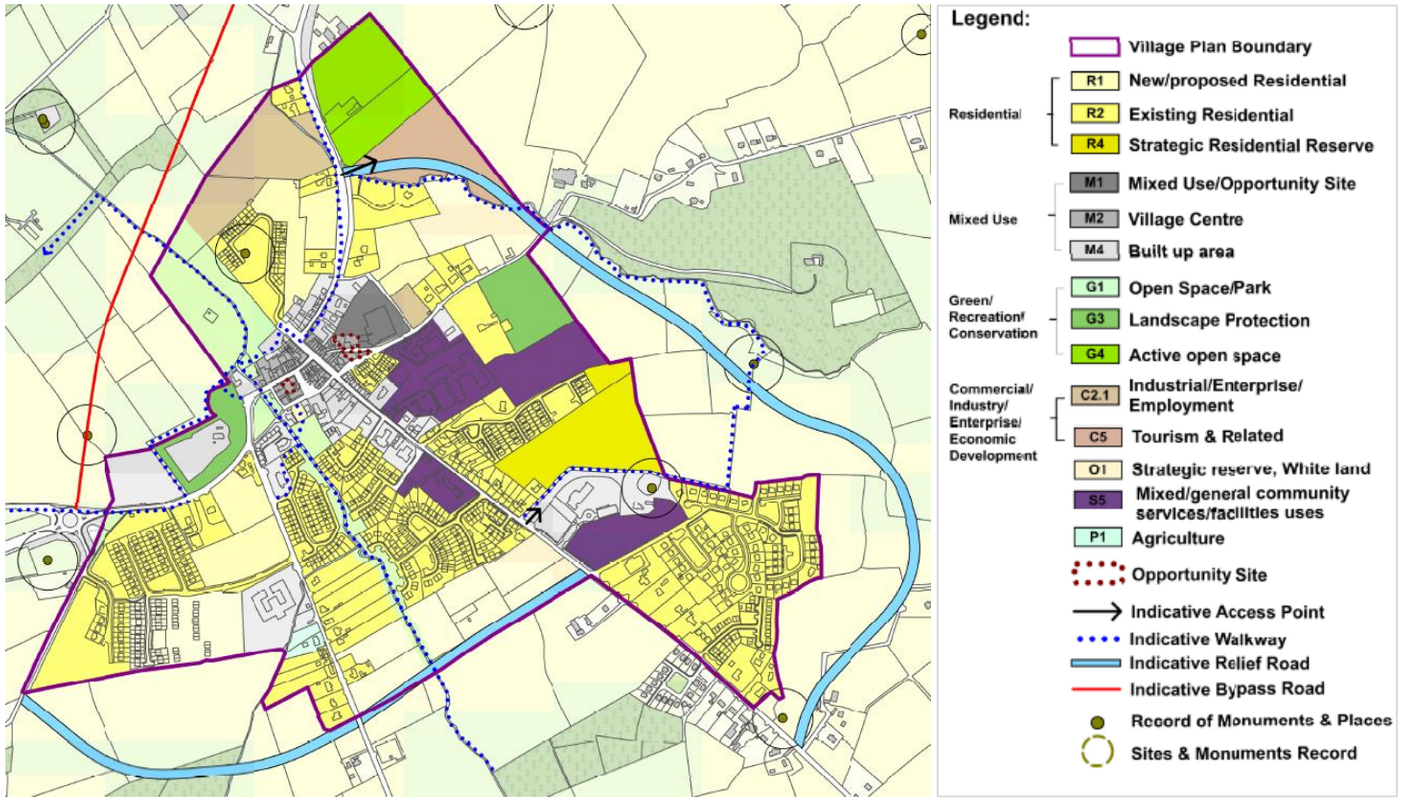


Figure Above. Land Use Zoning Map of Milltown (source: Kerry County Council)

MILLTOWN IN THE COUNTY RETAIL HIERARCHY

As part of the Baseline Report, a retail assessment for the Town has been carried out, which demonstrates the overall convenience retail provision in Milltown at present comprises a Spar shop at Bridge Street, a Londis at Church Street, and Murphys Supermarket at Main Street, providing for a combined total of c. 700sqm convenience retail provision for the Town.

On the other hand, the overall comparison retail provision in Milltown at present comprises the O'Neills Power Equipment Milltown, Tyrestop Killorglin, and O'Doherty's StayWell Pharmacy (296sqm) with no clothing and footwear shops or retailers with durable households' products. According to our findings, there is an under-provision of convenience and comparison floorspace within the Town. Where it is expected to have c. €16.3M pool of available expenditure on convenience goods in Milltown by 2028, the addition of c. 2,492.6sqm of convenience retail within the catchment area is required to meet the available expenditure.



Figure Above. Milltown Retail Environment (date of mapping: 23/October/2023 @ ESRI)

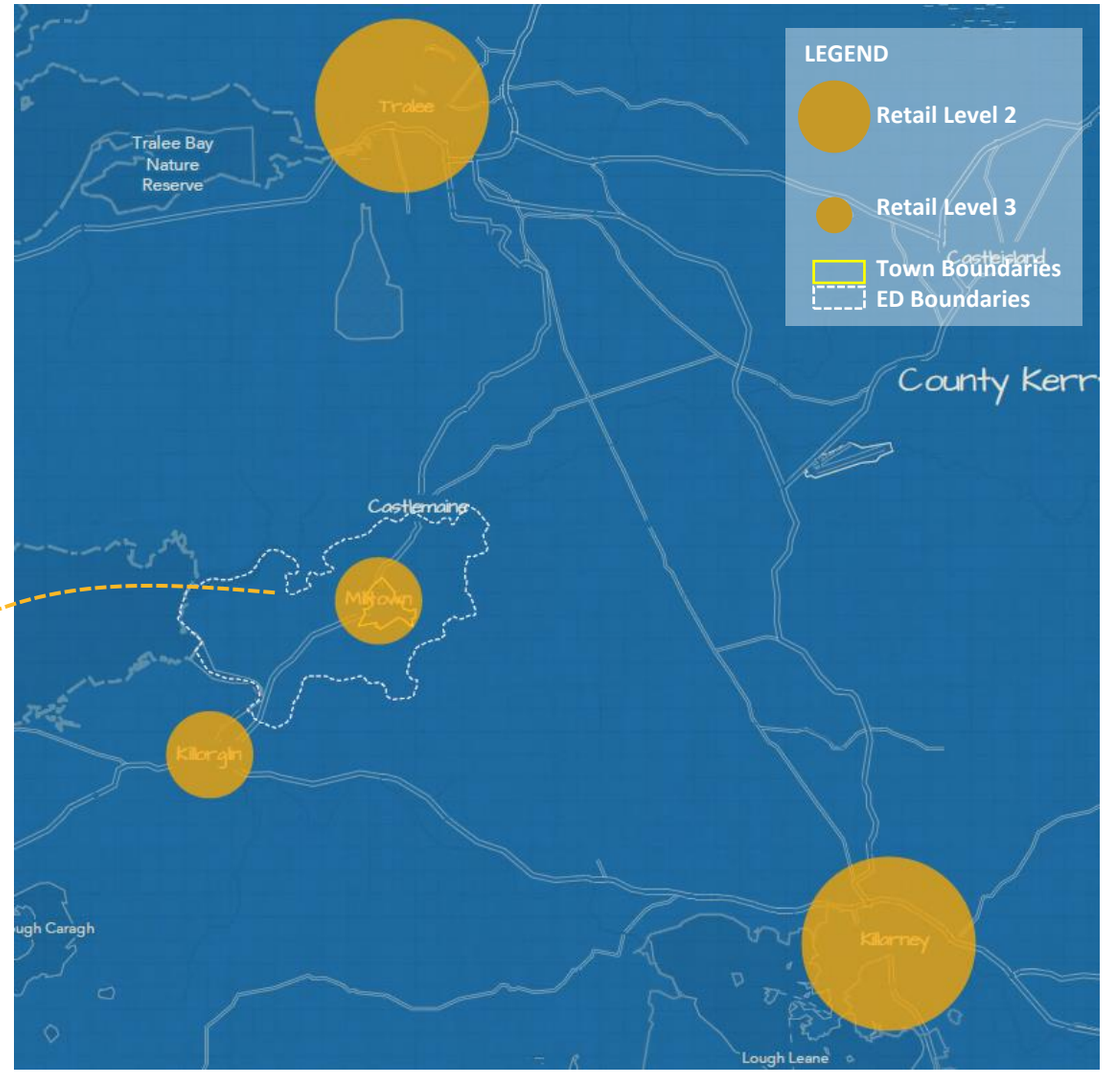


Figure Above. Milltown within the Retail Hierarchy of its Context (date of mapping: 23/October/2023 @ ESRI)

Similarly, where it is expected to have c. €5.9M pool of available expenditure on comparison goods in Milltown by 2028, the addition of approximately 600sqm of convenience retail within the catchment area is required to meet the available expenditure.

It is also evident that Milltown is challenged by "retail leakage" in term of convenience and comparison goods, where insufficient retail provision correlative to the available pool of expenditure in the area has led the expenditure to be spent in the next key retail destination.

MILLTOWN LAND USE & RESIDENTIAL PROVISION

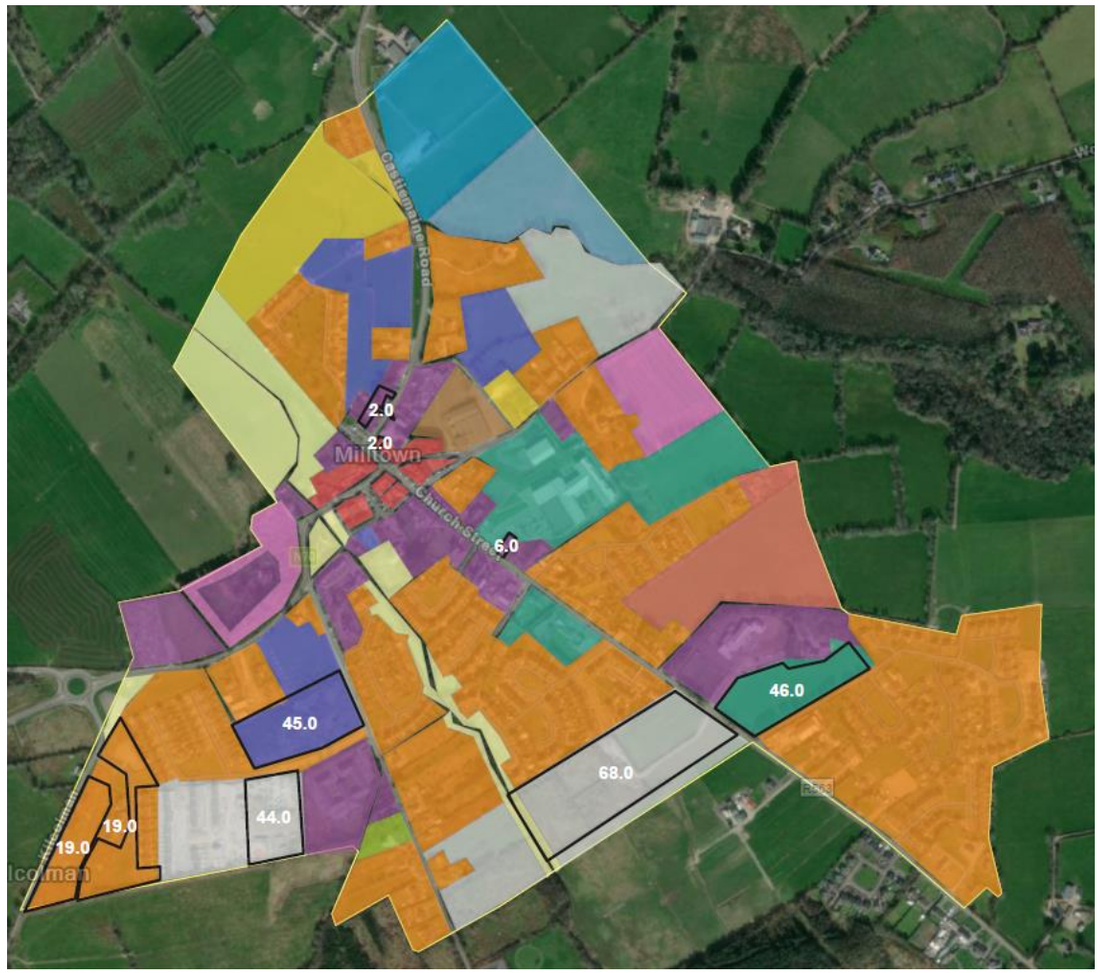
As outlined in the Core Strategy of the County Development Plan, the projection of population and housing growth is based upon the ESRI research work "*Structural Housing Demand at County Level*" and the "*Housing Supply Target Methodology for Development Planning*" published by DHLGH in December 2020, as well as the Ministerial Letter advising these publications as the most up to date approach towards demand projection, this projection has been revised. However, the ESRI method is based on the 2016 Census and given the release of Census 2022 results, the population projection and consequently the Counties' core strategies need to be revisited.

With respect to the above, the Core Strategy projects a population of 987 people for Milltown in 2022, which is short by 131 people when compared to the Census 2022 results. Based upon that, the Core Strategy then estimates a population growth of 273 people during 2022-2028 with a housing target of 214 no. dwellings (6.1h of zoned lands), i.e., a density of c. 35uph.

Based on a linear regression model and by utilising a flat annual growth rate of 3% stipulated from the recorded growth rate of 20% for Milltown during 2016-2022, it is anticipated for the population of Milltown to stand at 1,329 people by 2028. As can be seen, there is a combined discrepancy of 342 people when comparing this to the Core Strategy, i.e., 122 no. households when applying the average household size of 2.8 as per Census 2022.

As mapped out, a real-time assessment of the land use zoning of Milltown indicates that all "Existing Residential" zoned lands has been built and/or have permission for provision of residential. In terms of "New/Proposed Residential" zoned lands, an overall total of c. 4.5ha is available for development. In a more strategic level and as a long-term planning solution, there is c. 4.7ha "O1 – Strategic Reserve White Land" and c. 4ha of "R4 – Strategic Residential Reserve" lands. Given the average residential density in recent permissions, this yields for c. 96 no. dwellings.

It is noted that there are strategic backlands zoned for residential provision in Milltown, however, deliverability and development constraints of these lands need further assessment, since this is a key factor in accelerating housing provision.



LEGEND

- Town Boundary
- Town Centre
- Active Open Space
- Agriculture
- Built Up Area
- Existing Residential
- Industrial/Enterprise/Employment
- Landscape Protection
- Mixed Use
- Mixed/General Services/Community Facility
- New/Proposed Residential
- Open Space/Park
- Strategic Reserve, White Land
- Strategic Residential Reserve
- Tourism & Related
- Extant Permissions/Under Construction*

** The number of dwellings permitted on the sites are shown on the map.*

Figure Above. Land Use Zoning Map of Milltown (source: Kerry County Council GIS datasets updated with recent permissions overlaid on the zoning)

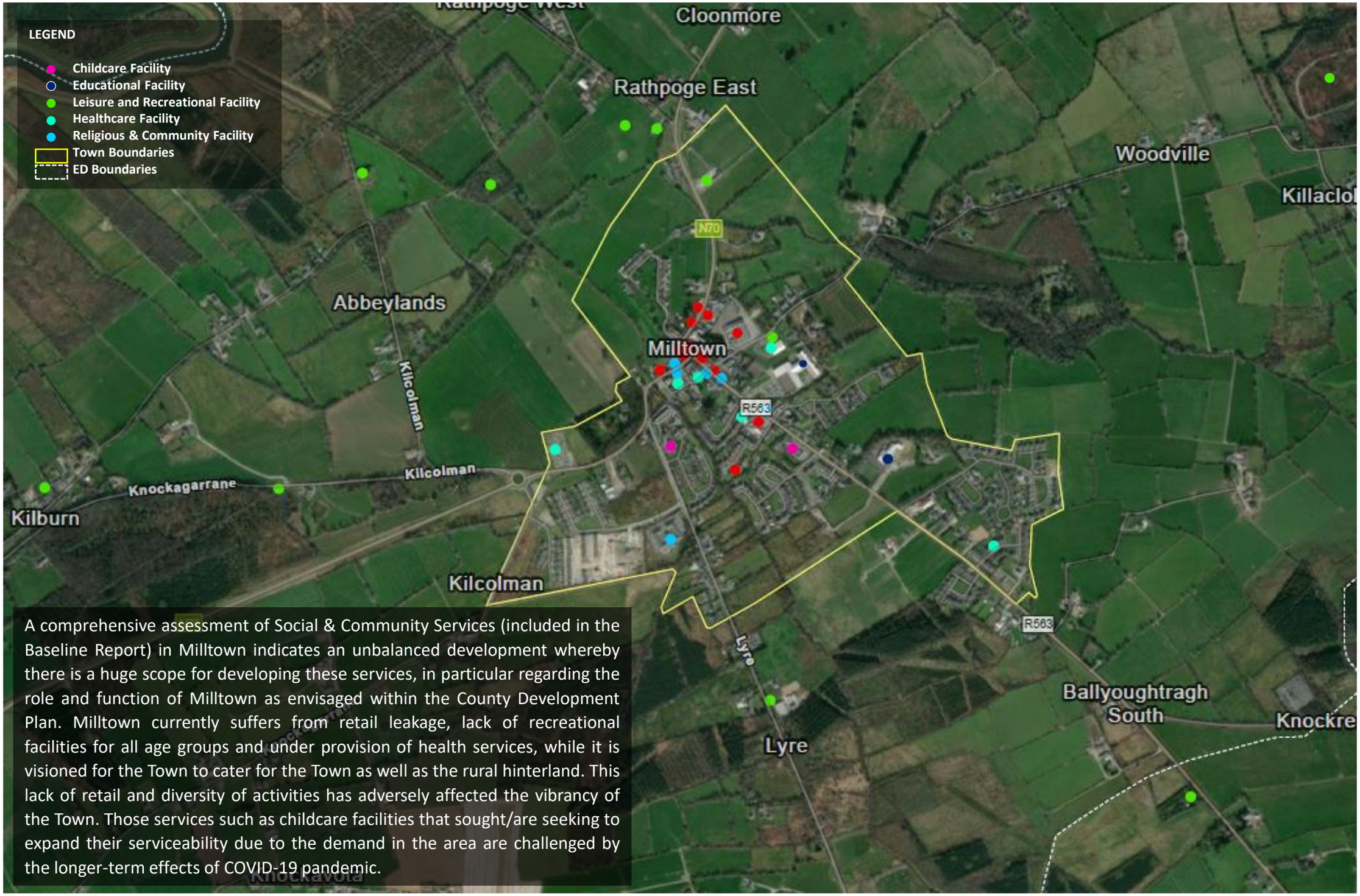
TOWN CENTRE VACANCY & DERELICTION

Vacant and derelict properties have an impact on the viability and attractiveness of towns. A significant challenge within town centres is to encourage people to live in town centres and to address the challenge of adapting older building stock.

