



Lár Bailte ar dTús
Town Centre First



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council

Kanturk Town Centre First Regeneration Plan

A community-centric
vision for Kanturk



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Foreword



Moira Murrell

Chief Executive
Cork County Council



Mary Linehan Foley

Mayor of County Cork
Cork County Council

The Town Centre First Regeneration Plan for Kanturk is the second plan of its kind for County Cork, funded under the National Town Centre First policy by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht.

The purpose of the plan is to support and guide the regeneration of Kanturk town and to demonstrate the collaborative approach that has been taken between Cork County Council and the Kanturk Community to document this shared vision.

It is hoped that this plan will also serve to leverage the investment needed to ensure that Kanturk can face the challenges that it and other towns face, and progress the many opportunities identified within it.

This is a plan that aligns not only with national, regional and European regeneration policy but also with the ambitious targets set by Cork County Council through its statutory County Development Plan.

The rationale for investing in our towns and villages in County Cork is very clear but we must have a focused and unified vision in order to access and maximise this investment. The Kanturk Town Centre First Plan demonstrates that focused and unified vision and will serve as a roadmap not just for Cork County Council but also for the wider Kanturk community in progressing and financing town centre projects.

Consulting and engaging with community stakeholders, residents, advocacy groups and political representatives is key to building consensus and striving for sustainable development in our towns and villages. The Kanturk Town Centre First Regeneration Plan demonstrates a significant level of collaboration and truly is a community-centric vision for Kanturk. All those who contributed their time to surveys, meetings and other forms of participation are to be commended for their role in developing this ambitious plan.

Executive Summary

The Town Centre First Regeneration Plan for Kanturk is the culmination of a comprehensive programme of research, consultation, engagement and analysis, the purpose of which is to ensure a documented vision for Kanturk Town Centre. This vision builds on National Plans and Policies as well as the Cork County Development plan to bring a clear focus to the priorities of the Kanturk community.

Ensuring alignment with over-arching plans and policies supports sustainable development within the town and increases the prospects for Kanturk in competing for national, regional and local funding to support regeneration. This alignment is set out in Chapter 1 through a summary of the key plans and policies that influence the cohesive focus on town centre regeneration and associated principles such as compact growth.

The core tenets of the national approach to town-centre regeneration are collaboration and evidence-based planning. Collaboration between the local authority and the local community throughout the plan development process is documented within Chapter 2. This is set out alongside a sample of data related to Kanturk town that serves as documented evidence of the sentiments expressed by the Kanturk community on core issues such as vacancy and dereliction. Additional data set out in this chapter, and in the appendix to this plan, serves as a baseline from which decisions can be informed and future progress monitored.

A summary of the hugely insightful and detailed survey responses is set out in Chapter 3. This aids in creating an easily accessible means of understanding the majority views of the 302 participants on high-level issues such as climate change, and on local emotive issues such as vacancy, parking and community spirit.

Community surveys are complemented by in-person meetings and consultation with key stakeholders including Council staff, elected representatives and representatives of local community and business advocacy groups. Combined, these consultations aid us in narrowing the focus to a core list of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Challenges for Kanturk documented in Chapter 4.

The primary objective throughout the plan development process is to arrive at a shared vision for Kanturk that places the Kanturk community at its core. Intrinsic to this vision is the identification of, and agreement on, 7 over-arching themes that will support town centre regeneration in Kanturk. These themes are set out in Chapter 5 along with 14 specific actions to be progressed in a collaborative manner between Cork County Council and the Kanturk Town Team. Chapter 5 also sets out the framework for implementation of the Kanturk Town Centre First Regeneration as a community-centric vision for Kanturk.

Chapter 1

Kanturk Policy Context



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council

Photo by: Sheila Fitzgerald

1. Kanturk Policy Context

1.1 Introduction

Over the past 5 years in particular, national Government policy and associated statutory plans and frameworks have demonstrated a much greater focus on the regeneration and renewal of rural towns and villages. This documented focus is most pronounced in key national policies Our Rural Future and Town Centre First and serves to greatly strengthen the focus on rural towns and villages that local authorities hold.

To an extent, the COVID-19 era can be credited with instilling a far greater awareness of town and village vibrancy among communities themselves. Limited travel, leisure and retail options created a recognition among town and village residents of the value of their immediate surroundings and the importance of safeguarding them for future generations.

It is against this backdrop that the national Town Centre First Policy was launched in February of 2022. Town Centre First is a joint policy initiative between the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) and the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht. Its core aim is to tackle vacancy and dereliction and breathe new life, enterprise and energy into our town centres.

Of critical importance is its advocacy of a holistic, place-based means of sustainable rural development and its focus on a 'community-centric' approach to plan development and prioritisation.

In 2023 Cork County Council succeeded in securing funding from the Department of Community and Rural Development and the Gaeltacht to develop a Town Centre First Plan for Kanturk. This document represents the data-led and community-focussed vision for Kanturk that has emerged from that process.

Chapter 2 and Chapter 3 focus on documenting how this community-centric vision was shaped, while Chapters 4 and 5 refine the views and opinions of many stakeholders into a clear set of emerging themes, shared ambitions and agreed priorities.

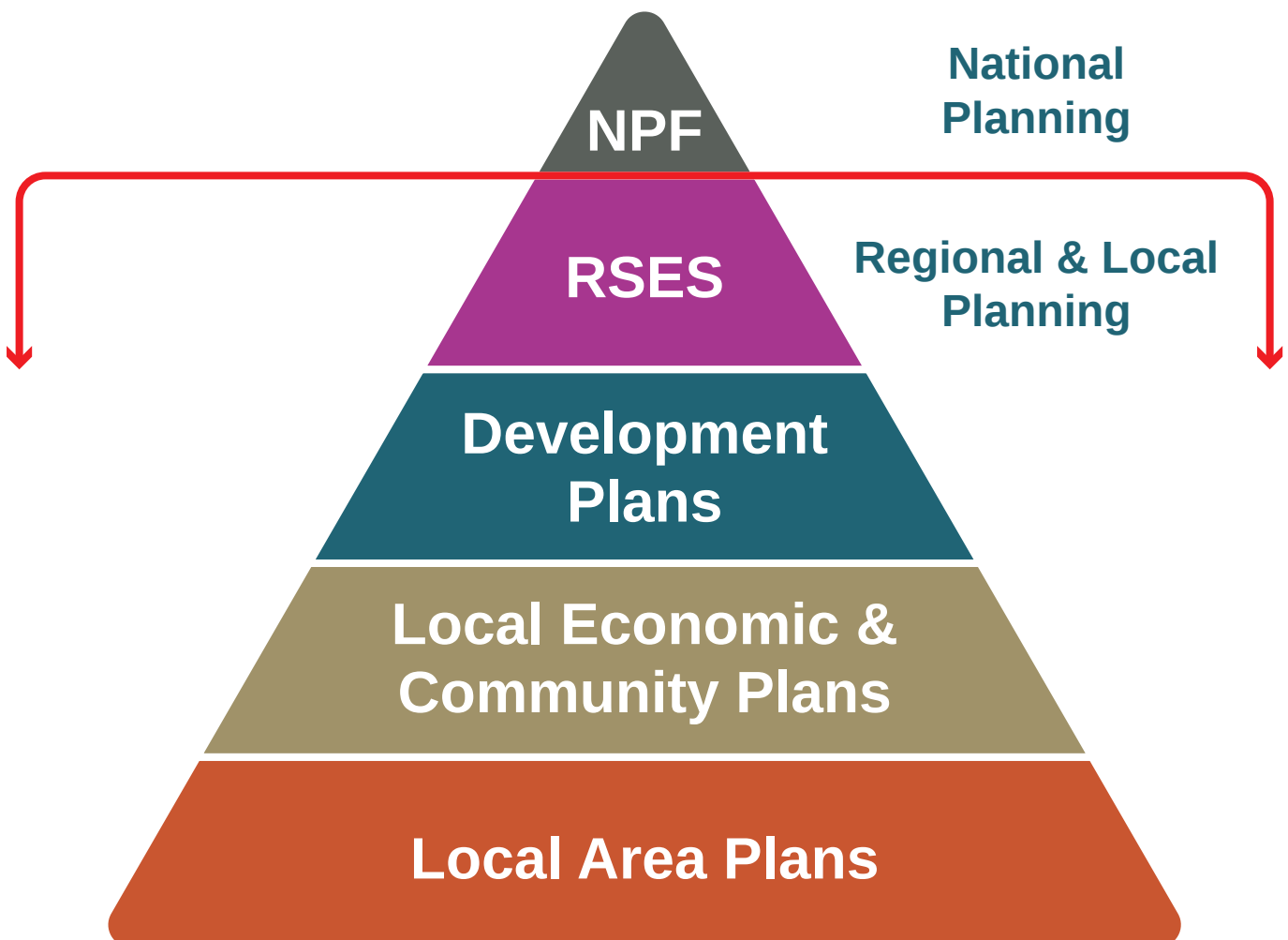
This Chapter, Chapter 1, aims to demonstrate how the Town Centre First Regeneration plan for Kanturk recognises and aligns with the hierarchy of national and regional plans and policies.