From a survey that was conducted by Kerry County Council in 2023, the table below summarises the findings from a particular point in time, subject to change. Kerry County Council will be working in collaboration with property owners with an intention to develop and implement a Vacant and Derelict Properties Activation Strategy as part of this Masterplan.

	Total Number	Occupied	Vacant	% Vacant
Comparison	3	2	1	33%
Convenience	7	7	0	0%
Retail Service	8	6	2	25%
Other Retail	1	1	0	0%
Overall Retail	**19**	**16**	**3**	**16%**
Financial & Business Services	2	2	0	0%
Health & Medical Services	5	5	0	0%
Leisure Services	12	7	5	42%
Public Services	8	6	2	25%
Religious Services	2	2	0	0%
Overall Services	**29**	**22**	**7**	**24%**
Industrial	1	0	1	100%
Agriculture	1	1	0	0%
Storage & Warehouse	0	0	0	0%
Residential	**103**	**80**	**23**	**22%**

COMMUNITY AMENITIES & SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE



A comprehensive assessment of Social & Community Services (included in the Baseline Report) in Milltown indicates an unbalanced development whereby there is a huge scope for developing these services, in particular regarding the role and function of Milltown as envisaged within the County Development Plan. Milltown currently suffers from retail leakage, lack of recreational facilities for all age groups and under provision of health services, while it is visioned for the Town to cater for the Town as well as the rural hinterland. This lack of retail and diversity of activities has adversely affected the vibrancy of the Town. Those services such as childcare facilities that sought/are seeking to expand their serviceability due to the demand in the area are challenged by the longer-term effects of COVID-19 pandemic.

The ecological constraints map of Milltown includes three layers of European Conservation Area (SPAs, SACs) in addition to the proposed Natural Heritage Areas, Natural and/or Semi-Natural Habitats of high and moderate priority, as well as the EPA River Network. This is interlinked with the Green Infrastructure element of the Masterplan which then feeds into the Public Realm and Placemaking strategy for the Town.

Groin 22
CASTLEDRUM
ARDCANAGH
Castlemaine Harbour
Castlemaine Harbour SAC
emaine Harbour SPA
Maine Trib 2
Maine Trib 1
Maine
BALLYMACANDY
N70
KILCOLMAN 22
ABBEYLANDS 22
RATHPOGE_WEST
Milltown
RATHPOGE_EAST
KILBURN
ARDABAUN
TINNAHALLY
MILLTOWN 22
R563

LEGEND

- Settlement Boundary
- Special Area of Conservation
- Special Protection Area
- Proposed Natural Heritage Area
- High Priority Habitat Area
- Moderate Priority Habitat Area
- EPA River Network (Stream Order)
  - 1
  - 2
  - 3

date of mapping: 20/October/2023 @ ESRI

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Green infrastructure is an all-encompassing concept to include four key elements of: (1) Nature, (2) Water, (3) People, and (4) Cultural Heritage. The cultural heritage has been addressed in Section 1 of the Masterplan which is suggested to be read in conjunction with the Ecological Constraints Map. That said, the following focuses on people, water and cultural heritage.

A. PEOPLE

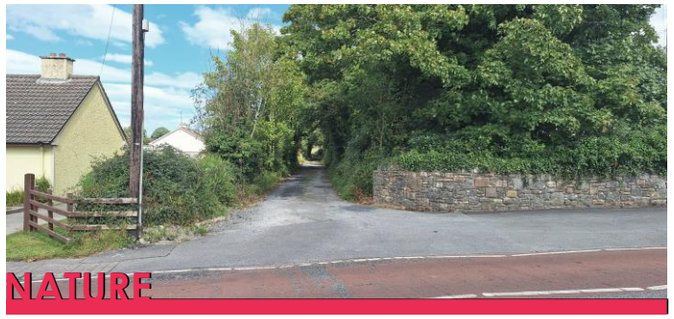
Activating Public Open Spaces

There are some pockets of open space that appear to be left-over spaces without a strong sense of purpose. They are however valuable spaces, as has been recognised by community interventions. Further work on these spaces will be able to get better value out of them and also generate a strong sense of place. As they are mainly located along entrance routes, they will also reinforce a sense of arrival and identity for Milltown. Following in the themed approach of Green Infrastructure, these spaces can be better activated through amenity uses, biodiversity enhancement, and expressions of cultural heritage.



Milltown Gateways, Boundaries and Thresholds

The sense of a welcoming arrival in Milltown, or indeed a fond departure, could be enhanced by clearly defining the location of these thresholds. Within the town, the Kilcolman Demesne gateway is probably the most striking, and should be celebrated. Attention should be given to other gateways, thresholds and boundaries, much of which is proudly visible in the entrances to schools and housing estates and churches.



WOODLANDS
GRASSLANDS
INVASIVE SPECIES



WATERCOURSES
WATER QUALITY
DRAINAGE



ROUTES
OPEN SPACES
SPORTS & RECREATION



HISTORIC MAPS
HISTORIC BUILDINGS & SITES

Activating Residential Open Spaces

Whilst Milltown may lack a Town Park, it does have over 18ha of green open space associated with local housing areas. These are generally mown grass spaces with some tree planting. These spaces to some extent are able to respond to the needs of the local residents, particularly as kickabout spaces; some even have orchard trees and picnic benches. It is positive to see active ownership in managing these spaces, as they are not only an amenity, but they foster community engagement among the neighbours, and help to build social cohesion, especially in new housing estates. There is however greater potential in these spaces, with a need driven by the community for open space, and to engender greater resilience in response to climate change. There are four stands to activating these spaces.

1. Creating more playfulness and engagement for all (i.e., not just children).

2. Creating better habitats and management for biodiversity – especially pollinator friendly interventions, with reduced herbicide and chemical fertilizers, native and adaptive planting, and better mowing regimes.

3. Creating better nature-based water management to conserve groundwater, clean surface water runoff, attenuate water from flooding local streams and generate new habitats.

4. Creating a sense of identity through expressions of cultural heritage, such as heritage aspects of the area, naming of estates, events, and art.

Maine River Viewpoint and Walks

There is potential for a focal point for the Maine River with views from the flood relief embankment level across the estuary towards the Dingle Peninsula and back towards Milltown. Walks from here are westwards along the estuary, and eastwards to Castlemaine, which is 4km away.


Kilcolman


Millbrook Village


Steeple Meadows


Monastery Gardens


Balloughtagh Heights


Maple Road


Oak Drive


An Tuairín Lin

B. NATURE

Woodland and Trees – Milltown Forest

The concept of Milltown Forest encompasses an interlinked hierarchy of local woodlands, public open spaces, in fields and hedgerows, private gardens, etc. that collectively make up a forest. This will assist the community in the way it thinks about trees, not only as individual specimens but as a collective of species, ages and provenance. This leads to an understanding of the diversity and health of the tree canopy across the town and its environs, their contribution to biodiversity, carbon sequestration, water attenuation and air quality – as well as of course how they contribute to the beauty of the town. The Kilderry Forest is accessible by foot, being just over a kilometre from the town centre. Killaclohane Forest, if a formal access could be achieved, is approximately 2km away from the town centre.

It is important to note, as announced on 4th June 2024, the Department of Rural and Community Development has allocated €445,140 under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) for the construction of a 1.5km extension to the Kilderry Wood Walk. This extension will create a looped countryside walk totaling 3.1km. Additionally, the project includes the construction of a 600m footpath connecting Milltown to the Kilderry Wood Entrance.

C. WATER

Milltown Streams

The Ballyoughtra and Ahsullish (Glaise Átha Solais) streams are a hidden but vital aspect of Milltown, not least as an energy source for the mill(s) that give the town its name. They are also an important green infrastructure asset, providing wildlife corridors through the town and connecting it to the river Maine and the Castlemaine Harbour SAC.









DIGITAL TOWN BLUEPRINT

The Department of Rural and Community Development commissioned DCU and .IE to conduct a Digital Town Blueprint on the 26 towns selected for funding under the Town Centre First Initiative 2021. This includes preparation of a Digital Town Blueprint for Milltown, Co. Kerry which was published in March 2023. It is critical to note that the study was measuring readiness and not end user experience. Therefore, consumer or household experiences with broadband services may differ significantly from the reported broadband quality and coverage metrics.

As can be seen on the Figure above, there is no broadband connection point planned for Milltown, and the nearest broadband connection point to the Town is located at Inch Community Centre, Killeenagh, Co. Kerry, which is within c. 19km distance from Milltown.

The Digital Town Blueprint report also provides a classification of mobile coverage across Milltown townlands to conclude that Mobile broadband coverage in Milltown may extend across townlands, but broadband speeds decrease as one moves out from the town centre. In particular, focusing on 4G provision in Milltown highlights variations in digital connectivity within Milltown and surrounding townlands. Accordingly, Milltown is relatively well-serviced for both fixed broadband and mobile connectivity with at least six fixed broadband providers, ten 2G, 3G and 4G mobile providers, but only two 5G mobile providers (incl. Eir and Three).

The multi-layered analysis of the report reveals the overall Digital Town Score for Milltown is 38 which indicates a level 2 readiness for Milltown, i.e., digital readiness of the Town is ad hoc and mostly not documented. In other words, some evidence of digital readiness in the use and sophistication of digital technologies and capabilities. Most are not documented and not managed. Performance may be measured and reviewed periodically but mostly informally. KPIs are below regional, national or EU averages.

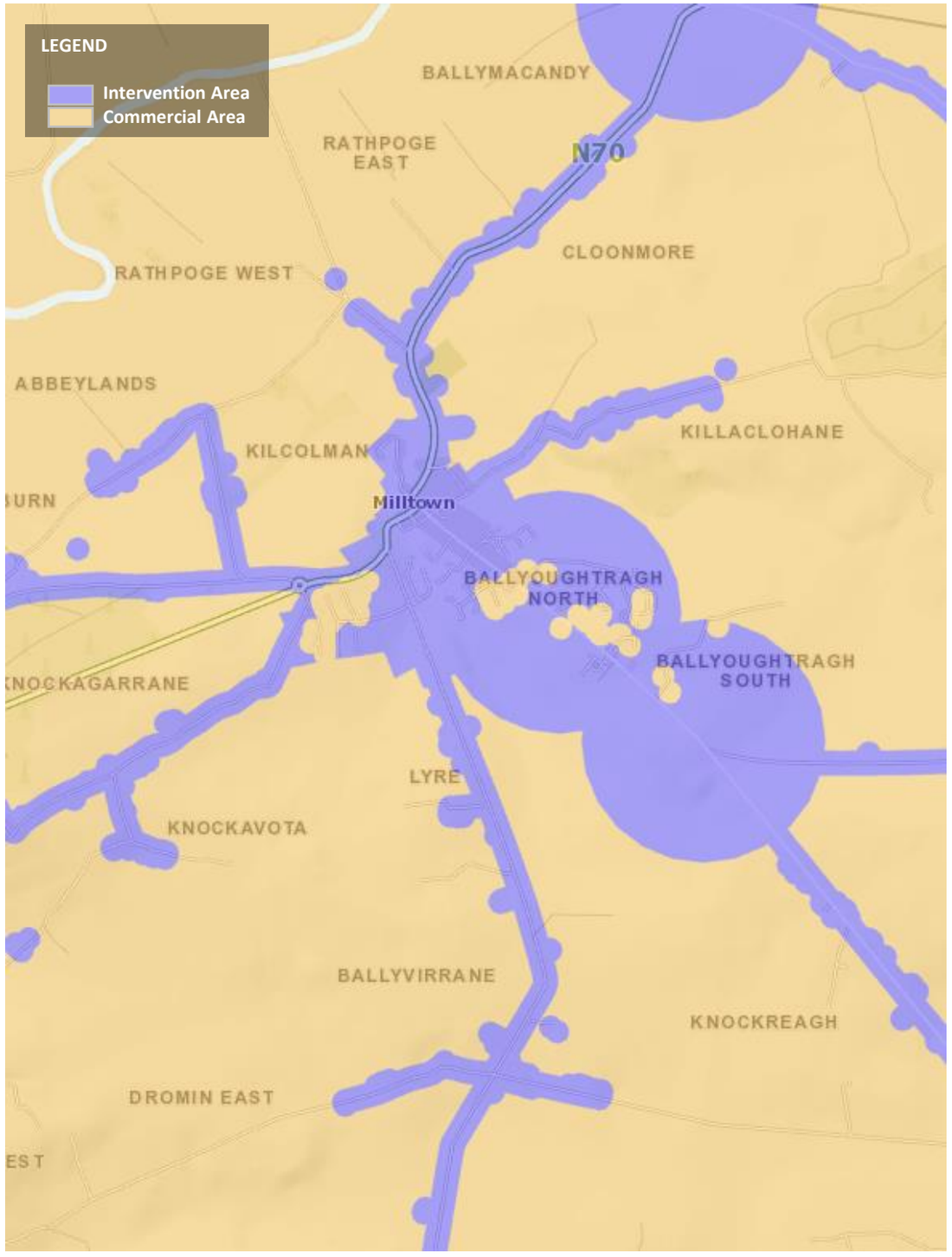
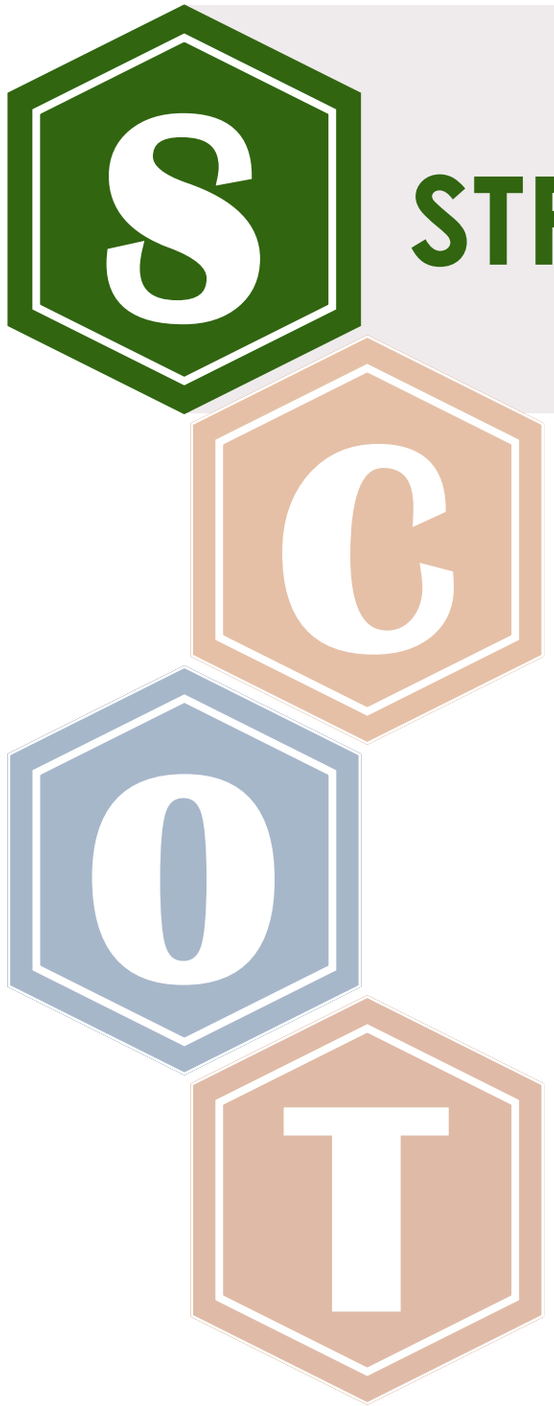


Figure Above. High Speed Broadband Map (source: www.broadband.gov.ie).

SCOT ANALYSIS



STRENGTHS

- The existing strong community spirit within Milltown as the key asset of the Town
- Population growth with a young population demographic
- Tourism heritage assets
- Local retail facilities for everyday goods
- Strategic geographical location between Tralee and Killarney
- Colourful town with a mix of building materials and types
- Several opportunity sites within Milltown
- Distinctive character
- GAA Facility with a large sports club
- Proximity to quality recreational spaces (Kilderry Forest, Kilcoleman Abbey, Killaclohane Forest Recreational Area, etc.)
- Existing passing tourist numbers that can be captured and used to generate increased footfall and spend in Milltown.

SCOT ANALYSIS



CHALLENGES

- High rates of vacancy and dereliction
- Long-term impacts of COVID-19 pandemic still unknown
- Limited provision of public community facilities such as a library
- Strain on local services as a result of unbalanced development
- Lack of accessible and safe active travel infrastructure
- Car dominant area due to factors such as lack of public transport
- Limited variety of retail provision
- Limited recreation facilities outside of GAA & organised sporting clubs
- Lack of dedicated sporting leisure facilities such as gym & leisure centre
- Poor public realm & and usable areas of open space
- Lack of economic and employment opportunities within Milltown
- Significant lack of litter facilities
- Financially unviable to adapt and convert the older building stock
- The conversion and adaption of older building stocks, particularly vacant properties, will likely require financial assistance and supports

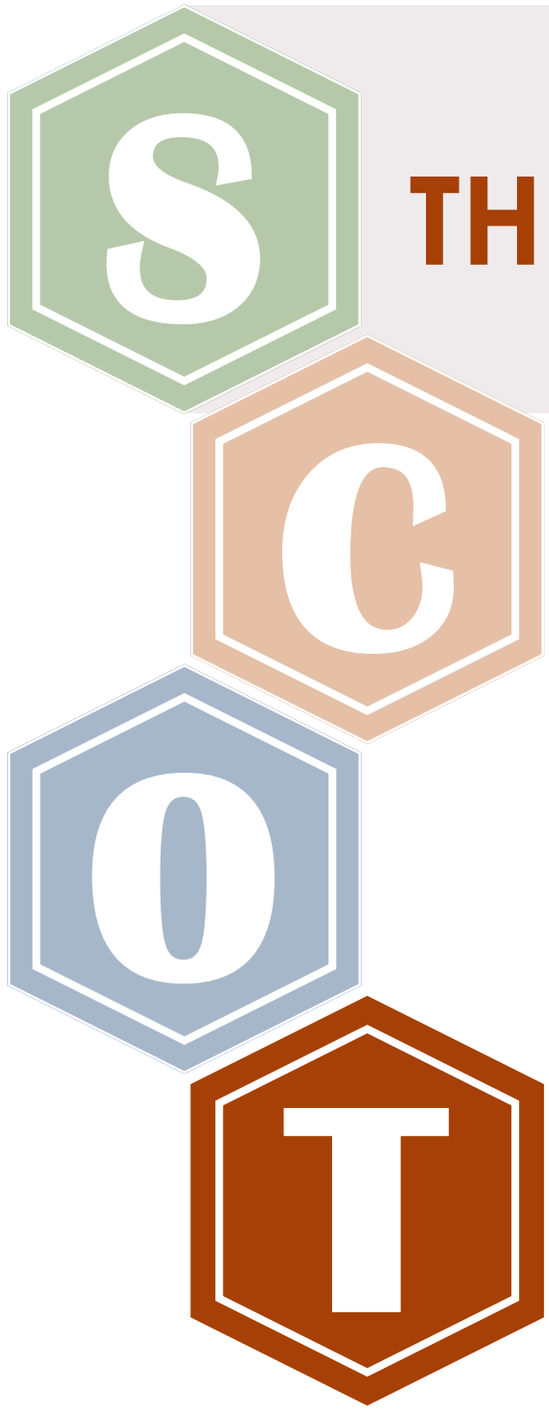
SCOT ANALYSIS



OPPORTUNITIES

- Be a leader in climate change local initiatives
- Explore opportunities for the expansion of the retail and commercial offerings
- To provide appropriate traffic calming measures within the town centre
- Provide for new pedestrian crossing points in Milltown and improved age-friendly environment
- Create an attractive and permeable public realm
- Creation of a Town Team leading to local project initiatives
- Expand on public transport options to surrounding towns
- Town and heritage funding opportunities for the adaption and regeneration of vacant and derelict properties
- Identify opportunities for town heritage, character and maintenance
- Improve on the provision of community and social infrastructure through high-quality facilities through building regeneration opportunities
- Improve the digital connectivity of Milltown and identify remote working opportunities in creating hubs
- Identify and facilitate the improvement of youth facilities, to involve and integrate the youth community of Milltown
- Continued expansion of local market

SCOT ANALYSIS



THREATS

- Climate Change
- Economic and employment opportunities not available within Milltown
- Lack of essential community services to serve the needs of the growing demographics
- Dereliction and decline of buildings to a state of disrepair leading to it being costly to adapt and restore buildings
- Insufficient social infrastructure to support the emerging population
- Lack of leisure facilities provision adversely affecting living quality of the residents
- Poorly managed development which can lead to long-term implications
- Continued rise of housing prices within the area
- Competition for available funding opportunities

DEFINING MILLTOWN

04

KEY THEMES, OBJECTIVES, & ACTIONS

The following chapter provides the themes, objectives, and actions for the Milltown Town Centre First Masterplan that have emerged and evolved through the course of the Pre-Draft and Draft Public Consultation Stages and via extensive engagement with the local community and relevant stakeholders. This is further reinforced with comprehensive baseline assessments carried out by Kerry County Council and the Design Team. Accordingly, the six key themes of the TCF Masterplan include:

Mobility and Sustainable Transport

By acknowledging the traffic and mobility challenges that Milltown are currently facing, this Theme includes objectives and actions to move from a car-dominated Town Centre to a pedestrian-/cycle-friendly environment. This will be achieved by enhancing the pedestrians and cyclists' facilities along the roads, improving the junctions, efficient car parking management throughout the Town, etc. This will also support climate action by reducing GHG emissions from the transport sector.

Public Realm and Placemaking

Informed by the input captured from the Pre-Draft Public Consultation Stage and by carrying out a thorough assessment of the Town, it is acknowledged that there is scope for improving Milltown's public realm. The key priority areas for such include The Square which is re-imagined as the Heritage Quarter of the Town and The Old Community Hall Square re-imagined as the key Civic Centre of the Town. These are to be connected through an interlinked network of pedestrian/cycle links. The collective of these actions is suggested to provide for an improved image of the Town by moving from a car-dominated Town to a pedestrian-friendly/age-friendly environment that is designed to enhance the residents and/or visitors experience of Milltown.

The Community

The level of participation in the Pre-Draft Public Consultation made it apparent that Milltown's greatest asset is its community and willingness to bring change to Milltown. As a result of the unprecedented growth during the Celtic Tiger, Milltown's existing services and facilities are under a lot of strain. Additional facilities and services are urgently required to cater for the increased demand that has and will continue to arise. The Community and Social Infrastructure Audit carried out by the Design Team also confirms there is scope for exploring opportunities to maximise the use of existing infrastructure and to provide additional services, where required. The objectives and actions proposed under this Theme aim to respond to all age groups' needs from young age cohort to senior residents of Milltown.

Heritage, Identity, and Visitor Experience

The community feedback and Milltown's historic groups/individuals reaching out to the Design Team throughout the course of preparing the Draft Masterplan highlighted the importance of heritage assets of Milltown as a key element of the TCF Masterplan. The Town was formed around Killagha Abbey and was a deliberate attempt at urban planning by the Godfrey family. This is still a huge part of Milltown's history, which needs to be showcased within the townscape of Milltown and enhance visitors' experience of the Town. This is to be achieved through a set of objectives and actions related to developing wayfinding and signage strategies, heritage trails and online app, and harnessing the funding streams to bring the historical sites, buildings and structures at the core of Milltown back to life.

Green Infrastructure

The comprehensive assessment of the Town reveals there is a wealth of natural heritage embracing Milltown. This includes the immediate and broader landscape of the Abbey, as well as Killaclohane Forest Recreational Area, Kilderry Forest Recreation Area, The River Walk, Fort Agnes, and Killagha Abbey. This is further reinforced by the network of existing and emerging greenery in the Town, proposed to be activated and connected via an interlinked network of pedestrian and cycle routes. Green infrastructure is also recognised for its ability to support climate action in both the mitigating GHG emissions and facilitating adaptation to future weather events.

Enterprise and Sustainable Growth

Through the provision of technical business advice and by facilitating investments in the local economy, this Theme encompasses objectives and actions to promote local businesses and products. This is further reinforced by developing a Town Marketing Strategy and utilising digital technology and connectivity throughout the Town.

KEY THEMES OF MILLTOWN TOWN CENTRE FIRST MASTERPLAN

Public Realm & Placemaking

Green Infrastructure

Enterprise and Sustainable Growth

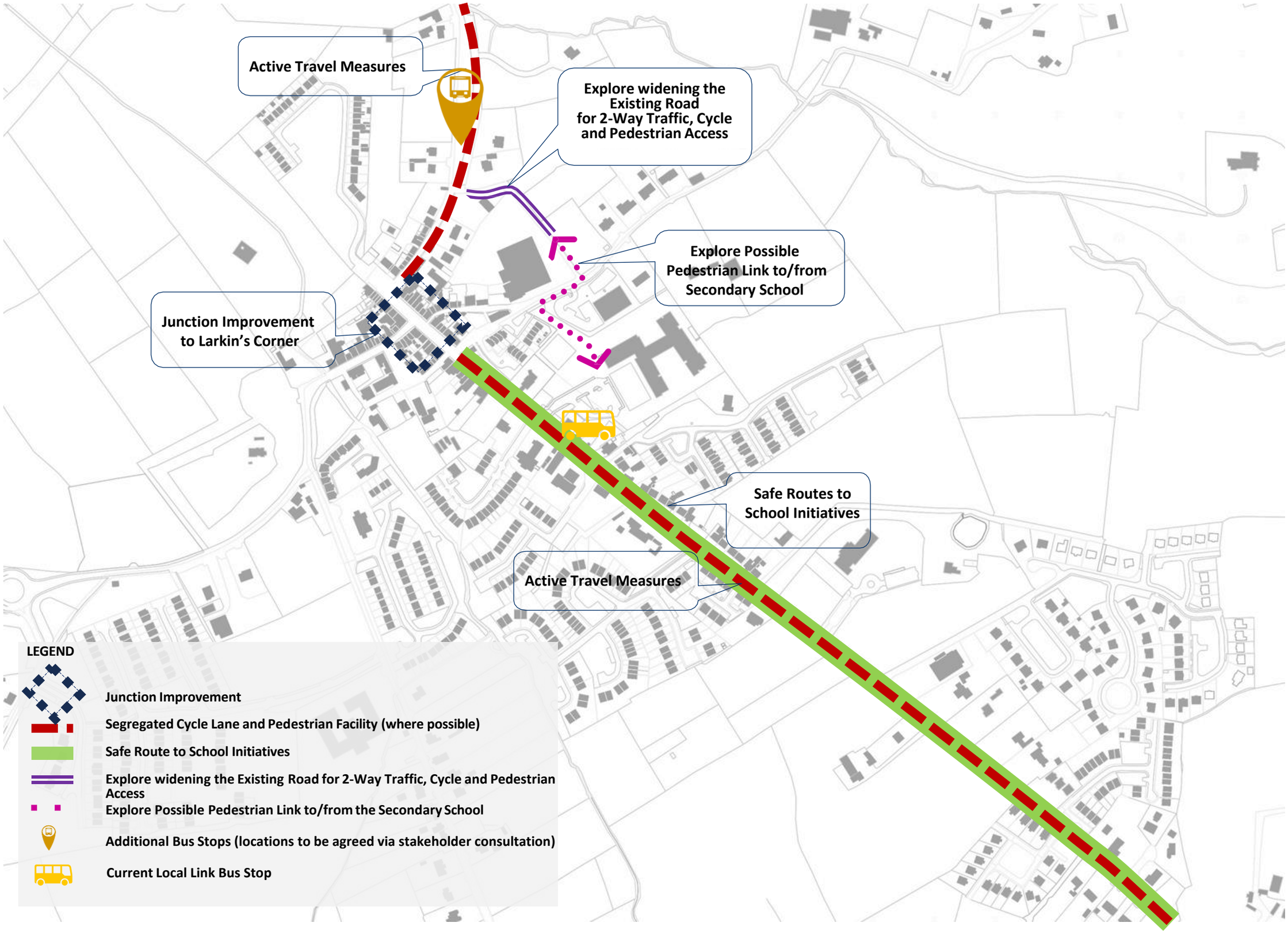


Heritage, Identity & Visitor Experience

The Community

Mobility and Sustainable Transport

KEY THEME - MOBILITY & SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT



KEY THEME - MOBILITY & SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

OBJECTIVE 01. Promoting Active Travel

SHORT-TERM ACTIONS:

- Establish a Sustainable Transport Steering Group as a subgroup of the Town Team to meet regularly with key stakeholders to drive progress on actions and priorities contained in the Masterplan, ensuring a co-ordinated and focused approach to delivery.
- Engage with NTA with regards to installing additional bus stops/shelters where appropriate within the Town.
- Collaborate with local public transport providers to explore potential of expanding bus route connectivity and frequency to the Town.
- Integrate comprehensive cycle parking facilities, including bike racks, within the Town as part of the inaugural masterplan.

LONG-TERM ACTIONS:

- Examine opportunities to introduce active travel measures.
- Develop a network of cycle routes.
- Assess the existing junctions and streets to provide greater capacity and safety for walking and cycling such as Larkin's Corner, local schools.
- Manage traffic to prioritise vulnerable users.
- Advancement of the N70 bypass subject to statutory approvals and environmental assessments, to alleviate traffic congestion, which would further facilitate pedestrian prioritised infrastructure and public realm improvements within the town core.
- Advancement of relief roads to the east and south of the town, subject to statutory approvals and environmental assessments, to unlock further development opportunities and further help reduce through traffic in the town core.
- Enhance existing footpaths focusing on safety, accessibility and aesthetic improvements.



Figure Above. Active Travel Scheme





Figures Above. Examples of creating a pedestrian-friendly environment by re-designing the space for all road users and supporting a variety of activities



Figure Above. Junction Improvement Initiatives

KEY THEME - MOBILITY & SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

OBJECTIVE 02. Traffic Calming of the Town Centre & Promoting Road Safety for all Road Users

SHORT-TERM ACTIONS:

- Complete a Transport Management Plan for Milltown.
- Provide additional traffic calming measures at appropriate Town Centre locations.
- Address unregulated parking in Town Centre locations.
- Provide for raised platform intersections, road markings, speed ramps, traffic calming measure in line with DMURS.
- Enhance safe routes to schools through, but not limited to, footpath upgrades, line marking and provision for cycle lanes.
- Collaborate with the schools to analyse and assist them in creating a school traffic and parking management plan.
- Assess the potential for creating an additional pedestrian link to/from the Secondary school.
- Explore enhancing the local road connecting the Mart/Chapel Lane to the N70, including upgrading the junction with the N70 to the north, with the exploration of Chapel Lane as a shared surface up to the perimeter of the mart site along with an improved pedestrian connection back to Church Street.
- Prepare a map of the town that illustrates walking and cycling routes between housing areas, schools and amenities as well as recreational spaces. This could be prepared in tandem with a Town Tourism and Marketing Strategy outlined in the Enterprise & Sustainable Growth Theme.





Figure Above. Example of pedestrian crossing



Figure Above. Bus Shelter



Figure Above. Examples of creating pedestrian-friendly environment to maximise capacity of the public realm for all road users.