While it is acknowledged that this plan represents the culmination of a broad public consultation process and a documented community vision for Kanturk, it must be remembered that this plan is very much a new beginning for Kanturk, and not the end of a process.

1.2 Policy Context Summary

Town and village regeneration emerges as a priority across multiple national, regional, and local planning frameworks and government policies and flows through the hierarchy of plans from a national level to a local community level focussed on particular towns and villages.

- Nationally, Project Ireland 2040, Our Rural Future, and Town Centre First highlight towns as key to balanced regional development. In particular, The Town Centre First policy focuses on regenerating rural town centres to address vacancy and dereliction, promote development, and foster vibrant communities. Town Centre First Plans are intended to be locally tailored, action-oriented, and supported by complementary funding streams. They emphasise place-making and collaborative design, building on each town's strengths and addressing its challenges.
- Regionally, the Southern Region's Spatial and Economic Strategy guides regional delivery of national objectives.
- Locally, the Cork County Local and Economic Community Plan (LECP) supports and promotes economic vibrancy where enterprise can thrive and socially inclusive communities are supported.
- At a county-level the Cork County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 plans for the future growth of the county and provides the high-level context within which community-centric plans such as Kanturk Town Centre First Regeneration Plan can advance.



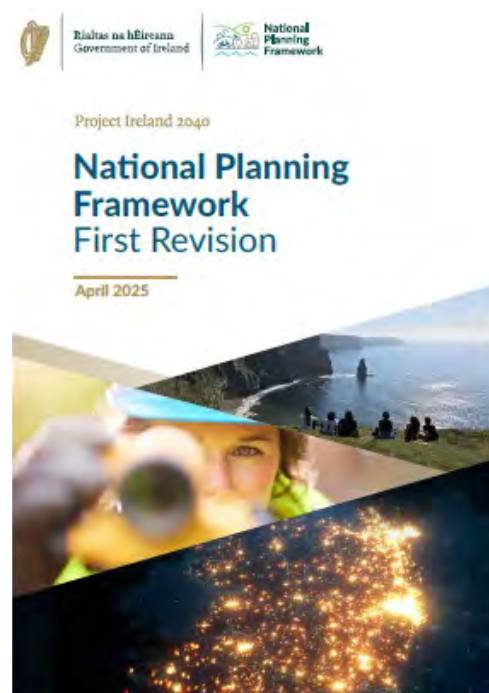
1.3 Policy Context in Detail - The Hierarchy of Plans

1.3.1 Project Ireland 2040

Project Ireland 2040 is the overarching planning and investment framework for the social, economic, and cultural development of Ireland, made up of the National Planning Framework and National Development Plan. It is a national strategy which provides a clear vision to guide future development and investment decisions and is critical in coordinating an 'all-of-Government' approach to spatial development to enable strategic choices to be made about place-focused investment, the prioritization of decision-making to influence change, and the enabling of greater levels detail at appropriate spatial and/or sectoral levels.

Project Ireland 2040 emphasises the need to strengthen rural economies and communities, recognizing them as a crucial part of national identity, economy, and society. The success of towns and villages are recognised within its component documents as being central to the country's strategic development.

For that reason, town and village renewal is a central theme in all associated plans and policies at national, regional and local level.



1.3.2 The National Planning Framework

The National Planning Framework (NPF), is the long-term, 20-year strategy for strategic planning and sustainable development of our urban and rural areas to 2040, with the core objectives of securing balanced regional development and a sustainable ‘compact growth’ approach to the form and pattern of future development. First published in 2018, it replaced the National Spatial Strategy as the overall spatial planning and development strategy for Ireland.

Planning legislation provides for the Government to revise or replace the NPF every six years. Following a decision of Government in June 2023, the preparation of a revised National Planning Framework commenced.

Both Houses of the Oireachtas have now approved the Revised National Planning Framework (NPF). The approval by the Seanad and the Dáil followed the decision of Government to approve the Final Revised NPF on 8th April 2025.

The Revised National Planning Framework takes account of changes that have occurred since it was first published in 2018 and builds upon its core objectives. It is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for our people, and to protect and enhance our environment - from our villages to our cities, and everything around and in between.



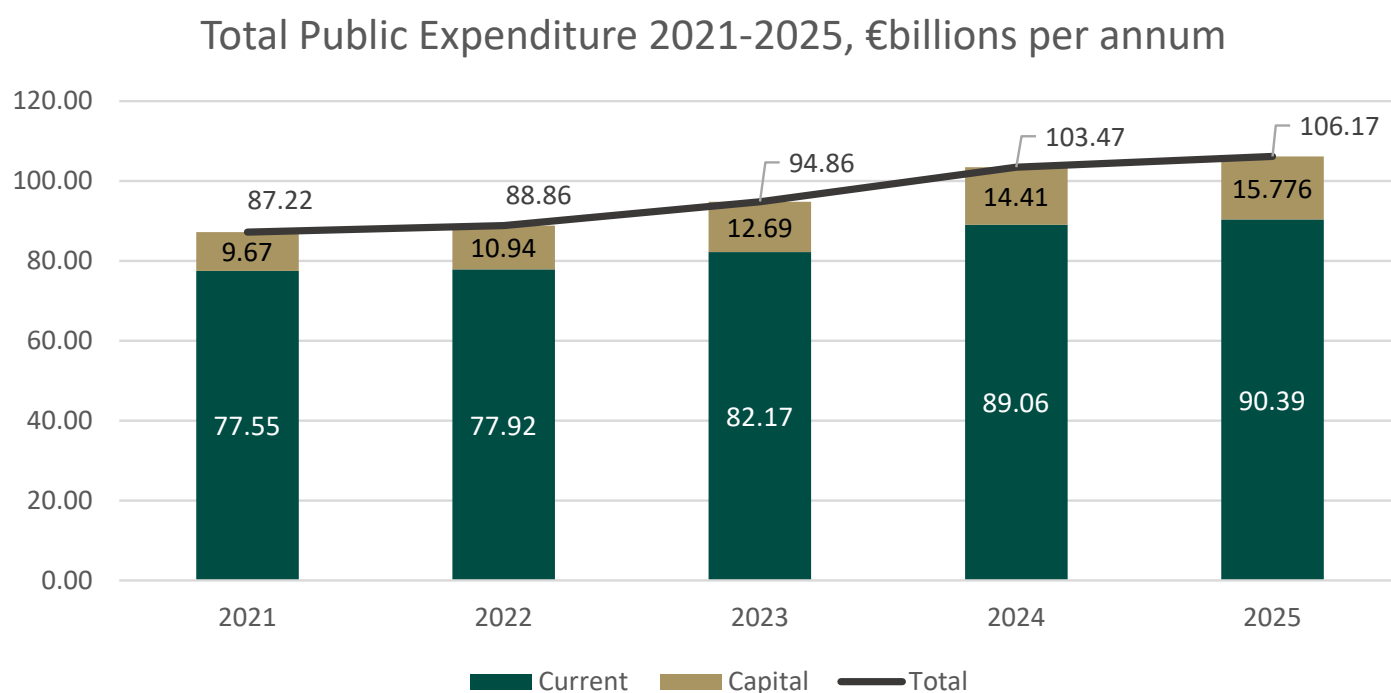
National Strategic Priorities

1.3.3 The National Development Plan 2021 – 2030

The National Development Plan 2021–2030 (NDP) is Ireland's long-term strategic investment plan, outlining how the government will invest in the country's infrastructure and development.

The revision to the NDP was published on 22nd July 2025 and sets out a review of infrastructure strategy and planned government expenditure for capital projects over the next 10 years. The key change in the recent revision focuses on the increased budget, which adds around €34 billion to existing State investment plans between the years 2026 and 2030. This is a sizeable increase, as total spending over the period comes to just over €102 billion.

Accompanying the investment uplift, reforms have also been introduced to accelerate project delivery, including fast-track planning processes for major national projects and a simplification of the approval process for social and affordable housing.