KEY THEME - MOBILITY & SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

OBJECTIVE 02. Traffic Calming of the Town Centre & Promoting Road Safety for all Road Users



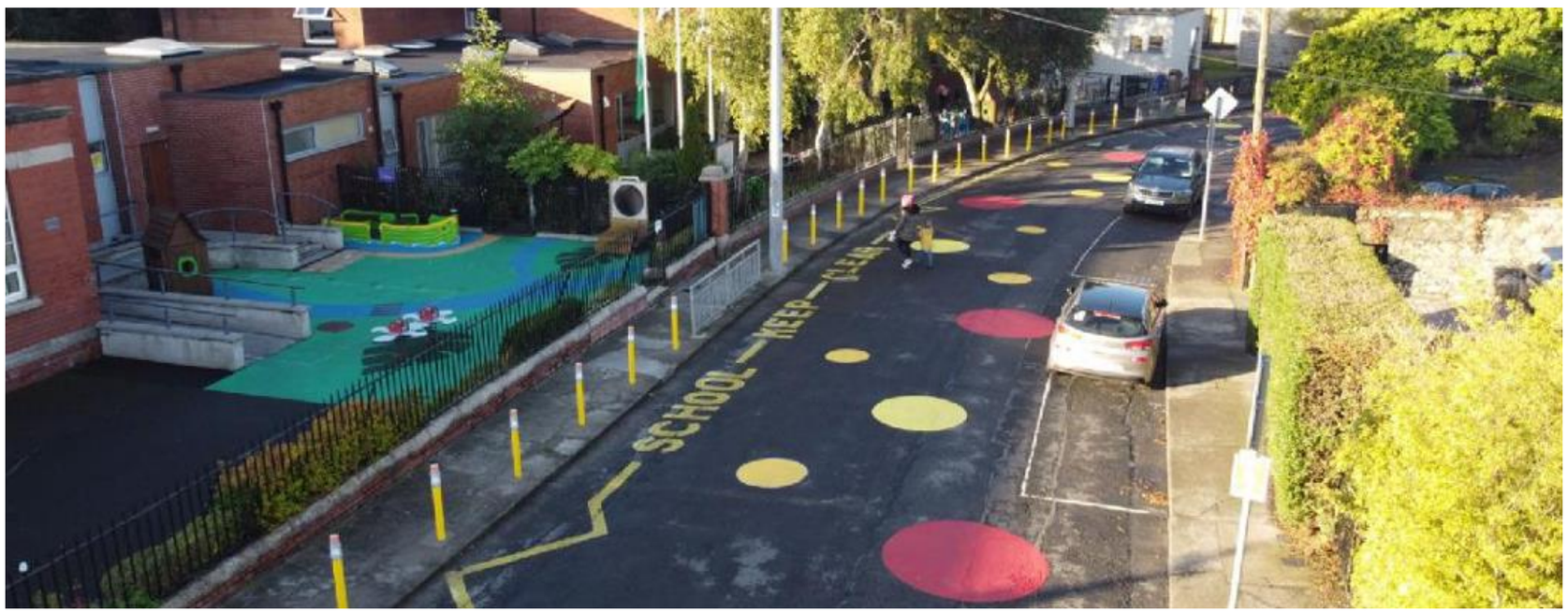




Figure Above. Pencil Bollards



Figure Above. Walk to School Week



Figures Above. Examples of Safe Routes to School Design Initiatives

KEY THEME - MOBILITY & SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

OBJECTIVE 03. Car Parking Management

SHORT-TERM ACTIONS:

- Provide for dedicated car and bicycle parking spaces along with coach/public transport stops (line marking of streets, car parking areas and bicycle lanes).

- Reconfigure the current parking spaces to optimise space utilisation.

- Investigate additional locations/site(s) to support Town Centre parking.

- Develop a parking strategy that will incorporate EV charging points in line with Kerry County Council's EV charging infrastructure strategy.

- Engage with the Board of Management of the Secondary School, to explore the feasibility of allowing out-of-hours access to their parking for community use.

LONG-TERM ACTIONS:

- Develop a car parking management strategy for the ongoing management and allocation of parking spaces within the town, including the exploration of the Mart lands, through landowner consultation, for use as a possible alternative car parking area when closed e.g. a possible school drop-off zone, secondary parking area, etc.



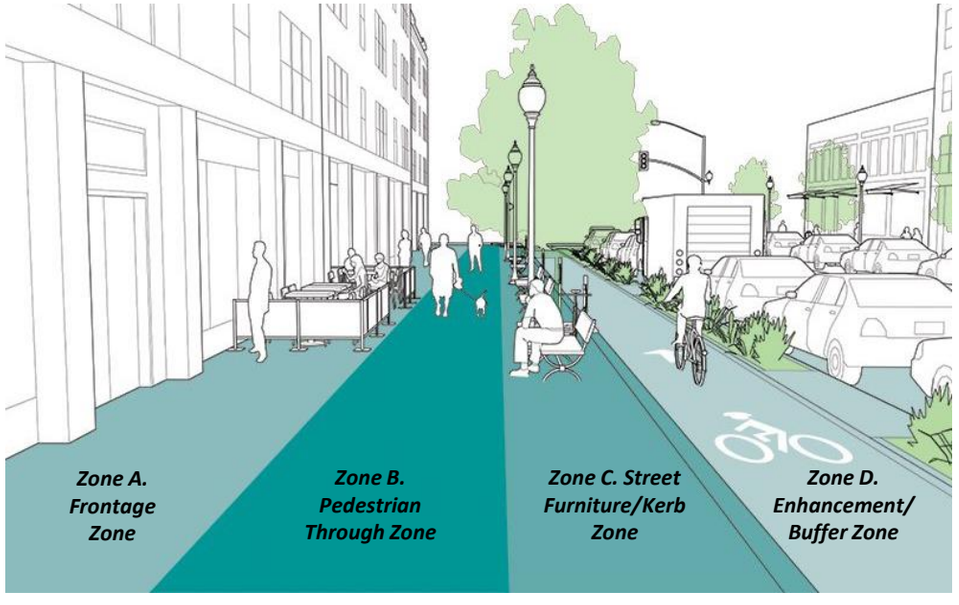
Figure Above. Bus Shelter



Figure Above. EV Charging Point

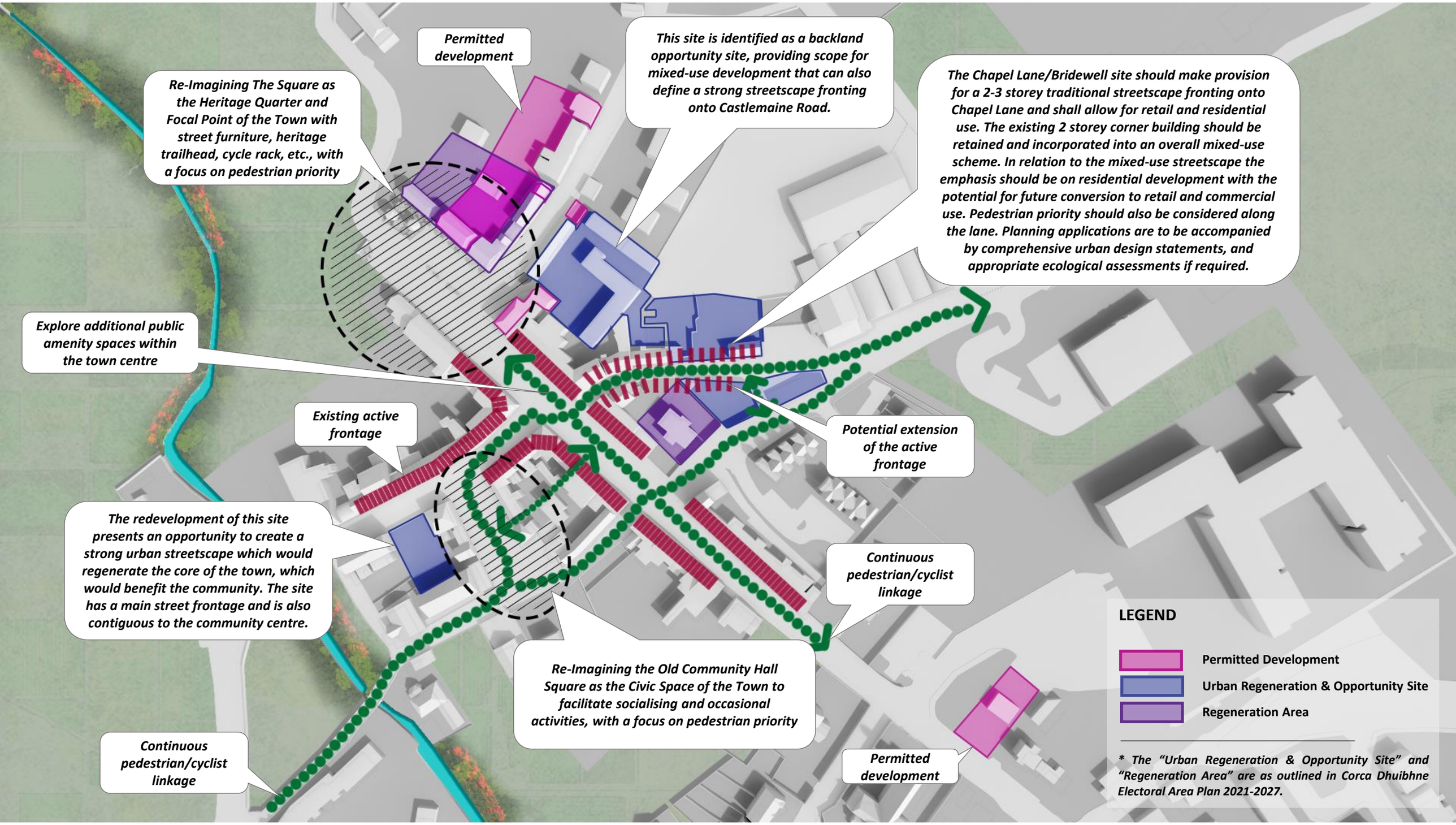






Figures Above. Sample images and indicative sketch of footpaths designed for all users

KEY THEME - PUBLIC REALM/PLACEMAKING



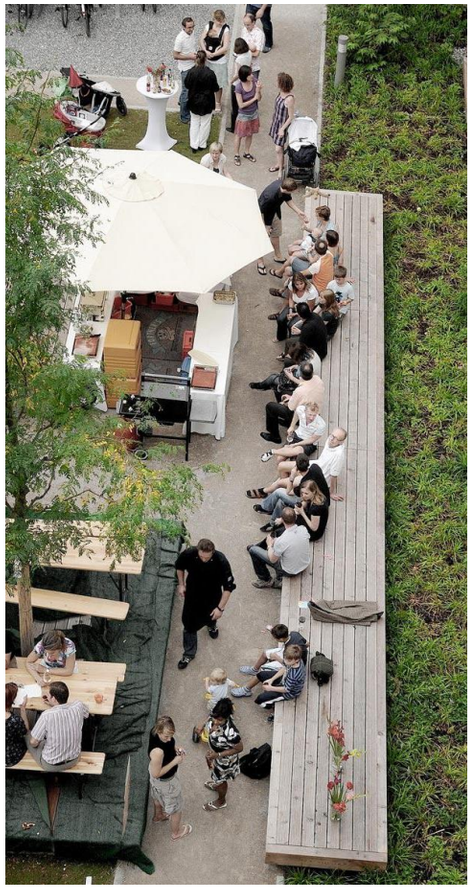
KEY THEME - PUBLIC REALM/PLACEMAKING

OBJECTIVE 01. Enhancing the Townscape of Milltown

SHORT-TERM ACTIONS:

- Establish a Public Realm/Placemaking Steering Group as a subgroup of the Town Team to meet regularly with key stakeholders to drive progress on actions and priorities contained in the Masterplan, ensuring a co-ordinated and focused approach to delivery.
- Develop a façade and shopfront enhancement scheme which would also incorporate a painting scheme.
- Develop and implement a Vacant & Derelict Properties Activation Strategy.
- Collaborate with property owners to activate key opportunity sites.
- Identification of blank walls for street art/mural (engaging with local artists).
- Identification of outdoor seating/dining opportunities.
- Integrate biodiversity/pollinator-friendly planting into the townscape.
- Collaborate with property owners to implement a Window Display Upgrade Strategy.
- Support the local community to implement short term initiatives (Tidy Towns awards, recycling initiatives, etc.)
- Collaborate with Tidy Towns to include the wider community in Tidy Towns initiatives.
- Encouraging collaborative efforts for retrofitting and enhancing energy efficiency in communal, group, or community projects, alongside initiatives to reduce carbon emissions from space heating in constructed areas.
- Encourage the utilisation of low-carbon building materials and modern construction methods in all redevelopment or regeneration endeavors.
- Exploration of the Mart lands, through landowner consultation, for use as a possible alternative car parking area when closed to promote pedestrian priority within the town centre.





Figures. Activation of public realm by facilitating outdoor dining areas, overspill of the shops, and provision of street furniture

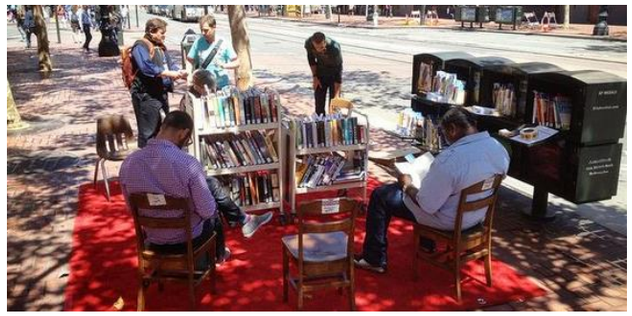


Figure Above. Pop-up library an example of successful street furniture design inter-linked with community services and facilities



Figure Above. Example of integration of native/biodiversity planting in tandem with public realm improvements

KEY THEME - PUBLIC REALM/PLACEMAKING

OBJECTIVE 01. Enhancing the Townscape of Milltown

From a recent survey conducted by Kerry County Council in 2022, the table below summarises the findings from a particular point in time of the existing building vacancy rates across all services and facilities within the town. Kerry County Council will be working in collaboration with property owners with an intention to develop and implement a Vacant and Derelict Properties Activation Strategy as part of this Masterplan.

In addition, the studies and consultation undertaken as part of this Masterplan have highlighted the strain on certain services and facilities within the town, such as youth services, family services, health and medical services, and general community services. Through the development and implementation of a Vacant & Derelict Properties Activation Strategy, it is anticipated that bringing vacant buildings back into use will assist in alleviating such pressures, whilst the various other public realm/placemaking enhancement actions proposed will encourage other businesses to establish within the town.

2022 Vacant Building Survey across Current Services & Facilities				
	Total Number	**Occupied**	**Vacant**	**% Vacant**
Comparison	3	2	1	33%
Convenience	7	7	0	0%
Retail Service	8	6	2	25%
Other Retail	1	1	0	0%
Overall Retail	**19**	**16**	**3**	**16%**
Financial & Business Services	2	2	0	0%
Health & Medical Services	5	5	0	0%
Leisure Services	12	7	5	42%
Public Services	8	6	2	25%
Religious Services	2	2	0	0%
Overall Services	**29**	**22**	**7**	**24%**
Industrial	1	0	1	100%
Agriculture	1	1	0	0%
Storage & Warehouse	0	0	0	0%
Residential	**103**	**80**	**23**	**22%**

KEY THEME - PUBLIC REALM/PLACEMAKING

OBJECTIVE 02. Developing a Street Furniture Plan for Milltown

SHORT-TERM ACTIONS:

- Provide picnic areas/benches, litter bins and drinking fountains at convenient accessible locations.

- Explore the feasibility for establishing a bike clinic (bike doctor).

- Install wayfinding signage to indicate walking times to amenities.

- Identify specific locations in the town for art installations (e.g., The Square, Old Community Hall Square, etc.).



Figures. Examples of picnic areas/street furniture as a means of activating green open spaces



Figure Above. Example of drinking fountains in public realm



Figure Above. Example of a bike clinic (bike doctor)

KEY THEME - PUBLIC REALM/PLACEMAKING

OBJECTIVE 03. Developing Zones of Intervention

SHORT-TERM ACTIONS:

- Identify properties of significance that are currently underutilised and explore practical solutions for their rejuvenation and reactivation.

- Explore avenues for preserving and enhancing the historic streetscape of the Town.

- Establish an engagement mechanism with the local community to encourage their active collaboration in the revitalisation of historic and older buildings.

LONG-TERM ACTIONS:

- Implement a regeneration strategy to revitalise the historic core of Milltown to provide a strong town streetscape.

- The Square: Re-design/Re-brand The Square as the Heritage Quarter of the town and the formal ante-space to Kilcoleman Abbey.

- The Old Community Hall Square/Spout Lane: Re-design as a Civic Centre interlinked with the proposed river walk.

- Formulate an overarching Heritage-Led Regeneration Plan for Milltown's historic core, to ensure the built fabric is retained and buildings can be re-purposed and put to optimal use.

- Identify areas of significance within the town to be activated and designed as accessible public spaces that work as weather suitable recreational, amenity and gathering spaces whilst ensuring their design is consistent with Milltown's identity and character.

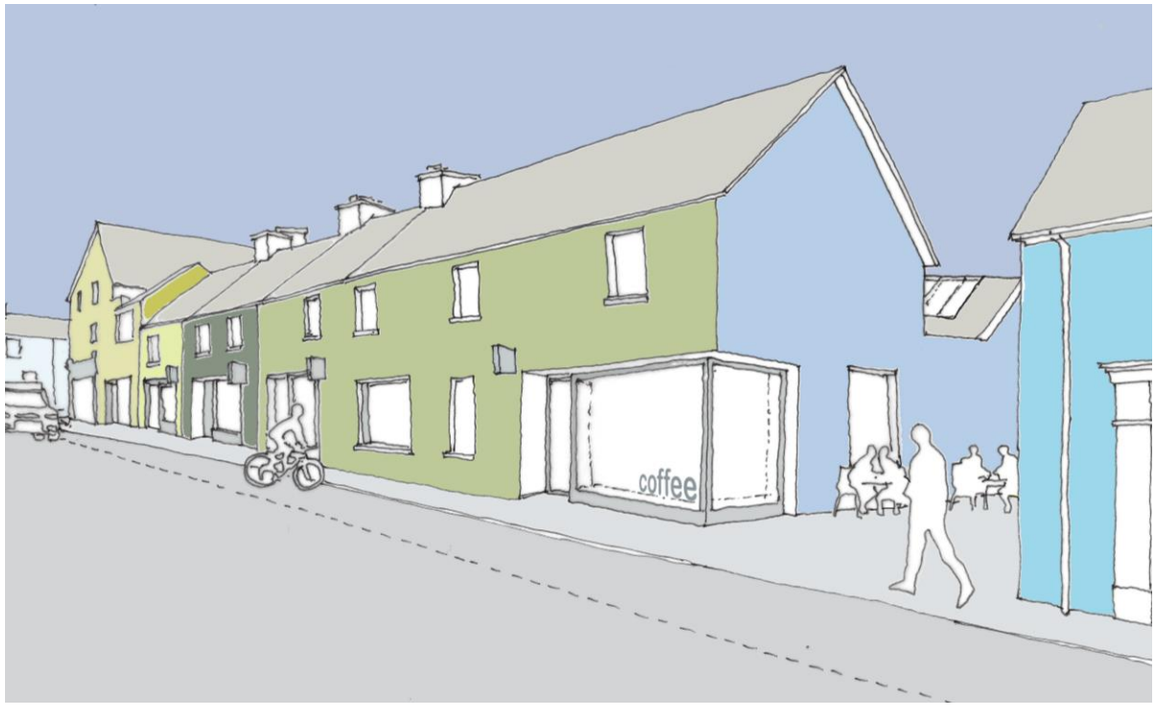


Figure Above. Conceptual design of a dynamic, vibrant townscape (hand-sketch: Wilson Architecture, 03/November/2023)



Figure Above. Conceptual street furniture ideas to facilitate a diverse range of activities in public realm



Figure Above. Playful garden as an example of interactive green space design



Figure Above. Indicative visual showcasing road improvements that can facilitate and support all road users (incl. cars, pedestrians, and cyclists)



Figure Above. Indicative hand sketch showcasing public realm improvements that facilitate outdoor sitting/dining area
(Hand-Sketch: Wilson Architecture, 03/November/2023)



Figure Above. Indicative visual showcasing pop-up shops and seasonal markets as an effective way of activating public realm

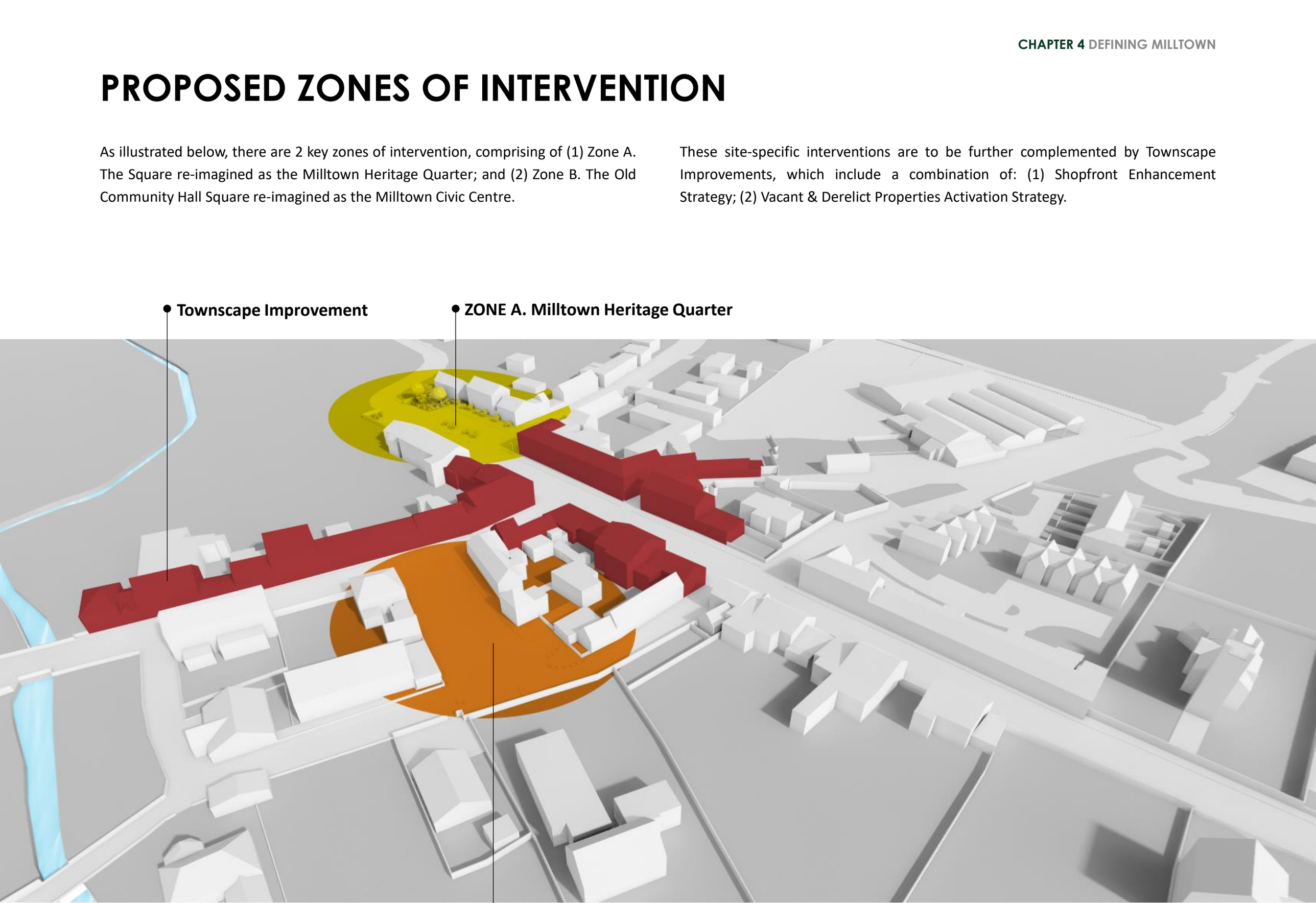


Figure Above. Indicative hand sketch showcasing a pocket park as a design solution that would effectively support a variety of uses in public realm
(Hand-Sketch: Wilson Architecture, 03/November/2023)

PROPOSED ZONES OF INTERVENTION

As illustrated below, there are 2 key zones of intervention, comprising of (1) Zone A. The Square re-imagined as the Milltown Heritage Quarter; and (2) Zone B. The Old Community Hall Square re-imagined as the Milltown Civic Centre.

These site-specific interventions are to be further complemented by Townscape Improvements, which include a combination of: (1) Shopfront Enhancement Strategy; (2) Vacant & Derelict Properties Activation Strategy.



ZONE A. THE SQUARE: MILLTOWN HERITAGE QUARTER



In tandem with the Heritage, Identity and Visitor Experience & Green Infrastructure Themes, re-design of The Square aims to promote this focal point as the main public realm of the Town and to create a welcoming ante-space opening to Killagha Abbey. The following gives an overview of the design strategy of The Square:

(1) Public Realm Improvements:

- Re-examine the traffic movement and re-designing the street layout to give space to all road users and to accommodate a more diverse range of activities (DMURS compliant),

- Widen and connect the footpaths with improved and safe pedestrian-friendly crossing (DMURS compliant),

- De-clutter The Square and create a new arrangement to support various activities by street furniture, soft landscaping and native planting, pavement, etc.

- Promote Active Travel by provision of bicycle racks (potentially bicycle doctor),

- Incorporate street signage (indicating walking distances) and a heritage trailhead to address the Kilcoleman Abbey.

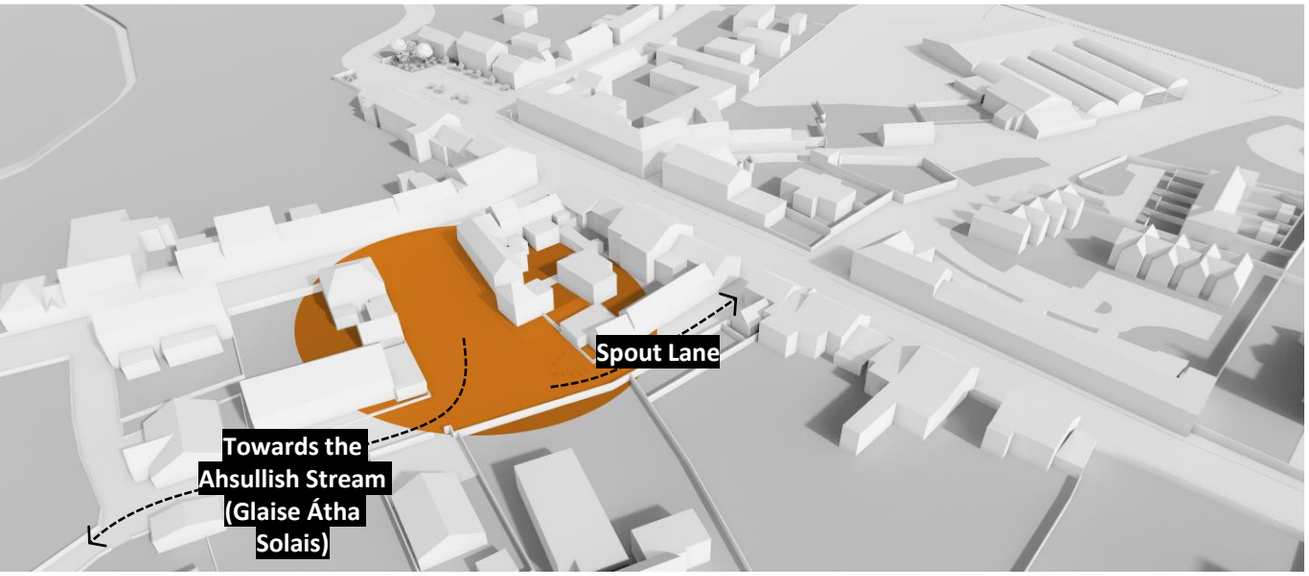
(2) Building Improvements:

There is potential for exploring the revitalisation of existing buildings that are currently forming The Square, i.e., harnessing funding streams that are made available for bringing the Town Centre buildings back to life is suggested to be an effective way of achieving this.



Figure Above. Indicative CGIs of potential improvements that can be made in The Square to re-imagine this focal point as the Heritage Quarter of the Town (Model: Wilson Architecture, 25/March/2024)

ZONE B. MILLTOWN CIVIC CENTRE



In tandem with the Green Infrastructure Theme, re-design of The Old Community Hall Square aims to create an active Civic Space/Activity Hub for Milltown, interlinked with the proposed river walk through a network of pedestrian connections provisioned at the core of Milltown. The following gives an overview of the design strategy of this Civic Centre:

(1) Public Realm Improvements:

- Re-alignment of existing car parking spaces and re-configuration of traffic movement to maximise the usable space in order to support a diverse range of activities,

- Re-design the space to facilitate public events and festivals and to provide adequate power points for expected stallholders for power and for a public address system,

- Extending the public realm works along the Spout Lane to connect to the upgraded footpaths in the wider context,

(2) Building Improvements:

Explore potential for infill site developments to deliver a mix of appropriate town centre uses which help to bring vitality to this location, including residential uses.

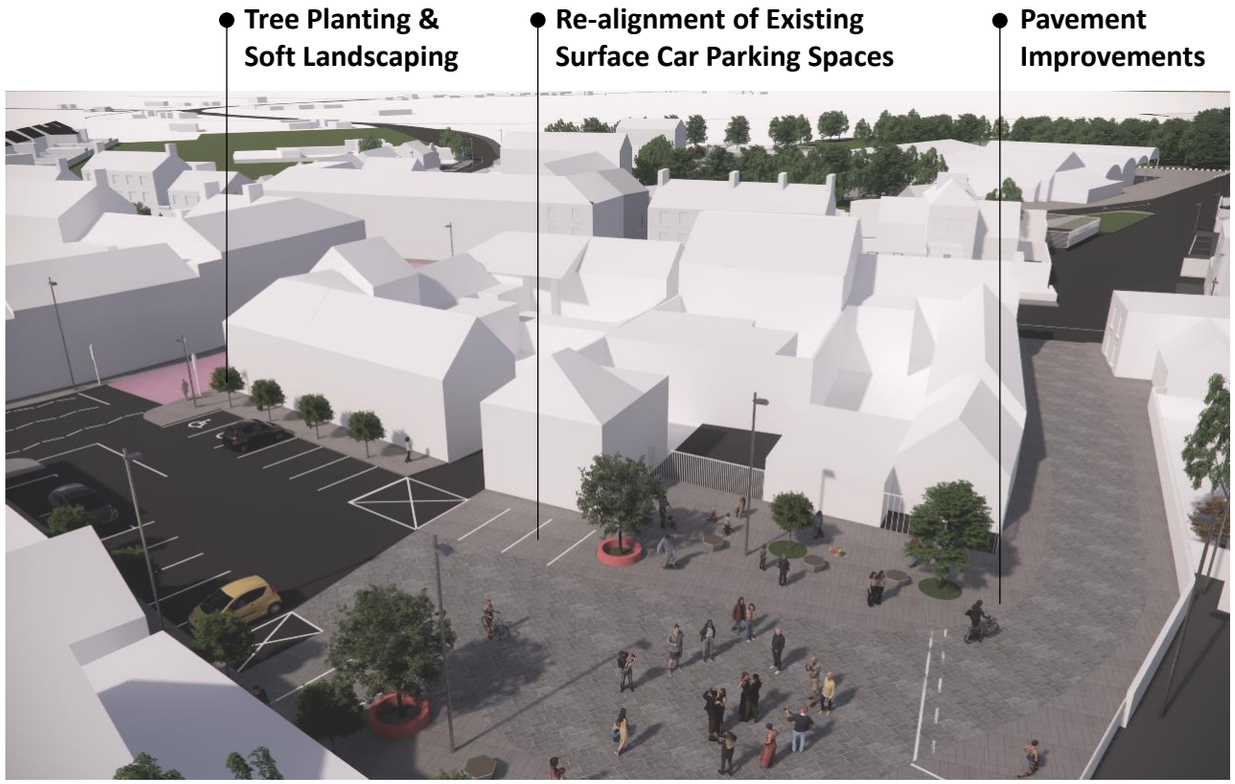




Figure Above. Indicative CGIs of potential improvements that can be made in The Old Community Hall Square to re-imagine this key location as the Civic Centre/Activity Hub of the Town (Model: Wilson Architecture, 25/March/2024)

ZONE B. MILLTOWN CIVIC CENTRE



Figure Above. An indicative CGI of potential improvements that can be made in The Old Community Hall Square to re-imagine this key location as the Civic Centre/Activity Hub of the Town (Model: Wilson Architecture, 25/March/2024)

KEY THEME - THE COMMUNITY

OBJECTIVE 01. RE-generation of Milltown (Providing for a Town Centre Responsive to all Age Groups)

SHORT-TERM ACTIONS:

- Establish a Community Steering Group as a subgroup of the Town Team to meet regularly with key stakeholders and external experts, as required, to drive progress on actions and priorities contained in the Masterplan, ensuring a co-ordinated and focused approach to delivery.
- Conduct a feasibility study to explore the range of youth services/clubs required for the rapidly growing population. Assess the current and future needs, identifying gaps and developing a targeted action plan.
- The Town Team will engage with the relevant agencies to pursue the employment of a Youth Development Officer.
- Conduct a feasibility study to explore the range of age-friendly services for the growing ageing population, such as Men/Women's Sheds, societies, gathering hubs, local clubs, etc.
- Unlock the full potential of existing educational facilities and community facilities (e.g. Nagle Rice Community Centre and the Muintir na Tíre Hall) by evaluating usage patterns/timetable capacity, repurposing underutilised areas and enhancing through refurbishment or expansion, if necessary.
- Promote investment in local sports clubs and organisations to broaden the range of recreational activities available in existing community sports facilities.
- Collaborate with local partners and organisations to explore and expand facilities that can support the development of additional recreation and leisure facilities for the youth of Milltown (e.g., sports, MUGA, arcade, KCYS centre, etc.).
- The Town Team, in collaboration with the local Family Resource Centre and key stakeholders, will ensure the expansion of services, including public health, youth services, childcare, and community-based family support programmes.
- Explore the possibility of establishing a Neighbourhood Watch Network.
- Ensure that the public toilets in the Muintir na Tíre Hall are accessible during the day.
- Installation of a Community Notice Board in the Town Centre.
- Collaborate with Kerry Recreation and Sports Partnership to encourage a healthier and more active population.
- Set up and run a digital Coderdojo Programmes for the youth and the wider community.
- Establish a Rural Social Scheme servicing the town.
- Identify and redevelop a vacant building as a youth facility, similar to the model of the KCYS across Kerry.