Capital Expenditure since 2021

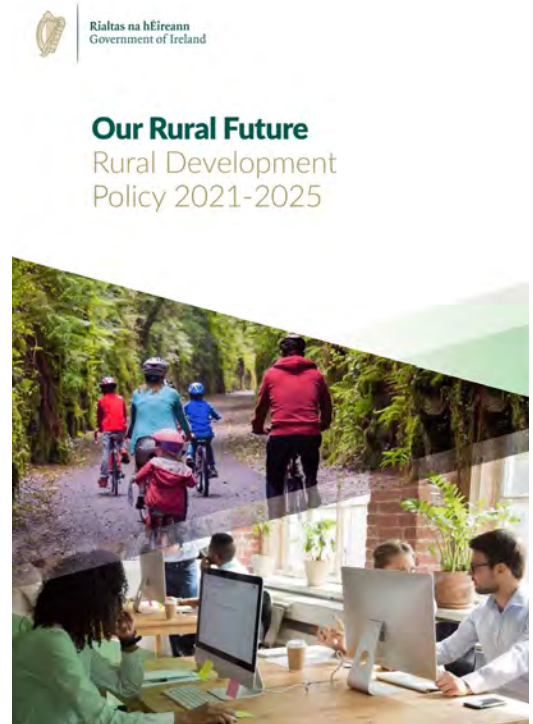
This increased level of funding with the 2025 NDP Review can be considered in the context of capital infrastructure investment since the 2021 NDP Review.

Since 2021, capital expenditure has increased by 63.2%, a total of €6.11 billion (€9.67 billion in 2021 to €15.78 billion in 2025). This is an average 12.6% increase in capital expenditure per annum over the 5 years and increases the proportional share of capital of total expenditure from 11.1% in 2021 to 14.9% in 2025. In comparison, current expenditure increased by 16.6% from 2021 to 2025.

1.3.4 Our Rural Future - Rural Development Policy 2021- 2025

Our Rural Future represents the Irish Governments vision for rural Ireland over the period 2021 – 2025 and emphasises key themes through which rural sustainability can be achieved. These themes include:

- Optimising Digital Connectivity
- Supporting Employment and Careers in Rural Areas
- Revitalising Rural Towns and Villages
- Enhancing participation, leadership and resilience in rural communities
- Enhancing public services in rural areas
- Transitioning to a climate neutral society
- Supporting the sustainability of agriculture, the marine and forestry



1.3.5 Town Centre First Policy 2022

The Town Centre First Policy is a joint strategy by the Department of Rural and Community Development, in collaboration with the Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage. It provides the strategic framework for the regeneration of town centres across Ireland, placing towns like Kanturk at the heart of national efforts to revitalise rural communities. This policy marks a significant shift toward locally-led, place-based development, empowering towns to shape their own futures through collaborative planning and targeted investment.

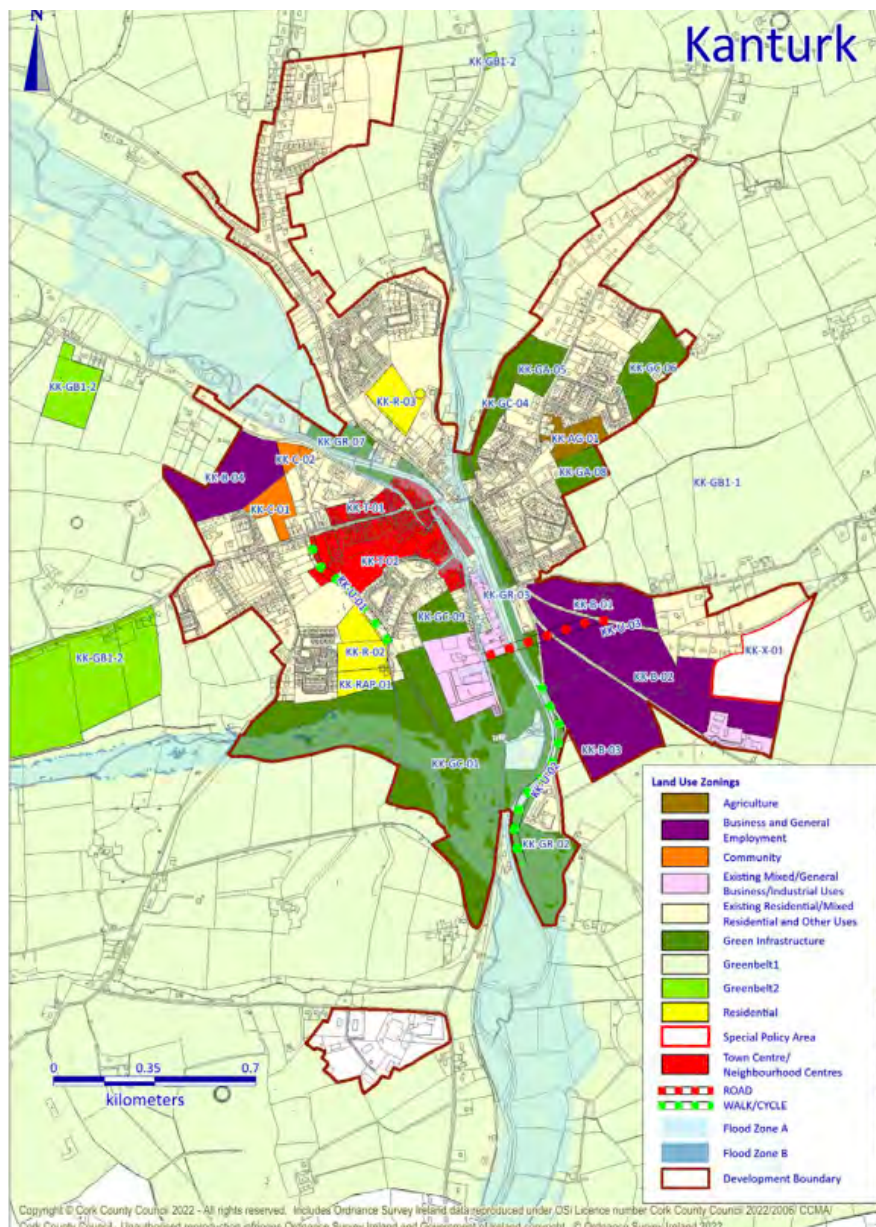
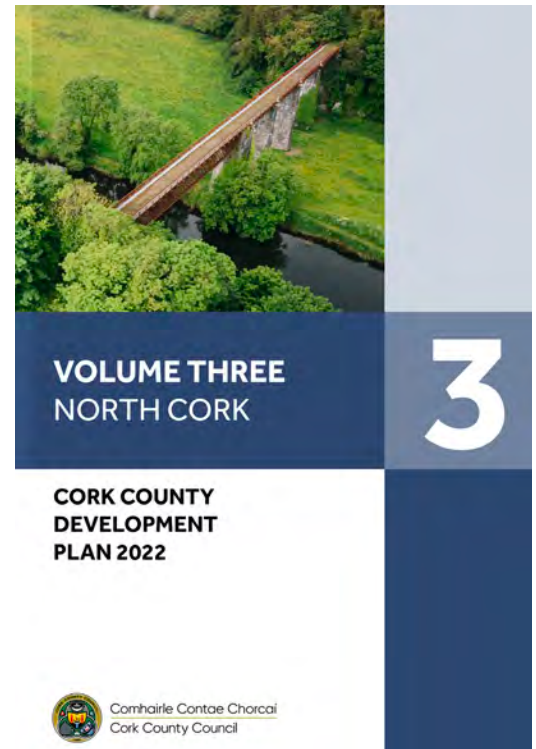
The policy also provides a governance and delivery structure, including the appointment of Town Regeneration Officers and the development of Town Teams, which are essential for coordinating and implementing plans like that of Kanturk. In essence, the Town Centre First Policy 2022 offers both the guidance and the tools needed to understand Kanturk, to define Kanturk and to enable the Kanturk community to document its vision for Kanturk and the mechanisms for achieving that vision and forestry



1.3.6 Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028

The Vision for Kanturk as set out in the Cork County Development Plan (CDP) 2022-2028 is to develop the role of Kanturk as an important centre whilst establishing strong links with Millstreet and Newmarket to form a strategic growth and development focus for North-West Cork.

There are 3 key regeneration sites identified within Kanturk Town Centre and a range of specific objectives for Kanturk covering areas such as residential development, green infrastructure development and town centre uses. Appropriate land-use is a key focus.