Figures Above. Examples of interactive playground equipment



Figure Above. Provision of Youth Facilities

KEY THEME - THE COMMUNITY

OBJECTIVE 01. RE-generation of Milltown (Providing for a Town Centre Responsive to all Age Groups)

LONG-TERM ACTIONS:

- Provide new and improved outdoor spaces and facilities for clubs and organisations and the broader community
- Develop educational nature trails that would be available to the public but could also be used as a learning resource by the schools and preschools in the town as well as youth groups and scouting groups.
- Identify an appropriate location for a skate park within the town.





Figure Above. Installation of A Public Notice Board



Figure Above. Examples of skatepark

KEY THEME - HERITAGE, IDENTITY & VISITOR EXPERIENCE

OBJECTIVE 01. Celebrate and Utilise the Rich Heritage Assets of the Town

SHORT-TERM ACTIONS:

- Establish a Heritage Steering Group as a subgroup of the Town Team to meet regularly with key stakeholders to drive progress on actions and priorities contained in the Masterplan, ensuring a co-ordinated and focused approach to delivery.
- Share Milltown's stories/history and heritage through art initiatives, sculptures and creation of a Milltown Brand and Town Tourism Strategy.
- Create a Wayfinding Strategy that showcases the historical buildings and the Town's heritage sites.
- Identify heritage sites, buildings or properties of significance that are currently underutilised and explore practical solutions for their rejuvenation and reactivation.
- Explore White Church as a Catalyst Project which will be spearheaded by the Heritage Steering Group, for practical solutions for its rejuvenation and reactivation.
- Explore the establishment of a community initiative group to harness the full potential of existing or proposed community buildings and heritage properties for community use through fundraising and grant/funding schemes in liaison with the Council's Conservation Officer.

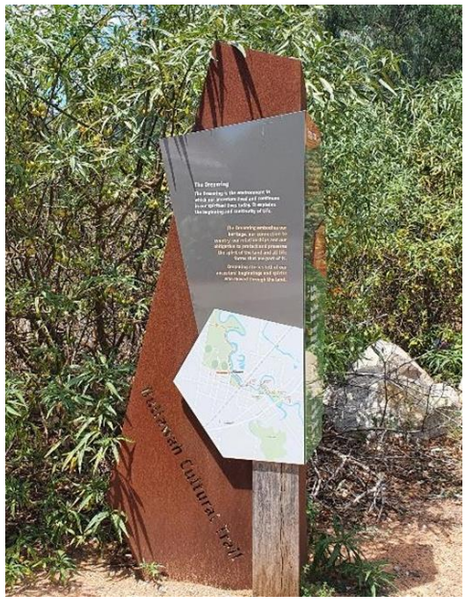
LONG-TERM ACTIONS:

- Create a themed heritage trail(s) for the Town featuring different phases of Milltown's history to unlock the full potential of the town's heritage sites and monuments, such as The Abbey, the Demesne lands, White Church, mass rock, sea dykes and linking Milltown to nearby settlements, in conjunction with the Green Infrastructure Theme of this Plan.
- Develop a heritage trail App which will give users an interactive guided tour experience.
- Explore and harness funding streams and potentials to bring the Town's heritage assets to life.
- As part of the public realm improvement works, explore the potential of highlighting the Town's key historical buildings and heritage sites.
- Collaborate with all stakeholders in the town to attain heritage town status.





Figures Above. External lighting of the historical buildings to pronounce their architectural features





Figures Above. Examples of heritage trailheads & wayfinding signage

KEY THEME - GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

At a strategic level and as illustrated below, the Green Infrastructure Theme of the Masterplan encompasses promoting linkages to key areas of heritage significance. This includes Killaclohane Forest Recreational Area and Killaclohane Tomb, Kilderry Forest Recreation Area, The River Walk, Fort Agnes, and Killagha Abbey.

As can be seen below, the continuous purple lines indicate existing pedestrian routes. With a focus to link up the existing natural heritage of the Town, the dotted purple lines are to provide for a permeable network of pedestrian routes across the Town and towards key destinations.



KEY THEME - GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

OBJECTIVE 01. Reintroducing Green Infrastructure to Milltown

SHORT-TERM ACTIONS:

- Establish a Green Infrastructure Steering Group as a subgroup of the Town Team to meet regularly with key stakeholders to drive progress on actions and priorities contained in the Masterplan, ensuring a co-ordinated and focused approach to delivery.
- Enhance the public realm by introducing new native hedging, floral wildflower displays and tree planting.
- Promote awareness, guidance, and participation in community vegetation management and control (e.g. invasive species on private lands, etc.)
- Enable residents to Grow It Yourself (GIY) and arrange gardening/horticulture events and classes and involve local schools and community groups, such as Men's Shed and local allotment groups, etc.



Figures. Examples of native planting incorporated within the public realm improvement works



Figure Above. Example of community gardening



Figure Above. Kids gardening/outdoor school, an example of community involvement in promoting green infrastructure that can be facilitated by schools

KEY THEME - GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

OBJECTIVE 01. Reintroducing Green Infrastructure to Milltown

LONG-TERM ACTIONS:

- Strengthen connectivity between Milltown, its heritage sites and monuments and natural assets, e.g.:
1. Killaclohane Forest Recreational Area and the location of the Portal Tomb,
2. Kilderry Forest Recreation Area,
3. The River Walk,
4. Fort Agnes,
5. Killagha Abbey.

- Identify potential river-crossings, greenways, and walking and cycling routes to key amenities and transform them into integral amenities themselves.
- Explore the potential of activating existing/additional green spaces for recreational purposes, such as new pocket parks within the town.
- Develop a network of pocket parks throughout Milltown by utilising existing greenery in the Town.
- Identification of a suitable site for community gardens/allotments.
- Identify opportunities for enhancing water quality management through the adoption of nature-based solutions and incorporation of water-sensitive urban design (e.g. ponds, basins, swales, rainwater gardens and filter strips along roads, integrating SUDs compatible tree pits into the hard landscape, etc.).
- Establish a riparian corridor along the existing watercourses.
- Promote Milltown's historic landscape and the integration of the parkland/demesne landscape with the town through the creation of a themed heritage trail(s) featuring different phases of Milltown's history, in conjunction with the Heritage Theme of this Plan.

NOTE. *The actions should be developed with regards to the Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment by Inland Fisheries Ireland for buffer zones, SuDs, etc.*



Figures Above. Examples of incorporating SUDs, rainwater gardens, and nature-based solutions into roads and public realm design



Figure Above. Example of riparian buffer restoration

KEY THEME - ENTERPRISE & SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

OBJECTIVE 01. Enhancing the Town Centre Dynamic & Local Economy

SHORT-TERM ACTIONS:

- Establish an Enterprise Steering Group as a subgroup of the Town Team to meet regularly with key stakeholders and external experts, as required, to drive progress on actions and priorities contained in the Masterplan, ensuring a co-ordinated and focused approach to delivery.
- Facilitate Farmers' Markets & Seasonal Events/Markets in the Town, promoting local produce, local groups and societies, and community engagement.
- Arrange with the Local Enterprise Office to host a tailored business advice clinic and information session on the online trading vouchers, digital start programme, digital marketing programmes and LEO mentoring programme to support existing business expansion and encourage new business establishment. The existing community centres could be utilised for this purpose.
- Consolidate the Town's growth by encouraging living over the shop, work-live units (artists spaces), and mixed-use development(s) on opportunity sites.
- Conduct a feasibility study to assess the viability of establishing an incubation space.
- Encourage the expansion of a digital community through the implementation of educational programmes such as "Our Kids Code" project.
- Collaborate with the community and Kerry Tourism Industry Federation to devise a Town Tourism Marketing Strategy, utilising county-wide marketing platforms to maximise outreach and impact (see: Milltown, Kerry).





Figure Above. Living Over the Shop





Figures Above. Examples of seasonal markets and organic/local produced food markets

KEY THEME - ENTERPRISE & SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

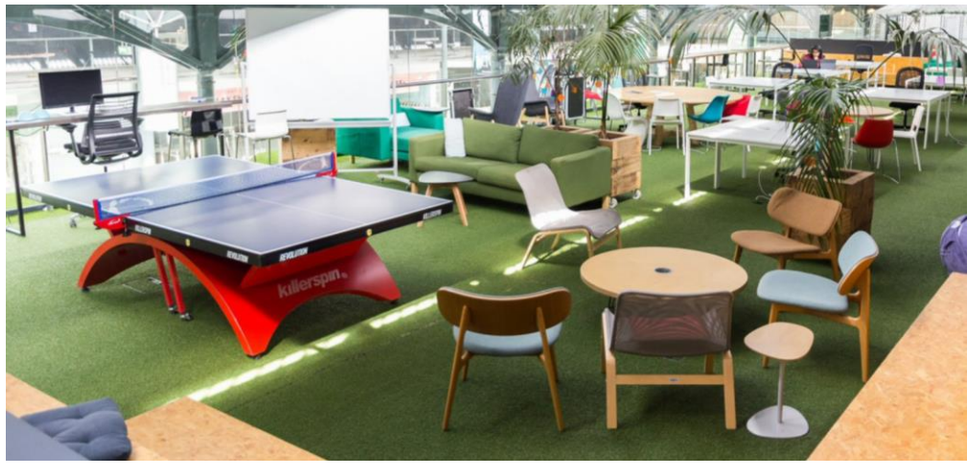
OBJECTIVE 01. Enhancing the Town Centre Dynamic & Local Economy

LONG-TERM ACTIONS:

- The Town Team will engage with Kerry County Council, as part of the public participatory process, during the next review of the Local Area Plan.
- Collaborate with relevant stakeholders to maximise digital technology and connectivity throughout the Town (e.g. digital work hub, etc.).
- Through the Enterprise Steering Group, explore initiatives to fully utilise existing buildings (e.g. Muintir na Tire Hall) or vacant/proposed spaces for community-focussed enterprise, such as health and wellness clinics/services, supported by local fundraising efforts and potential grant funded programmes.
- In tandem with the other key themes, seek to develop Milltown's attractiveness and economic growth resulting in its location on the Wild Atlantic Way with feasibility studies being carried out on expansion of walking and cycling routes beyond the town centre to key destinations.







NOTE. *It is understood that a public consultation on the preparation of the National Hub Strategy occurred last year, with submissions accepted until August 15th, 2023. This strategy aims to empower hubs to become "Green" leaders within their communities, which should be taken into account when developing a digital work hub for Milltown.*

Figures Above. Examples of multi-use digital work hub, co working spaces and incubation space

TRANSFORMING MILLTOWN TOWN CENTRE

PUBLIC REALM & PLACEMAKING



Develop a façade and shopfront enhancement scheme & Develop and implement a Vacant & Derelict Properties Activation Strategy

MOBILITY & SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT



Improved Access & Public Transport

Streets for Kids

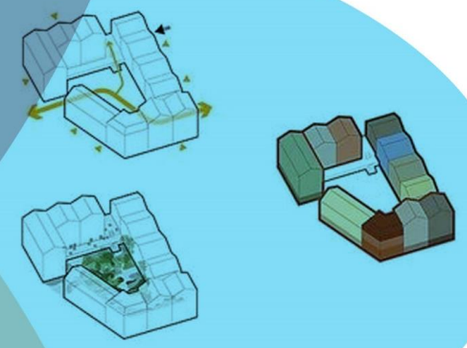
HERITAGE, IDENTITY & VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Identify and rejuvenate underutilised heritage buildings & Highlight key historical buildings and heritage sites as part of public realm improvements.



MILTOWN TOWN CENTRE

ENTERPRISE & SUSTAINABLE GROWTH



Consolidation of Town Growth by Encouraging Mixed-Use & Living over Shop Developments

Community Garden/ Allotment

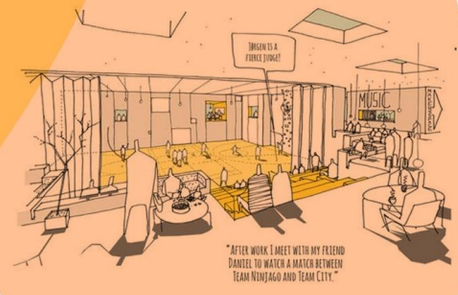


Climate-Sensitive Public Realm Design

Enable residents to Grow It Yourself (GIY)

Integrating Public Realm Design With Green Infrastructure

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE



Re-development of a vacant building into a youth facility, modeled after the successful KDYS centers in Kerry

THE COMMUNITY

ENABLING MILLTOWN

05

DELIVERY ACTION PLAN

The following provides a comprehensive list of all actions within the key themes organised as short- and long-term actions. This is further complemented by introducing the potential lead(s) and key partner(s) alongside funding streams. It is noteworthy to mention that the full details of these funding streams are included within the Baseline Report.

Objective	Action	Term	Lead	Partners	Funding Streams
MOBILITY & SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT					
Promoting Active Travel	- Establish a Sustainable Transport Steering Group as a subgroup of the Town Team to meet regularly with key stakeholders to drive progress on actions and priorities contained in the Masterplan, ensuring a co-ordinated and focused approach to delivery.	ST	Town Team	KCC	N/A
	- Engage with NTA with regards installing additional bus stops/shelters where appropriate within the Town.	ST	NTA	KCC/ Town Team	NTA Active Travel Grants Programme Bus Stop Enhancement Scheme
	- Collaborate with local public transport providers to explore potential of expanding bus route connectivity and frequency to the Town.	ST	Bus Éireann/KCC/TII	Garda Síochána/Town Team/Local Link	Department of Transport NTA
	- Integrate comprehensive cycle parking facilities, including bike racks, within the Town as part of the inaugural masterplan	ST	KCC	Town Team	RRDF Grant Funding NTA Active Travel Grants Programme Town and Village Funding ORIS
	- Examine opportunities to introduce active travel measures.	LT	KCC	TII/NTA	RRDF Grant Funding NTA Active Travel Grants Programme TII
	- Assess the existing junctions and streets to provide greater capacity and safety for walking and cycling such as Larkin's Corner, local schools.	LT	KCC	TII/NTA	NTA Active Travel Grants Programme
	- Manage traffic to prioritise vulnerable users.	LT	KCC	Town Team and Wider Community	RRDF Grant Funding NTA Active Travel Grants Programme TII Department of Transport Low-Cost Safety Scheme

Objective	Action	Term	Lead	Partners	Funding Streams
Promoting Active Travel	- Advancement of the N70 bypass subject to statutory approvals and environmental assessments, to alleviate traffic congestion which would further facilitate pedestrian prioritised infrastructure and public realm improvements within the town core.	LT	TII	KCC	Department of Transport TII
	- Advancement of relief roads to the east and south of the town, subject to statutory approvals and environmental assessments, to unlock further development opportunities and further help reduce through traffic in the town core.	LT	Department of Transport	KCC and the Wider Community	Department of Transport TII
	- Enhance existing footpaths focusing on safety, accessibility and aesthetic improvements.	LT	KCC	Town Team, Landowners and Developers	RRDF Grant Funding NTA Active Travel Grants Programme Department of Transport KCC
	- Develop a network of cycle routes.	LT	KCC	Town Team, Landowners and Developers	RRDF Grant Funding NTA Active Travel Grants Programme ORIS Town and Village Funding