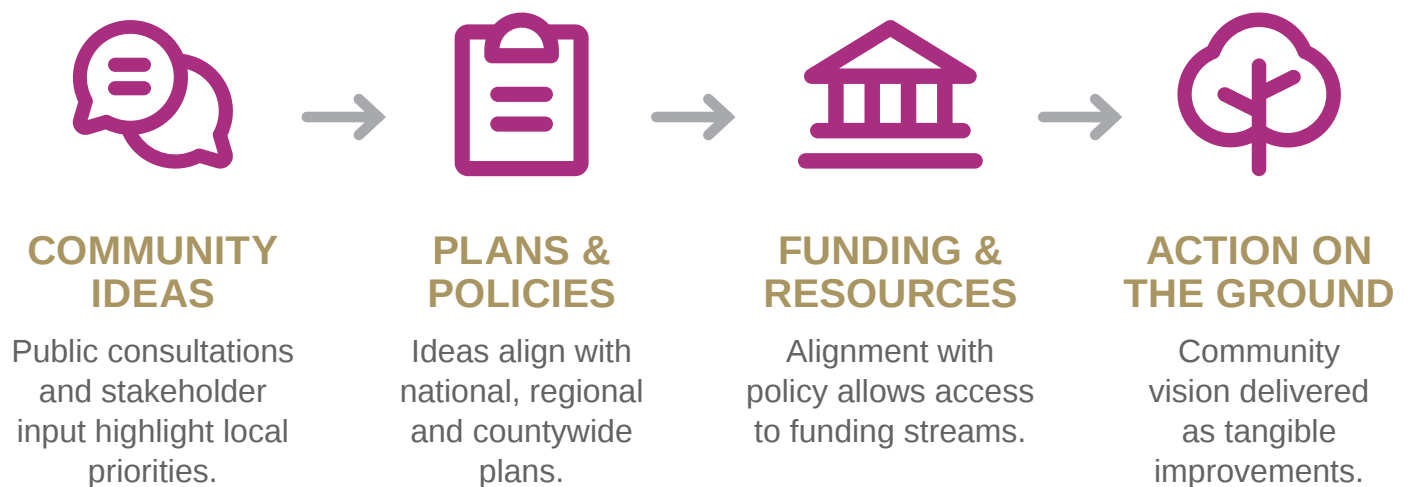
1.4 Linking national, regional and local plans and policies with a community-centric vision for Kanturk

High level themes such as appropriate land use, sustainable travel, compact growth, population growth, enterprise and employment development, and decarbonisation all feature strongly in the national, regional and local plans and policies referenced here.

In Kanturk, these themes have emerged organically through the various public consultations and stakeholder engagements and are often expressed by the community in more tangible and practical language. For example, traffic and congestion, better public transport, less vacancy and dereliction.

Chapters 3 and 4 focus in on these themes as they relate to Kanturk, indicating a clear alignment between what is expressed in national policies and plans and what has been expressed by the Kanturk community throughout this plan development process.

What is of particular importance is that this alignment between the Kanturk community vision, and the national and countywide plans and policies is utilised to leverage associated funding sources and ensure that the vision for Kanturk translates to tangible and visible progress in the town.





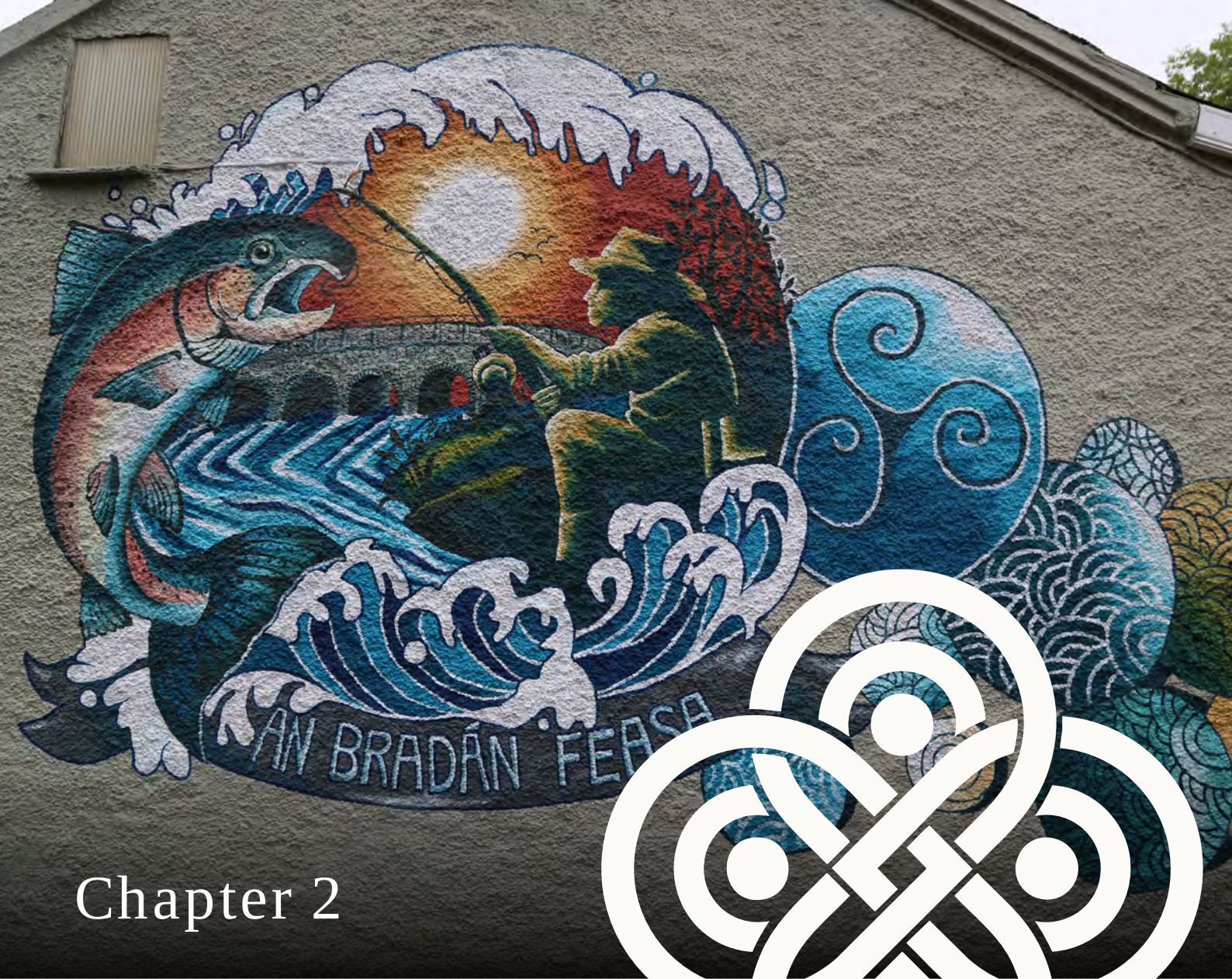
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Chapter 2

Consultation, Communication,
& Baseline Analysis



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Cork County Council

Photo by: Sheila Fitzgerald

2. Consultation, Communication, & Baseline Analysis

2.1 Town Centre First – A policy that promotes collaboration

As referenced in Chapter 1, the national Town Centre First policy advocates strongly for a structured, collaborative approach to the development of plans and vision statements for our town and village centres.



- At a county level, this structured approach includes the provision by the local authority, in this case Cork County Council, of dedicated resourcing as follows:
- A dedicated Town Regeneration Office/Officer to aid in co-ordinating and promoting the implementation of the Town Centre First Policy across Cork County Council
- Town Regeneration Office resourcing to conduct town and village- focused research and analysis
- Whole-of-organisation awareness of the importance of town and village focussed project planning and programming
- Corporate readiness to proactively seek out appropriate funding sources for town and village regeneration
- Organisational capacity to bring projects and plans through statutory consents, detailed design and implementation
- Ongoing engagement with external community, social inclusion, environmental and economic stakeholder groups through a broad spectrum of fora including the LCDCs, PPN, SPCs, LECP Advisory Group, Statutory Council Meetings and Committees, Local Community Safety Partnership
- Documented hierarchy of countywide and local plans including the County Development Plan 2022 – 2028, the Local Economic and Community Plan, Cork County Council Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029, Skibbereen Town Centre First Regeneration Plan, Macroom Heritage-Led Regeneration Plan, Passage West Heritage-led Regeneration Plan
- Ongoing communication and engagement with the elected members of Cork County Council and Oireachtas members
- Convening of Cork County Council Town Teams for 5 designated Town Centre First settlements where the Council is in receipt of specific funding streams (Skibbereen, Kanturk, Macroom, Bantry, Mitchelstown).

2.2 Approach to consultation and engagement

In the course of the development of a Town Centre First Regeneration Plan for Kanturk, a strong emphasis was placed on identification of ‘subject matter experts’. This includes staff within Cork County Council who are key sources of information, and experience, on matters related to Kanturk town – for example, infrastructural capacity in terms of water and wastewater, flood mapping, housing development, planning policy, transport/mobility and amenity provision.

It also includes elected members of Cork County Council within the Kanturk Mallow Municipal Districts and members of the Oireachtas who have an in-depth knowledge of the social and community fabric of Kanturk and who through their engagements with both their constituents and Council staff, understand both the challenges and opportunities for Kanturk town.

Within Kanturk, key stakeholder groups drawn from social, environmental and business representative groups, advocacy groups and the Local Development Company are also viewed as subject matter experts on Kanturk and on the shared objectives that will help to make Kanturk a better place to work, to live and to visit.