Objective	Action	Term	Lead	Partners	Funding Streams
Traffic Calming of the Town Centre & Promoting Road Safety for all Road Users	- Complete a Transport Management Plan for Milltown	ST	KCC		Department of Transport
	- Provide additional traffic calming measures at appropriate Town Centre locations.	ST	KCC/TII/NTA/Department of Transport		NTA Active Travel Grants Programme
	- Address unregulated parking in Town Centre locations.	ST	KCC		NA
	- Provide for raised platform intersections, road markings, speed ramps, traffic calming measure in line with DMURS.	ST	KCC/TII/NTA/Department of Transport	Town Team	NTA Active Travel Grants Programme Town & Village Renewal Scheme Department of Transport TII
	- Enhance safe routes to schools through, but not limited to, footpath upgrades, line marking and provision for cycle lanes.	ST	KCC	Town Team/NTA	NTA Active Travel Grants Programme Safe Routes to Schools Programme
	- Collaborate with the schools to analyse and assist them in creating a school traffic and parking management plan.	ST	Town Team and Schools		NTA Active Travel Grants Programme Safe Routes to School Programme
	- Assess the potential for creating an additional pedestrian link to/from the Secondary school.	ST	Town Team	KCC/Schools and Landowners	Active Travel Grants Programme Safe Routes to School Programme RRDF Grant Funding Town & Village Renewal Scheme

Objective	Action	Term	Lead	Partners	Funding Streams
Traffic Calming of the Town Centre & Promoting Road Safety for all Road Users	- Explore enhancing the local road connecting the Mart/Chapel Lane to the N70, including upgrading the junction with the N70 to the north, with the exploration of Chapel Lane as a shared surface up to the perimeter of the mart site along with an improved pedestrian connection back to Church Street.	ST	KCC/TII/Department of Transport	Landowners, Developers and Town Team	RRDF Grant Funding NTA Active Travel Grants Programme Town & Village Renewal Scheme Department of Transport
	- Prepare a map of the town that illustrates walking and cycling routes between housing areas, schools and amenities as well as recreational spaces. This could be prepared in tandem with a Town Tourism and Marketing Strategy outlined in the Enterprise & Sustainable Growth Theme.	ST	KCC/Town Team	Local Community Group and Business Owners	SKDP RRDF Grant Funding

Objective	Action	Term	Lead	Partners	Funding Streams
Car Parking Management	- Provide for dedicated car and bicycle parking spaces along with coach/public transport stops in The Square and Main Street (line marking of streets, car parking areas and bicycle lanes).	ST	KCC		RRDF Grant Funding Town & Village Renewal Scheme KCC Roads Programme Department of Transport
	- Reconfigure the current parking spaces to optimise space utilisation.	ST	KCC		RRDF Grant Funding Town & Village Renewal Scheme KCC Roads Programme Department of Transport
	- Investigate additional locations/site(s) to support Town Centre parking.	ST	KCC/Town Team	Key Landowners and NTA/TII (if national routes involved)	RRDF Grant Funding Town & Village Renewal Scheme KCC
	- Develop a parking strategy that will incorporate EV charging points in line with KCC EV charging infrastructure strategy.	ST	KCC		The Public Electric Vehicle Charge Grant
	- Engage with the Board of Management of the Secondary School, to explore the feasibility of allowing out-of-hours access to their parking for community use.	ST	Schools	Town Team	N/A
	- Develop a car parking management strategy for the ongoing management and allocation of parking spaces within the town, including the exploration of the Mart lands, through landowner consultation, for use as a possible alternative car parking area when closed e.g. a possible school drop-off zone, secondary parking area, etc.	LT	KCC	Landowners	RRDF Grant Funding Town & Village Renewal Scheme

Objective	Action	Term	Lead	Partners	Funding Streams
PUBLIC REALM & PLACEMAKING					
Enhancing the Townscape of Milltown	- Establish a Public Realm/Placemaking Steering Group as a subgroup of the Town Team to meet regularly with key stakeholders to drive progress on actions and priorities contained in the Masterplan, ensuring a co-ordinated and focused approach to delivery.	ST	Town Team		N/A
	- Develop a façade and shopfront enhancement scheme which would also incorporate a painting scheme.	ST	KCC	Town Team, Local Business Owners, Key Property Owners and Local Artists	Shop Front/Façade Enhancement Scheme Town & Village Renewal Scheme
	- Develop and implement a Vacant & Derelict Properties Activation Strategy.	ST	KCC	Town Team, Key Property Owners and Developers	Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF Grant Funding) Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund Scheme Town & Village Renewal Scheme Historic Town Initiative KCC Grants for the Conservation of Protected Structures
	- Collaborate with property owners to activate key opportunity sites.	ST	KCC/Town Team	Key Property Owners and Developers	RRDF Grant Funding Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund Scheme Town & Village Renewal Scheme Historic Town Initiative KCC Grants for the Conservation of Protected Structures
	- Identification of blank walls for street art/mural (engaging with local artists).	ST	Town Team	KCC, Local Artists	Arts Council Grant Creative Ireland Grant Scheme LEADER Programme (LEADER) Community Enhancement Programme

Objective	Action	Term	Lead	Partners	Funding Streams
Enhancing the Townscape of Milltown	- Identification of outdoor seating/dining opportunities.	ST	KCC/Town Team	Local Business Owners	Town & Village Renewal Scheme Community Enhancement Programme
	- Integrate biodiversity/pollinator-friendly planting into the townscape.	ST	KCC/Town Team	Property Owners	Tidy Towns Funding Community Enhancement Programme Community Support Funding
	- Collaborate with property owners to implement a Window Display Upgrade Strategy.	ST	Town Team/KCC	Property Owners	Shop Front Grant Scheme Town & Village Renewal Scheme Community Enhancement Programme
	- Support the local community to implement short term initiatives (Tidy Towns awards, etc.).	ST	Town Team	Tidy Towns, Local Residents and KCC	Tidy Towns Funding Community Support Funding Community Enhancement Programme Town & Village Renewal Scheme
	- Collaborate with Tidy Towns to include the wider community in Tidy Towns initiatives.	ST	Town Team	Tidy Towns, Local Residents	Tidy Towns Funding Local Authority Community Grants Community Support Fund Community Enhancement Programme Town & Village Renewal Scheme
	- Encouraging collaborative efforts for retrofitting and enhancing energy efficiency in communal, group, or community projects, alongside initiatives to reduce carbon emissions from space heating in constructed areas.	ST	KCC	Town Team & the Property Owners	National Home Energy Upgrade Scheme National Retrofit Plan Climate Action Fund
	- Encourage the utilisation of low-carbon building materials and modern construction methods in all redevelopment or regeneration endeavors.	ST	KCC	Town Team	National Home Energy Upgrade Scheme National Retrofit Plan Climate Action Fund
	Exploration of the Mart lands, through landowner consultation, for use as a possible alternative car parking area when closed to promote pedestrian priority within the town centre.	ST	KCC	Town Team and Relevant Landowner(s)	

Objective	Action	Term	Lead	Partners	Funding Streams
Developing a Street Furniture Plan for Milltown	- Provide picnic areas/benches, litter bins and drinking fountains at convenient accessible locations.	ST	KCC	Town Team/Tidy Towns and Business Owners	Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) Community Enhancement Programme Town & Village Renewal Scheme
	- Explore the feasibility for establishing a bike clinic (bike doctor).	ST	Town Team	Business Owners KCC and NTA	Healthy Ireland Fund NTA Active Travel Grant LEADER Local Enterprise Officer
	- Install wayfinding signage to indicate walking times to amenities.	ST	KCC	Town Team	ORIS RRDF Grant Funding Town & Village Renewal Scheme LEADER
	- Identify specific locations in the town for art installations (e.g., The Square, The Old Community Hall Square, etc.).	ST	Town Team	Landowners, Local Artists and KCC	Arts Council Grant Creative Ireland Grant Scheme Community Enhancement Programme

Objective	Action	Term	Lead	Partners	Funding Streams
Developing Zones of Intervention	- Identify properties of significance that are currently underutilised and explore practical solutions for their rejuvenation and reactivation.	ST	KCC/Town Team	Local Business Owners	RRDF Grant Funding Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund Scheme Town & Village Renewal Scheme Historic Town Initiative
	- Explore avenues for preserving and enhancing the historic streetscape of the Town.	ST	KCC/Town Team	Key Property Owners	RRDF Grant Funding Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund Scheme Town & Village Renewal Scheme Historic Town Initiative
	- Establish an engagement mechanism with the local community to encourage their active collaboration in the revitalisation of historic and older buildings.	ST	KCC	Local Business Owners and Town Team	Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund Scheme Town & Village Renewal Scheme Historic Town Initiative
	- Implement a regeneration strategy to revitalise the historic core of Milltown to provide a strong town streetscape.	LT	KCC/Town Team	Key Property Owners	RRDF Grant Funding Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund Scheme Town & Village Renewal Scheme Historic Town Initiative
	- The Square: Re-design/Re-brand The Square as the Heritage Quarter of the town and the formal ante-space to Kilcoleman Abbey.	LT	KCC	Key Property Owners and Town Team	RRDF Grant Funding Fáilte Ireland Grant Scheme Heritage Council Community Heritage Fund Town & Village Renewal Scheme
	- The Old Community Hall Square/Spout Lane: Re-design as a Civic Centre interlinked with the proposed river walk.	LT	KCC	Key Property Owners and Town Team	Heritage Council Community Heritage Fund NTA Active Travel Grant Rural Regeneration & Development Fund Town & Village Renewal Scheme
	- Formulate a Heritage-Led Regeneration Plan for Milltown's historic core, to ensure the built fabric is retained and buildings can be re-purposed and put to optimal use.	LT	KCC/Town Team	Local Business Owners	RRDF Grant Funding Heritage Council Community Heritage Fund Historic Structures Fund Town & Village Renewal Scheme LEADER
	- Identify areas of significance within the town to be activated and designed as accessible public spaces that work as weather suitable recreational, amenity and gathering spaces whilst ensuring their design is consistent with Milltown's identity and character.	LT	KCC/Town Team	Local Business Owners	RRDF Grant Funding Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund Scheme Town & Village Renewal Scheme Historic Town Initiative

THE COMMUNITY

Objective	Action	Term	Lead	Partners	Funding Streams
RE-generation of Milltown (Providing for a Town Centre Responsive to all Age Groups)	- Establish a Community Steering Group as a subgroup of the Town Team to meet regularly with key stakeholders and external experts, as required, to drive progress on actions and priorities contained in the Masterplan, ensuring a co-ordinated and focused approach to delivery.	ST	Town Team		N/A
	- Conduct a feasibility study to explore the range of youth services required for the rapidly growing population. Assess the current and future needs, identifying gaps and developing a targeted action plan.	ST	Town Team	KCC	Community Enhancement Programme CLÁR Programme LEADER Town & Village Renewal Scheme
	- The Town Team will engage with the relevant agencies to pursue the employment of a Youth Development Officer.	ST	Town Team		
	- Conduct a feasibility study to explore the range of age-friendly services for the growing ageing population, such as Men/Women's Shed, societies, gathering hubs, local clubs, etc.	ST	Town Team	KCC	Community Enhancement Programme CLÁR Programme LEADER Town & Village Renewal Scheme
	Unlock the full potential of existing educational facilities and community facilities (e.g. Nagle Rice Community Centre and the Muintir na Tíre Hall) by evaluating usage patterns/timetable capacity, repurposing underutilised areas and enhancing through refurbishment or expansion, if necessary.	ST	Town Team	KCC	Community Enhancement Programme CLÁR Programme LEADER Town & Village Renewal Scheme
	- Promote investment in local sports clubs and organisations to broaden the range of recreational activities available in existing community sports facilities.	ST	Town Team	KCC/Sports Groups/ Relevant Organisations/Kerry Recreation and Sports Partnership	Kerry Recreation and Sports Partnership Local Sports Partnership Grants Sports Capital Grants Community Enhancement Programme CLÁR Programme LEADER
	- Collaborate with local partners and organisations to explore and expand facilities that can support the development of additional recreation and leisure facilities for the youth of Milltown (e.g., sports, MUGA, arcade, KCYS centre, etc.).	ST	KCC	Town Team/Sports Groups/ Relevant Organisations/Kerry Recreation and Sports Partnership	Community Enhancement Programme CLÁR Programme ORIS /LEADER/ Kerry Recreation and Sports Partnership

Objective	Action	Term	Lead	Partners	Funding Streams
RE-generation of Milltown (Providing for a Town Centre Responsive to all Age Groups)	The Town Team, in collaboration with the local Family Resource Centre and key stakeholders, will ensure the expansion of services, including public health, youth services, childcare, and community-based family support programmes.	ST	Town Team	Stakeholders and Organisations	Community Enhancement Programme Kerry County Council Community Support Fund CLÁR Programme LEADER
	- Explore the possibility of establishing a Neighborhood Watch Network.	ST	Town Team	Local Gardai	Community Enhancement Programme Kerry County Council Community Support Fund
	- Ensure that the public toilets in the Muintir na Tíre Hall are accessible during the day.	ST	Town Team	KCC	
	Installation of a Community Notice Board in the Town Centre.	ST	Town Team	KCC	Community Enhancement Programme
	- Maximise the timetable and use of existing community facilities such as Nagle Rice Community Centre and the Muintir na Tíre Hall.	ST	Town Team	KCC and Key Stakeholders	Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) Community Employment Scheme
	- Collaborate with Kerry Recreation and Sports Partnership to encourage a healthier and more active population.	ST	Town Team /KCC		Community Enhancement Programme Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)
	- Set up and run a digital Coderdojo Programmes for the youth and the wider community.	ST	Town Team	KCC	
	Establish a Rural Social Scheme servicing the town.	ST	Town Team	KCC	Community Enhancement Programme Kerry County Council Community Support Fund CLÁR Programme LEADER
	- Identify and redevelop a vacant building as a youth facility, similar to the model of the KCYS across Kerry.	ST	Town Team	KCC/KCYS	Community Enhancement Programme CLÁR Programme LEADER Town & Village Renewal Scheme

Objective	Action	Term	Lead	Partners	Funding Streams
RE-generation of Milltown (Providing for a Town Centre Responsive to all Age Groups)	- Provide new and improved outdoor spaces and facilities for clubs and organisations and the broader community.	LT	KCC/Town Team/Sports Organisation		Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) Community Employment Scheme
	- Develop educational nature trails that would be available to the public but could also be used as a learning resource by the schools and preschools in the town as well as youth groups and scouting groups.	LT	KCC	Town Team	Town & Village Renewal Scheme CLÁR Programme Sports Capital ORIS
	- Identify an appropriate location for a skate park within the Town.	LT	KCC/Town Team	Key Stakeholders and Schools	Town & Village Renewal Scheme CLÁR Programme Sports Capital ORIS

HERITAGE, IDENTITY & VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Objective	Action	Term	Lead	Partners	Funding Streams
	Establish a Heritage Steering Group as a subgroup of the Town Team to meet regularly with key stakeholders to drive progress on actions and priorities contained in the Masterplan, ensuring a co-ordinated and focused approach to delivery.	ST	Town Team		N/A
	- Share Milltown's stories/history and heritage through art initiatives, sculptures and creation of a Milltown Brand and Town Tourism Strategy.	ST	Town Team	KCC, Local Artists and History/Heritage Groups	Arts Council Grant Creative Ireland Grant Scheme Heritage Council RRDF Grant Funding Community Enhancement Programme
	- Create a Wayfinding Strategy that showcases the historical buildings and the Town's heritage sites.	ST	KCC/Town Team	Local Business Owners and Local Artists	Heritage Council Community Fund Healthy Ireland Fund Fáilte Ireland Grant Scheme LEADER Community Enhancement Programme
Celebrate and Utilise the Rich Heritage Assets of the Town	- Identify heritage sites, buildings or properties of significance that are currently underutilised and explore practical solutions for their rejuvenation and reactivation.	ST	KCC/Town Team	Key Property Owners	Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund Scheme Town & Village Renewal Scheme Historic Town Initiative Heritage Council
	Explore White Church as a Catalyst Project which will be spearheaded by the Heritage Steering Group, for practical solutions for its rejuvenation and reactivation.	ST	Town Team	Property Owner	Town & Village Renewal Scheme Historic Town Initiative Heritage Council Community Fund LEADER
	- Explore the establishment of a community initiative group to harness the full potential of existing or proposed community buildings and heritage properties for community use through fundraising and grant/funding schemes in liaison with the Council's Conservation Officer.	ST	Town Team	KCC Conservation Officer and Key Property Owners	Community Enhancement Pogramme CLÁR Programme
	Create a themed heritage trail(s) for the Town featuring different phases of Milltown's history to unlock the full potential of the town's heritage sites and monuments, such as The Abbey, the Demesne lands, White Church, mass rock, sea dykes and linking Milltown to nearby settlements, in conjunction with the Green Infrastructure Theme of this Plan.	LT	KCC/Town Team		Heritage Council Community Fund Healthy Ireland Fund Fáilte Ireland Grant Scheme LEADER Community Enhancement Pogramme CLÁR Programme

Objective	Action	Term	Lead	Partners	Funding Streams
Celebrate and Utilise the Rich Heritage Assets of the Town	- Develop a heritage trail App which will give users an interactive guided tour experience.	LT	Town Team	KCC, Business Owners and Local Artists	Heritage Council Community Fund Healthy Ireland Fund Walks Scheme Fáilte Ireland Grant Scheme LEADER Community Enhancement Programme CLÁR Programme
	- Explore and harness funding streams and potentials to bring the Town's heritage assets to life.	LT	KCC/Town Team	Property Owners	Heritage Council Community Fund Fáilte Ireland Grant Scheme LEADER Community Enhancement Pogramme CLÁR Programme
	- As part of the public realm improvement works, explore the potential of highlighting the Town's key historical buildings and heritage sites.	LT	KCC/Town Team	Property Owners	Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund Scheme Town & Village Renewal Scheme Historic Town Initiative Heritage Council
	- Collaborate with all stakeholders in the town to attain heritage town status.	LT	KCC/Town Team	Key Property Owners	Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund Scheme Town & Village Renewal Scheme Historic Town Initiative KCC Grants for the Conservation of Protected Structures Heritage Council

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Objective	Action	Term	Lead	Partners	Funding Streams
Reintroducing Green Infrastructure to Milltown	- Enhance the public realm by introducing new native hedging, floral wildflower displays and tree planting.	ST	KCC/Town Team	Schools/Landowners	RRDF Grant Funding Walks Scheme Funding LEADER Community Enhancement Programme CLÁR Programme
	- Promote awareness, guidance, and participation in community vegetation management and control (e.g. invasive species on private lands, etc.)	ST	KCC/Town Team		
	- Enable residents to Grow It Yourself (GIY) and arrange gardening/horticulture events and classes and involve local schools and community groups, such as Men's Shed and local allotment groups, etc.	ST	Town Team	KCC and Irish Men's Sheds Association	LEADER Community Enhancement Programme Community Support Fund
	- Strengthen connectivity between Milltown, its heritage sites and monuments and natural assets, e.g.: 1. Killaclohane Forest Recreational Area and the location of the Portal Tomb, 2. Kilderry Forest Recreation Area, 3. The River Walk, 4. Fort Agnes, 5. Killagha Abbey.	LT	KCC	Town Team	RRDF Grant Funding ORIS Town & Village Renewal Scheme Community Enhancement Programme Fáilte Ireland Grant Scheme
	- Identify potential river-crossings, greenways and walking and cycling routes to key amenities and transform them into integral amenities themselves.	LT	KCC	Landowners	RRDF Grant Funding ORIS Town & Village Renewal Scheme Community Enhancement Programme Fáilte Ireland Grant Scheme Active Travel
	- Explore the potential of activating existing/additional green spaces for recreational purposes, such as new pocket parks within the town.	LT	KCC/Town Team	Landowners	RRDF Grant Funding ORIS Town & Village Renewal Scheme Community Enhancement Programme Fáilte Ireland Grant Scheme

Objective	Action	Term	Lead	Partners	Funding Streams
Reintroducing Green Infrastructure to Milltown	- Develop a network of pocket parks throughout Milltown by utilising existing greenery in the Town.	LT	KCC/Town Team	Landowners	RRDF Grant Funding ORIS
	- Identification of a suitable site for community garden/ allotments.	LT	KCC/Town Team	Landowners	The Healthy Food For All initiative CLÁR Programme Community Enhancement Programme Community Support Fund
	- Identify opportunities for enhancing water quality management through the adoption of nature-based solutions and incorporation of water-sensitive urban design (e.g. ponds, basins, swales, rainwater gardens and filter strips along roads, integrating SUDs compatible tree pits into the hard landscape, etc.).	LT	KCC	Town Team and Environmental Consultancy	RRDF Grant Funding ORIS Water Development Fund
	- Promote Milltown's historic landscape and the integration of the parkland/demesne landscape with the town through the creation of a themed heritage trail(s) featuring different phases of Milltown's history, in conjunction with the Heritage Theme of this Plan.	LT	KCC	Town Team and Landowners	ORIS RRDF Grant Funding Heritage Council Community Fund Fáilte Ireland Grant Scheme LEADER Community Enhancement Programme
	- Establish a riparian corridor along the existing watercourses.	LT	KCC	Landowners	ORIS RRDF Grant Funding
	- Establish a Green Infrastructure Steering Group as a subgroup of the Town Team to meet regularly with key stakeholders to drive progress on actions and priorities contained in the Masterplan, ensuring a co-ordinated and focused approach to delivery.	ST	Town Team		N/A

Objective	Action	Term	Lead	Partners	Funding Streams
ENTERPRISE & SUSTAINABLE GROWTH					
Enhancing the Town Centre Dynamic & Local Economy	- Facilitate Farmers' Markets & Seasonal Events/Markets in the Town, promoting local produce, local groups and societies, and community engagement.	ST	Local Community Group/Business Owners	Local Community / Local Farmers, Town Team and KCC	LEADER Local Authority Community Grants
	- Arrange with the Local Enterprise Office to host a tailored business advice clinic and information session on the online trading vouchers, digital start programme, digital marketing programmes and LEO mentoring programme to support existing business expansion and encourage new business establishment. The existing community centres could be utilised for this purpose.	ST	KCC/Local Enterprise Office	Local Community Group, Business Owners and Town Team	Local Enterprise Office Schemes
	- Consolidate the Town's growth by encouraging living over the shop, work-live units (artists spaces) and residential and mixed-use development(s) on opportunity sites.	ST	KCC	Landowners, Developers and Town Team	Housing Grants RRDF Grant Funding Town & Village Renewal Scheme
	- Conduct a feasibility study to assess the viability of establishing an incubation space.	ST	Town Team	KCC/Local Community Group and Business Owners	LEADER Town & Village Renewal Scheme Community Enhancement Programme
	- Encourage the expansion of a digital community through the implementation of educational programmes such as "Our Kids Code" project.	ST	Town Team	KCC and Local Enterprise Office	LEADER CLÁR Programme Local Enterprise Office Schemes
	- Collaborate with the community to devise a Town Marketing Strategy, utilising county-wide marketing platforms to maximise outreach and impact (see: Milltown, Kerry).	ST	KCC/Town Team	Local Community Group and Business Owners	LEADER Fáilte Ireland Grant Scheme
	Establish an Enterprise Steering Group as a subgroup of the Town Team to meet regularly with key stakeholders and external experts, as required, to drive progress on actions and priorities contained in the Masterplan, ensuring a co-ordinated and focused approach to delivery.	ST	Town Team		N/A

Objective	Action	Term	Lead	Partners	Funding Streams
Enhancing the Town Centre Dynamic & Local Economy	- In tandem with the other key themes, seek to develop Milltown's attractiveness and economic growth resulting in its location on the Wild Atlantic Way with feasibility studies being carried out on expansion of walking and cycling routes beyond the town centre to key destinations.	LT	KCC/Town Team	Local Community Group and Business Owners	RRDF Grant Funding NTA Active Travel Grants Programme
	The Town Team will engage with Kerry County Council, as part of the public participatory process, during the next review of the Local Area Plan.	LT	Town Team	KCC	N/A
	- Collaborate with relevant stakeholders to maximise digital technology and connectivity throughout the Town (e.g. digital work hub, etc.).	LT	KCC/Town Team	Local Community Group and Business Owners	SKDP Wifi4EU RRDF Grant Funding
	Through the Enterprise Steering Group, explore initiatives to fully utilise existing buildings (e.g. Muintir na Tire Hall) or vacant/proposed spaces for community-focused enterprise, such as health and wellness clinics/services, supported by local fundraising efforts and potential grant funded programmes.	LT	Town Team	Local Enterprise Office/Community Centres/Community Groups/KCC	CLÁR Programme Community Enhancement Programme Community Support Fund LEADER Local Enterprise Office Schemes

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)**: The RRDF is a funding programme, administered by the Department of Rural and Community Development, that is investing €1 billion in rural Ireland up to 2027. The fund is aimed at supporting job creation in rural communities, addressing de-population of rural communities, and supporting improvements in towns and villages. This fund is available for towns and villages with a population of less than 10,000, therefore Milltown qualifies for this fund.
- **Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund Scheme**: The Croí Cónaithe is a grant introduced by the Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage, and is a key initiative that underpins the policy objectives set out in Pathway 4 'Addressing Vacancy and Efficient Use of our Existing Stock, of 'Housing for All'. A grant of up to a maximum of €50,000 is available for refurbishment of vacant properties for residential occupation and for properties which will be made available for rent, including the conversion of properties which have not been used as residential, subject to planning permission being obtained.
- **Town and Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS):** The TVRS is a funding scheme focused on supporting the economic and social rejuvenation of towns and villages in Ireland. The scheme seeks to deliver remote working infrastructure to provide an opportunity for people to continue to both live and work in rural areas. This scheme is supported by Town Centre First Policy and has a particular focus on brining vacant and derelict buildings and sites back into use as multi-purpose spaces. Since the launch of the scheme in 2016, over €149 million has been allocated to more than 1,600 projects.
- **LEADER Community Led Local Development (SKDP):** The LEADER programme is funded by both the EU and Irish Government, providing grants, advice, and training to support business start-up, expand, or develop new products. The North, East & West Kerry area is responsible for selecting and awarding LEADER funding to projects for the Milltown area for, economic development & job creation, rural infrastructure & social inclusion, and sustainable development & climate change mitigation and adaption.
- **Healthy Ireland Fund:** This fund is a government-led initiative aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of everyone living in Ireland. Following the 'Healthy Ireland, A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025', the Government approved the creation of a Healthy Ireland Fund (HIF) to support the implementation of health and wellbeing programmes and projects in a variety of settings.
- **NTA Active Travel Grants Programme:** Under this programme the NTA allocates funds to Ireland's local authorities with a view to spending on walking and cycling infrastructure. It is aimed that this investment will fund approximately 1,200 Active Travel projects, contributing to the development of almost 1,000km of new and improved walking and cycling infrastructure across the country by 2025.
- **Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme:** This scheme provides funding for the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure. It also provides support for the necessary repair, maintenance, enhancement, or promotion of existing outdoor recreational infrastructure in rural areas across Ireland. It provides funding for: development, extensions, and repair of trails, walkways, cycleways, and blueways; improved access to outdoor leisure or recreational facilities; and development of outdoor recreational infrastructure.
- **Heritage Council Community Heritage Fund:** The aim of this scheme is to support capital projects that improve access and inclusion to heritage sites. This scheme is intended to enable communities and heritage non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to continue their work in this area or to start new initiatives. In 2023, a total of €1.5 million will be made available to the Community Heritage Grant scheme.
- **Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage Community Monuments Fund:** The Community Monuments Fund was first established in 2020 to provide investment in Ireland's archaeological heritage. Funding is prioritised for local authorities, private owners and custodians, and community groups for the care, conservation, maintenance, protection, and promotion of archaeological monuments. A total of €6,000,000 in funding has been made available for projects under the Community Monuments Fund in 2023.
- **Historic Structures Fund:** The capital funding for built heritage under Project Ireland 2040 runs from 2018-2027 and is focused on enhancing and safeguarding the built heritage throughout the country. The primary focus of the Historic Structures Fund will be on conservation and enhancement of historic structures and buildings for the broader benefit of communities and the public.

- **The Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2024:** The BHIS provides funding for repairing and conserving structures protected under Planning and Development Acts. It supports owners of historic properties, encourages private investment, and promotes small-scale conservation projects nationwide. BHIS assists in maintaining heritage buildings, supports traditional skills training, and focuses on listed structures and Architectural Conservation Areas. Funding ranges from €2,500 to €15,000 for qualifying works detailed in the BHIS Guidance Circular.
- **European Regional Development Fund:** The European Regional Development Fund 2021-2027 programmes set out an investment strategy for €835 million, of which €396 million is financed by the EU. Funding is managed by Regional Assemblies to ensure alignment with Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies and to support Local Authorities in delivering the sustainable regeneration of towns and urban centres. The fund aims to address regional imbalance, sustainable economic development, environmental sustainability, and build low carbon and climate resilient communities. Tackling vacancy and dereliction in towns, in support of the Town Centre First approach, is a particular emphasis of this fund.
- **Local Authority Community Grants:** This fund is offered by the relevant local authority to groups across the County whose primary focus is the development or promotion of the local community or the development of a project that will benefit a group in the community. This fund is an annual scheme and is open to a range of local resident community, environmental and festival groups throughout the county to apply for local area grants.
- **TidyTowns Funding:** Every year a competition is held between TidyTown communities with approximately 900 communities entering each year. The Department of Rural and Community Development has operated a grant scheme of €1,000 for entrants to the competition to make their town a more attractive place to live, work, and to do business in.
- **Repair and Leasing Scheme (RLS):** The RLS provides upfront funding of up to €60,000 per unit for any works necessary to bring privately owned property up to suitable living standard and in return the property owner agrees to lease the dwelling to the Local Authority or an Approved Housing Body. This allows for Local Authorities to deliver social housing quicky using existing housing units.
- **Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant:** The Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant provides funding to refurbish vacant and derelict homes. It can also be used to renovate properties that have not been used as residential properties before. Grants of up to €50,000 are awarded for vacant properties with grants of up to €70,000 awarded for derelict properties. Grants are funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage through the Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund and applications can be made to the local authority.
- **Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland Community and Business Grant:** The Community Grant programme supports new approaches to achieving energy efficiency in Irish communities. This grant is open to homeowners, community groups, private sector organisations, and public sector bodies. This fund is to support the Government's commitment to reach 2030 and 2050 climate targets.
- **Fáilte Ireland Small Grant Scheme:** Capital grants of up to €200k are available, with funding awarded to projects from across the public, private and voluntary sectors. Projects are awarded funding based on their potential to boost overseas visitor growth, create jobs, and support destination brands across Ireland.
- **Creative Ireland Grant Scheme:** This is a culture and wellbeing programme whose ambition it is to inspire and transform people, places, and communities through creativity. The grant scheme will provide financial support to local and community groups and individuals, artistic and creative practitioners, event organisers and those involved in creative, cultural and heritage activities and projects, to encourage cultural participation throughout the County.
- **Heart of the Community Fund:** The Heart of the Community Fund is an open grant round designed to meet the needs for non-profit organisations delivering vital services and supports that promote and support peace, culture, education, and community development. The fund seeks to help non-profit organisations for supporting people with a disability; enhancing the quality of outcomes in education; working with vulnerable families; encouraging community regeneration; engaging with the arts; enabling mental health programmes; and encouraging sustainability. In 2023 grants between €5,000 and €25,000 were made available to applicants.

It is critical to note that the full list of funding streams have been provided under a separate chapter within the Baseline Report, which we respectfully invite the reader to refer to. New funding streams may also arise following the publication of this Plan.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS (SUMMARY RESULTS)

A screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) determination has been made by Kerry County Council regarding the Milltown Town Centre First Masterplan. This Masterplan will be non statutory and will not form public policy. The Masterplan will identify non-binding criteria that will only become binding once the Masterplan is incorporated into the relevant Kerry County Development Plans.

However, development of Milltown would have the potential to affect the integrity of European Sites.

Taking the above into account and in order to ensure that considerations relating to European Sites are integrated into the Masterplan, so that the Masterplan can usefully inform future decision making, it is determined that it would be prudent and responsible to undertake Stage 2 AA of the Plan, aligned with AA requirements under European Council Directive 92 43 /EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora and European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (Statutory Instrument No 477 of 2011), as amended.

The Natura Impact Report (AA) is prepared as a separate report in support of this Masterplan. However, the key mitigation measures outlined in it has been provided within the main body of this Masterplan.

The Proposed Town Centre First Masterplan at Milltown, Co. Kerry has been assessed considering:

- The nature, size and location of the proposed works and possible impacts arising from the construction works and operational activity.
- The qualifying interests and conservation objectives of the European sites.
- The potential for in-combination effects arising from other plans and projects.

In conclusion, upon the examination, analysis and evaluation of the relevant information and applying the precautionary principle, it is concluded by the authors of this report that the possibility **may be excluded** that the Proposed Masterplan will have a significant effect on any of the European sites listed below:

- Castlemaine Harbour SAC (000343).
- Castlemaine Harbour SPA (004029).

In carrying out this AA screening, mitigation measures have not been taken into account. Standard best practice construction measures which could have the effect of mitigating any effects on any European Sites have similarly not been taken into account.

Based on the screening exercise carried out above, it can be concluded, on the basis of the best scientific knowledge available and objective information, that the possibility of any significant effects on the above listed European sites, whether arising from the project itself or in combination with other plans and projects, can be excluded in light of the above listed European sites' conversation objectives. Thus, there is no requirement to proceed to Stage 2 of the AA process, and the preparation of a NIS is not required.

ENDNOTES

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ENDNOTES

1. *Source: https://www.killarneytoday.com/three-killed-in-milltown-to-be-remembered/*
2. *Source: https://www.independent.ie/regionals/kerry/news/civil-war-deaths-to-be-remembered-in-kerry-village/42443217.html*
3. *Carmody, James (1906), The Abbey of Killagha, Parish of Kilcolman, County Kerry, The Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, Fifth Series, Vol. 36, No. 3, [Fifth Series, Vol. 16] (Sep. 30, 1906), pp. 285-296.*

Comhairle Contae Chiarraí
Kerry County Council