Externally, at a national level, guidance on best practice in town centre regeneration from the national Town Centre First Office within the LGMA and from the Department of Rural, Community Development and the Gaeltacht (DRCD) is factored into the plan development methodology and is a welcome steer in terms of best practice and data analysis.

Finally, the Kanturk community, both as a collective and as individuals that contribute to its fabric, are central to the development of a sustainable and shared for the future of Kanturk.



2.3 Specific measures undertaken - convening the Kanturk Town Team

The Town Centre First Policy advocates strongly for the convening of a Town Team to work directly with the local authority on shaping the future vision for Kanturk. The purpose of convening a Town Centre First Town Team, is to engage the wider community in working with the local authority and the elected members of Council in the development of plans that support shared objectives, with a particular focus on the town-centre.

Members of town teams are generally drawn from local residents, local development companies, chambers of commerce / business associations, community councils, tidy towns groups, community groups, elected representatives and other local advocacy groups at the discretion of the local authority.

Cork County Council worked closely with the local elected members of the Kanturk Mallow Municipal District (KMMD) to consider the unique requirements of the town and establish a Town Team that is fully representative of the Kanturk community and can continue to serve as a conduit between the Council and the wider Kanturk community, beyond the plan development phase and into the plan implementation stages.

This is considered critical to supporting collaboration and success that extends further than the lifetime of the plan and ensures that delivery and implementation of the plan is a 'whole of community' responsibility.

Sector/Role	Town Team Member
Retail/Business	Desmond Daly Kanturk Chamber Working Group Michael Twohig (Twohig's Supervalu) Mairead Duane (Duane's Pharmacy) Cathal Burke (Burkes Hardware) Pat Fitzpatrick (Fitzpatrick's Tarmac)
Community/Education	Noreen Barry Eileen Linehan (IRD Duhallow)
Tidy Towns/Environment	Eddie Walsh
Culture/Heritage	Lisa Egan
Sport/Tourism	Paul Aherne
Kanturk Mallow MD Elected Members	Cllr. Aileen Browne Cllr. Ian Doyle Cllr. Pat Hayes Cllr. Tony O' Shea Cllr. Liam Madden Cllr. Bernard Moynihan Cllr. Gearoid Murphy Cllr. Trish Murphy Cllr. Ronan Sheehan

Alongside the members listed above, the required Municipal District and Town Regeneration Office staff attend the Town Team meetings that are convened through to the plan implementation stage.



Picture taken at the Public Information Evening on 30th May at Temperance Hall Kanturk for the Kanturk Town First Plan. Photo by Sean Jefferies Photography.

2.4 Key Communication and Consultation Milestones

Outside of the core Town Team membership, the project team consulted across a wide range of internal and external stakeholders, and data sets, to ensure that a holistic overview of Kanturk town was developed.

These core communication and consultation milestones continued throughout the 4 distinct plan development stages envisaged by the National Town Centre First Plan Development Manual.

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
Collaboration and Communication	Understanding the Place	Defining the Place	Enabling the Place



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council

KANTURK TOWN CENTRE FIRST REGENERATION PLAN

INFORMATION EVENING

TEMPERANCE HALL, STRAND ST

THURSDAY 30TH OF MAY

FROM 3.00PM TO 7.00PM (DROP IN EVENT)

**PUBLIC INVITED TO ATTEND INFORMATION EVENT FOR
KANTURK TOWN CENTRE FIRST REGENERATION PLAN**

Enquiries to: townregenerationoffice@corkcoco.ie



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Collaboration and Communication Timeline

Timing	Initiative / Event	Engagement
March 2024	Press release marking the allocation of Town Centre First Plan Development Funding to Kanturk	Local and Regional Print Media in County Cork
April 2024	Briefing to KMMD Public meeting	Briefing to 9 KMMD Elected members
May 2024	Kanturk TCF - public information evening	40+ attendees
June 2024	Post-event media review and indication of next steps for community survey	10 key issues documented through conversation with attendees and via suggestion forms.
June 2024	Survey publication in Kanturk Library and online via www.corkcoco.ie	Online and hard copy options made available
July 2024	Review and collation of survey responses	302 survey respondents
August 2024	Stakeholder Engagement Meeting with Kanturk Courthouse Committee	8 members of Kanturk Courthouse Committee in attendance with Town Regeneration Staff.
September 2024	Development of dedicated 'Gov Delivery' platform for Kanturk TCF engagement	177 subscribers
October 2024 - December 2025	Desktop and Baseline Data Review	Review of all national, regional and local policies, plans, funding streams and available data sets relevant to Kanturk.
January 2025	Digital Blueprint for Kanturk – Peer Review	39 attendees
February - March 2025	Internal CCC Stakeholder Engagement incorporating SWOT analysis	All CCC Directorates.
April 2025	Vacancy and Dereliction Drop-In Day (Kanturk Library)	18 in-person queries
May 2025	Progress Update to the KMMD elected members	Briefing to 9 KMMD Elected members
May 2025	Town Team Convened	16 Town Team Members
June 2025	Update to all stakeholders issued via Gov Delivery platform	Issued to 177 subscribers
July 2025	Town Team Meeting	9 Town Team Members in attendance
August - September 2025	Summarising of key themes and potential initiatives for Kanturk	All CCC Directorates
December 2025	Town Team Meeting	13 Town Team Members in attendance
February 2026	Town Team Meeting	10 Town Team members in attendance.

2.5 Summary of Baseline Analysis

2.5.1 Digital Blueprint (Full report included as an appendix)

As part of the National Town Centre First Programme, the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht (DRC DG) commissioned Dublin City University (DCU) Business School to undertake a study of Kanturk in relation to improving digital competitiveness, e-commerce, and e-tourism. This study comprised a detailed analysis of digital competitiveness in business, public services, education, civil society and tourism.

The analysis report, attached to this plan as an appendix, aids in understanding where improvements can be made in terms of Kanturk's



Digital town readiness index with weightings

	Sun-dimension			Dimension	Readiness Score			Readiness
Digital Town Dimension	Score (out of 5)	W1 Weighting	W1 Weighted Score	Score	W2 Dimension Weighting	Weighted Score	out of	Score Contribution By Each Dimension
Infrastructure for Connectivity								
Fixed broadband	4.5	35%	1.58	4	20%	0.8	1	16
Mobile broadband	3.9	35%	1.37					
Competition	4.9	10%	0.49					
Free Public WiFi	2.8	10%	0.28					
Digital rural hubs	2.8	10%	0.28					
Digital Business								
Website Technology Intensity Score	0.5	33%	0.17	0.7	20%	0.1	1	2.9
Digital technology take-up	0.7	33%	0.23					
eCommerce take-up	1	33%	0.33					
Digital Public Services								
e-Health	1.6	67%	1.07	1.4	5%	0.1	0.25	1.4
Open data	1	33%	0.33					
Digital Education								
Digital skills courses for young people	2	25%	0.5	1.8	5%	0.1	0.25	1.8
Vocational and further education digital skills courses	1.7	25%	0.43					
Digital skills courses for seniors	1.7	25%	0.43					
Other digital skills courses	1.7	25%	0.43					
Digital Civil Society								
Website Technology Intensity Score	2.9	33%	0.97	2.2	10%	0.2	0.5	4.5
Digital technology take-up	2.8	33%	0.93					
eCommerce take-up	1	33%	0.33					
Digital Tourism								
Digital readiness of Tourism Businesses	2.4	60%	1.44	2	10%	0.2	0.5	4
Smart Tourism & Digital Infrastructure	0.9	20%						
Tourism destination website and maturity	1.8	20%	0.36					
Governance of DT Initiatives								
Horizontal integration	1.9	75%	1.43	2.7	30%	0.8	1.5	16.1
Vertical integration	5	25%	1.25					
					100%	2.3	5	
						46.5	46.5	

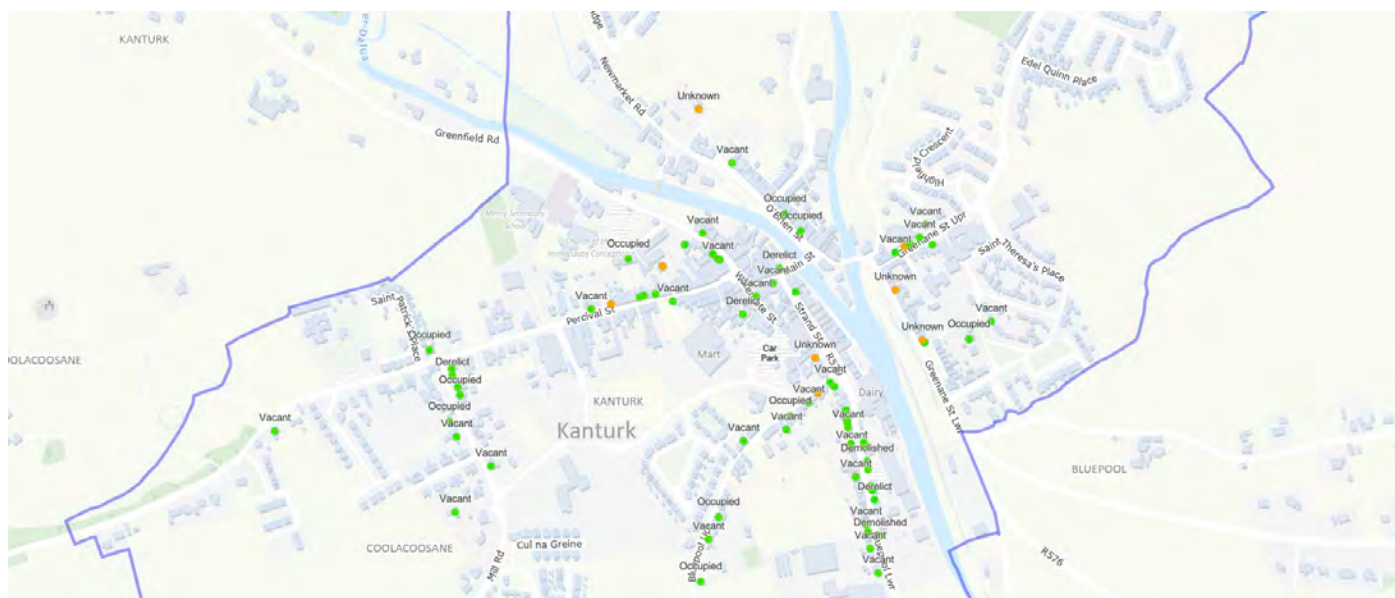
overall digital readiness and can offer ideas for improving the digital offering in Kanturk to enhance local economic, social and community development. This report is to be made available to the newly re-convened Kanturk Chamber of Commerce as a tool for them in examining the opportunities presented by greater digital competitiveness.

2.5.2 Vacancy Survey Data

As well as responding to Kanturk Mallow Municipal District staff, the general public and elected representatives on reports of vacant and derelict buildings, Cork County Council collaborates with the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage (DHLGH) to utilise its GIS-based Vacancy and Dereliction application to manage the local approach to addressing vacancy and dereliction in Kanturk.

The objectives of this approach include the following:

- To verify actual vacancy against reported vacancy (and update records and mapping accordingly)
- To capture data on the reasons for vacancy, record owner engagement and identify solutions
- To identify dereliction, map it and arrange for technical inspection to facilitate action under the Derelict Sites Act
- To adopt a uniform and consistent approach countywide using this dataset as an annual work programme
- To aid the DHLGH in monitoring activity levels, progress, and target-setting



Screen Grab from GeoDirectory-based Vacancy Survey in Kanturk.

Under its Residential Vacancy Survey, and forming part of the data analysis for the Kanturk Town Centre First Plan, Cork County Council has surveyed 98 properties in Kanturk town that were identified as potentially vacant. These surveys require a minimum of one site visit per property by the Council's technical surveyor to determine and verify actual vacancy. Once determined, the next step is to identify owners and verify the ownership status before engaging with owners, where appropriate, to implement measures to stimulate property activation. After this initial vacancy assessment exercise 56 of these properties were confirmed to be vacant. These are located within the town centre and within a 1km radius of the town. The remaining properties assessed were either found to be under renovation, recently occupied or were confirmed to be in use by owners for purposes other than residential use, (e.g. storage.)

Determining the exact number of confirmed vacant properties in Kanturk and understanding their ownership provides us with a dataset that can now inform our work programme to tackle vacancy and dereliction in Kanturk town, and a means of measuring progress.

Engagement with the owners of the 56 properties confirmed to be vacant in Kanturk town has already commenced by identifying the owners of vacant and derelict properties, and depending on the individual circumstances, engaging with them in one or more of the contexts listed below:

- Encouraging owners to avail of the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant (Croí Cónaithe)
- Promoting Conservation / Heritage advice and supports
- Facilitating Pre-planning and Full Planning Application Processes
- Progressing Planning Exemptions (such as those for conversion from commercial to residential)
- Where owners don't themselves have the means to re-activate properties, encouraging them to bring their property to market.
- Liaising with Cork County Council's Housing Department to identify properties where a negotiated acquisition can be advanced if the property is suitable for Social Housing Provision
- Derelict Sites Act 1990

2.5.3 Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant (Croí Cónaithe)

The Croí Cónaithe Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant (VPRG) is a payment that property owners can avail of if they are turning a vacant house or building into a permanent home or a rental property.

This grant is an effective means of bringing long-term vacant and derelict properties back into use as homes. From the commencement of the scheme in late 2022 to the end of Q3 2025, a total of 1,300 applications for assistance under the scheme were received by Cork County Council with 1,001 approvals to October 2025. Approximately €15million has been paid out to property owners by Cork County Council to support the re-use of vacant properties using this scheme. These figures represent a significant number of vacant and derelict properties that are now being renovated and re-occupied as homes, bringing families and individuals back into the heart of our communities.

Analysis of the Cork County Council figures shows that up to October 2025, 17 properties in Kanturk have been approved for the VPRG out of 24 applications. It should be noted that the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant uptake in County Cork is the second highest in the country and the Council has been actively promoting it and resourcing it as an efficient and effective means of town regeneration.

Vacant Above the Shop Grant

The Vacant Above the Shop Grant is a financial support scheme, available through Cork County Council, designed to encourage the conversion of vacant spaces above commercial premises into homes. Funding includes up to €95,000 for the creation of one unit, up to €115,000 for two units and up to €135,000 for three units.

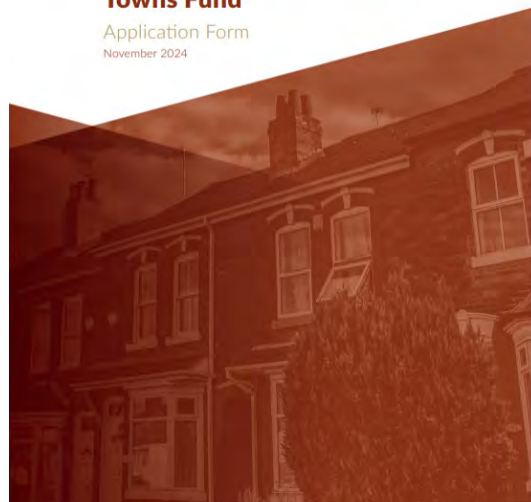
Applicants may also apply for an expert advice grant which has a maximum value of €5,000.

This grant applies to properties that have a vacant or occupied commercial element, and scope for conversion to residential overhead or behind the shop.



Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant Croí Cónaithe Towns Fund

Application Form
November 2024



2.5.4 Planning Exemption Uptake

In addition to this particular grant, owners of certain commercial properties who wish to convert the property to residential use can avail of planning exemptions under S.I. No. 75 of 2022 (Planning and Development Act). Under these regulations, property owners can convert certain vacant commercial buildings to residential use without needing full planning permission.

Over the course of 2023 and 2024, owners of 40 properties in Cork County have availed of this exemption and analysis of these figures show that 3 of these exemptions relate to properties in Kanturk town.

Owing to the success of the 21 vacancy and dereliction 'drop-in' days held by Cork County Council in 2025, it is intended to build further upon this initiative for Kanturk and other towns to again sign-post property owners to the many available supports and incentives.

The majority of Kanturk Town Centre is a designated Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) given the prevalence of vernacular building stock, and there are 32 buildings / structures entered into the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) including Kanturk Bridge and Kanturk Castle. Kanturk also contains a number of archaeological monuments reflecting the historical significance of the area. There are a number of National Funding Streams available to support the conservation of historic structures which are generally accessed through the Councils Conservation Officers, subject to eligibility.

Irish Independent  News Opinion Business Sport Life Style Ent

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News Sport Business Lifestyle Local Notes

Vacancy and regeneration drop-in days at Cork County Council libraries

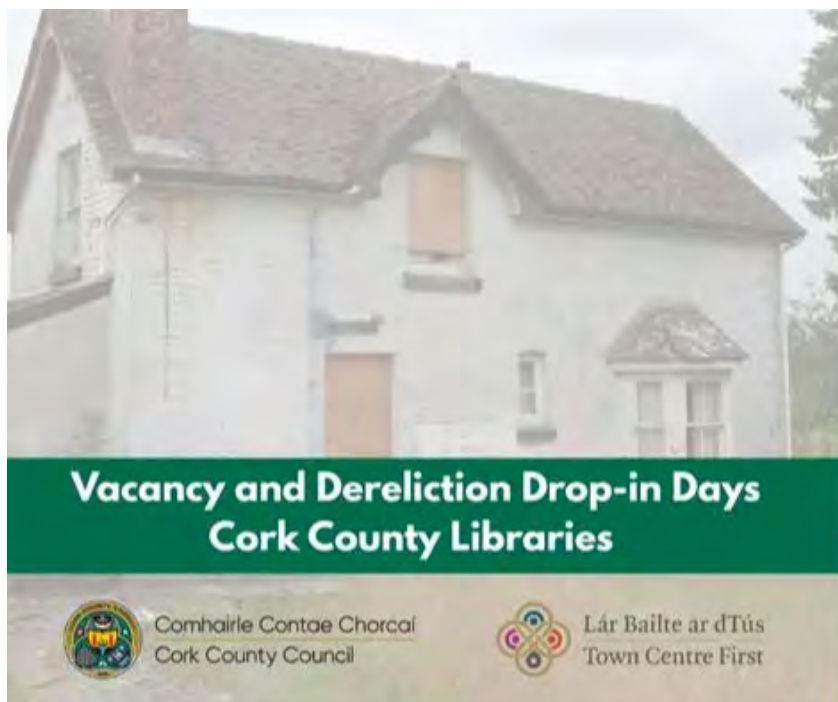


Stock picture of a derelict property

John Bohane

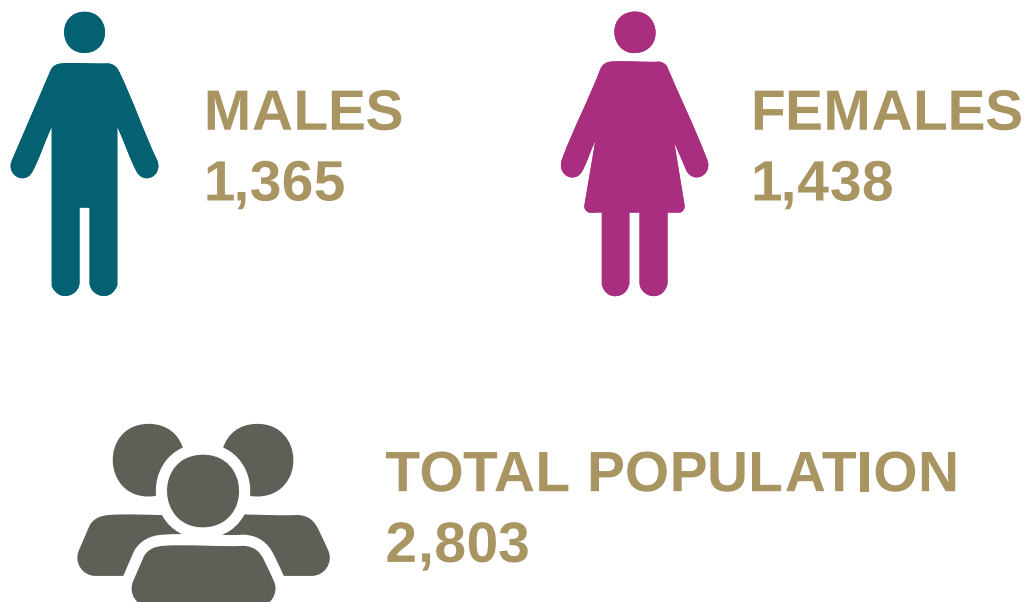
Corkman

Thu 3 Apr 2025 at 10:00



2.5.5 Census of Population 2022

The 2022 Census recorded a population of 2,803, representing a growth of 453 persons since the 2016 Census. Kanturk was one of two towns in County Cork recording the highest birth rates among its population, at 11.1 per 1,000 people.



The Central Statistics Office website www.cso.ie is a hugely useful repository of detailed information, tables and graphs covering the following key aspects of the Kanturk demographic:

- Sex, Age and Marital Status
- Migration, Ethnicity and Religion
- Irish language
- Families
- Private Households
- Housing
- Volunteers
- Principal Status
- Social Class and Socio-Economic Group
- Education
- Commuting
- Disability, Carers and General Health
- Occupations
- Industries
- Motor Car Availability and Internet Access

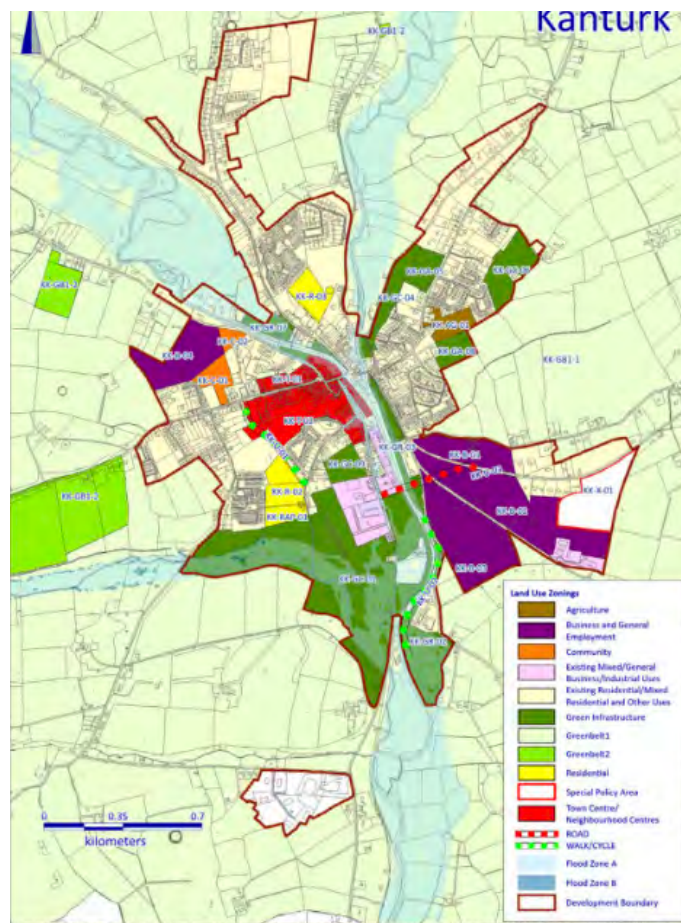
Given the volume of information available for each of the above categories, the detail has been included as an appendix to this plan.

2.6 Analysis undertaken in the course of the preparation of Cork County Development Plan 2022 – 2028

Kanturk is described as a busy market town serving a wide agricultural hinterland as an important rural, residential, and service centre. The development of new housing, retail, employment, and community uses aims to meet housing needs and combat vacancy through compact growth, support and foster existing and emerging businesses, and provide a range of services within the town centre.

Connectivity

National and regional road networks connect Kanturk to its surroundings, with regular bus service by Bus Éireann. The town does experience congestion issues at peak times, pointing to the necessity of the construction of a new river crossing as a long-term, strategic objective. The closest rail station is located in Banteer, just a ten-minute drive away, serviced by the Mallow to Tralee line. Pedestrian access around town is generally good, but there is still a need to make the town centre more accessible and inviting outside of the car.



2.6.1 Regeneration areas

The CDP identifies three Regeneration Areas within Kanturk. These are:

KK-RA-01: Mart Site and Adjoining Lands

KK-RA-02: Riverside Location on Main Street

KK-RA-03: Riverside adjacent to Egmont House

Proposals for these sites should prioritize maintaining residential land use within the town centre to tackle vacancy and dereliction, an important component of Town Centre First.

KK-RA-01: Mart Site and Adjoining Lands

Centrally located in Kanturk Town Centre, the primary current landuse is a livestock mart with potential consideration for phased redevelopment.

The land is well suited for a range of town centre uses, such as a primary healthcare centre or residential development. A strong and well-connected public realm, with new public space should be central to proposals for the site.



KK-RA-02: Riverside Location on Main Street

Formerly the site of the public library, the prominent riverside location is a key opportunity for the sensitive reuse or demolition of existing buildings, and the potential for new residential and retail uses, with all necessary considerations of the Architectural Conservation Area it is within.



KK-RA-03: Riverside Riverside where Greenane St. Lower meets O' Brien St.

Located where Greenane St Lower meets with O' Brien Street and in between two Architectural Conservation Areas, this is a prominent site that can balance heritage with modern needs, with residential or other uses considered in its redevelopment.



2.6.2 Social and Community Infrastructure

Public realm and Built environment

Kanturk has the qualities typical of Irish towns: attractive buildings, traditional urban fabric, and strong built heritage. The majority of the town centre is part of an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) and emblematic protected structures include the Kanturk Bridge and Kanturk Castle. The public realm has its challenges, but also has strong potential for enhancement. Placemaking interventions have the potential to serve as low-cost measures that create a more vibrant and welcoming environment for residents and visitors alike.

Kanturk retains the fine qualities of traditional urban fabric, attractive buildings, and strong heritage and plays an important role in supporting its agricultural hinterland. The River Dalua is a key amenity feature running through the town and further development should seek to maximise its aspect onto the river in a sensitive manner. Key challenges outlined in the CDP include how to deal with through-traffic and a degraded public realm, economic pressures, and maintaining the social infrastructure in a sustainable way.

Kanturk has great potential for enhancement of its public realm but reaching this is problematic due to its high vacancy rate, disrepair of privately-owned buildings and dominance of cars, which poses problems for development of the pedestrian environment. Addressing these issues would boost the overall appearance of the town and create a safer pedestrian environment.

Rivers and natural amenities

Kanturk is closely tied to its rivers, parks, and scenic landscapes. It is located at the convergence of the Allow and Dalua Rivers and is part of the Blackwater Special Area of Conservation. Kanturk contains important habitat for protected species, such as the freshwater pearl. The town has a strong network of linear parks along its rivers, used for recreation, biodiversity, and as necessary floodplains. These connections can be enhanced to foster an ecologically conscious and attractive town centre. Effective and sustainable water management is essential for Kanturk, which includes drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater management, particularly with the Southern part of the town located within a floodplain. The scenic quality of the natural landscape, strong natural heritage, and surrounding agricultural lands are key strength in the natural amenities of Kanturk.

Social and Community Facilities

Kanturk has two secondary schools and one national school. The town has a Garda Station, new fire station and a hospital. A new library was opened in Market Square in March 2022 and this caters for cultural, social inclusion activities and arts. Provision of further community childcare facilities with close synergy to the schools has been identified as being necessary in the 2022 CDP.

As the population grows these facilities may require expansion and the provision of a Primary Healthcare Centre is also required. Fixed line broadband is available throughout the town centre as part of the Metropolitan Area Network initiative and a civic amenity site is located at Greenane.

Additional community facilities include: Edel Quinn Hall and Temperance Hall- two primary buildings available for public use.

Green Infrastructure & Recreation

The town accommodates a GAA ground, a soccer pitch and an all-weather astroturf sports pitch at Greenane Upper. There is a golf course and rugby ground located in the rural area near the town.

Jacko's Loop- 5km pedestrian walkway linking Kanturk Castle from the town centre - opened in September 2022.

2.6.3 Economy, employment and housing

The 2022 Census recorded a population of 2803, representing a growth of 453 persons since the 2016 Census. The CDP includes the aim of achieving a target population of 2,937 persons by 2028. This would require an additional 224 housing units in the town.

Kanturk serves as an important service centre for its rural hinterland where employment is mainly concentrated in the retail, service, food manufacturing and educational sectors. There is some additional employment associated with the dairying sector located 1km south of the town at Dromalour.

The current CDP makes provision for 35 hectares of land for business use. The primary business zonings are located to the southeast of the town. A small part of the KK-B-01 site has been developed by the IDA but the remainder of these lands are undeveloped. Additional lands have been zoned for business on a site to the north of the town centre where a new link road / relief road could connect Percival Street to the Greenfield Rd.

It is a key priority of the CDP to support existing employment in the town and facilitate new business/employment uses. There exists an opportunity to enhance the overall tourism offering of the town and this could serve to support economic growth and employment opportunities.

2.6.4 Town Centre and Retail

Kanturk town centre is focused on Strand St, Main St and Percival St on the western side of the River Dalua, with some additional development on the southern ends of Church St. and O'Brien St.

There is a diverse retail offering with retail functions supported by cafes and restaurants with some cultural, religious and civic uses. The retail core of the town is the KK-T-01 lands.

Convenience shopping is provided by the Supervalu store on Strand St., Aldi on Percival St. and Lidl store at Bluepool to the south of the town centre. There is also a range of shops offering clothing, footwear, hardware and electrical goods and services.

There are several vacant shop premises within the town centre which could cater for new retail uses. A town centre health check in 2019 identified a commercial vacancy rate of 18 % within the town core. Percival St. was noted for its high vacancy rates. Since that time, some of the vacant commercial premises have been successfully converted for residential occupancy.

The CDP identifies an area for town centre activities which is capable of accommodating some retail expansion in the future, including the adjoining built up area.

The Kanturk Livestock Mart, zoned for town centre use since the 2005 LAP, remains one of the best available sites for town centre expansion given its central location and should be developed in a cohesive manner.

Flood risk is a key consideration, particularly for the area alongside the river which holds potential for attractive developments overlooking the water and for the provision of new civic spaces and access to the waterfront.

Movement and Connectivity

The Kanturk Link Road, Officially opened in November 2021, is a recently completed RRDF project, which includes 450 m of carriageway, footpaths, cycle tracks, pedestrian crossing, surface water drainage, public lighting and ducting. It connects Bluepool Upper and Mill Road and improves connectivity and access to the town centre and the new School on Mill Rd.

Traffic congestion/management is problematic at peak times at certain junctions. The construction of a new river crossing could alleviate this issue and provide a new route for trucks and larger commercial vehicles. No funding has yet been made available to complete this work at the time of the publication of this plan.

There is a Railway Station nearby at Banteer, which is served by the Tralee/Mallow/Cork/ Dublin Route. Bus Eireann provides regular public transport access throughout the day. An enhanced Public Service Obligation bus service from Cork to Newmarket, which serves Kanturk, was introduced during 2025.

2.6.5 Uisce Eireann Capacity

Kanturk's Drinking Water status under Cork County Council Water Capacity Status is Green (has capacity). Drinking water is abstracted from a spring source as part of a supply scheme that serves the town of Newmarket.

Kanturk's Wastewater Status under Cork County Council Wastewater Status - 2022 CDP status was Amber (some capacity available). Capacity was predicted to be exceeded in 2024, which may hinder development in Kanturk due to inadequate capacity. An upgrade is planned for the Waste Water Treatment Plant, and the Uisce Éireann Capacity Register indicates a current project completion year of post-2025. It is Cork County Council's understanding that the project is at preliminary report stage.

A recent Uisce Éireann projects saw the replacement of 5km of water mains with modern pipework in Paal East, Kanturk.

The Blackwater River is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and habitat for a number of protected species, including the Freshwater Pearl Mussel and Salmon. Ensuring the protection of water quality and possible ecological impacts from additional WWTP discharges is an important consideration.

Wastewater infrastructure must be capable of treating any discharges to ensure that water quality in the receiving water does not fall below legally required levels.

2.6.6 Flooding

Surface water management plays an important role in terms of managing flood risk.

Parts of Kanturk have been identified as being at risk of flooding. These areas follow the path of the Allow, Dalua and Brogreen Rivers through the town and its hinterlands. This includes parts of the built-up area including the town centre lands alongside the river path and particularly the flood plain to the south of the town.

Kanturk Flood Relief Scheme (Future Scheme) - proposed measures consist of provision of a storage area in the Dalua River upstream of the town along with fluvial Flood Defences on the Dalua and Allow rivers comprising of walls and embankments along with storm water pump stations.

The approach to Flood Risk Management is set out in Chapter 11 Water Management in Volume One of the Cork County Development Plan and in the updated Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA), October 2021.



Lár Bailte ar dTús
Town Centre First



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council



Lár Bailte ar dTús
Town Centre First



Chapter 3

Survey Analysis & Insights



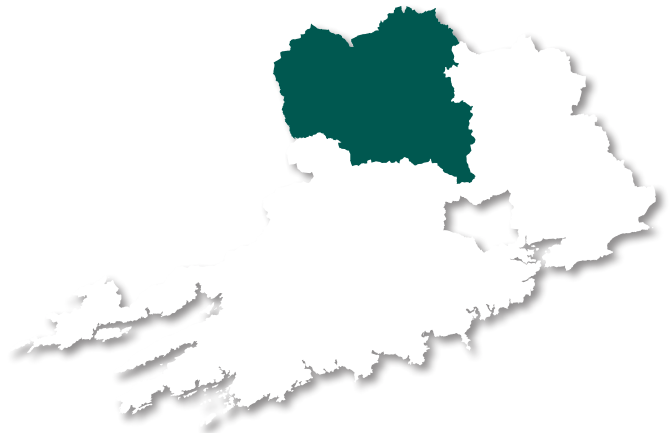
Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council

Photo by: Sheila Fitzgerald

3. Survey Analysis & Insights

3.1 Introduction and Survey Participants

As part of the plan development process for Kanturk, a survey was carried out by Cork County Council to gain insights and feedback from the community on what residents, visitors and business owners think and feel about their town. This report contains an analysis of this survey, which has helped to steer the plan development process for Kanturk and inform the priorities set out within the plan. This survey is considered a key part of the collaboration between all stakeholders as it offers opportunity for all to put forward ideas, suggestions and opinions on their vision for Kanturk town.



The survey was open to respondents for a period of 5 weeks from June 24th to July 31st 2024, and was made available online and in hard copy at Kanturk Library.

Kanturk has a population of 2803 residents (2022 census), and there was a total of 302 survey respondents.

About the Survey Participants

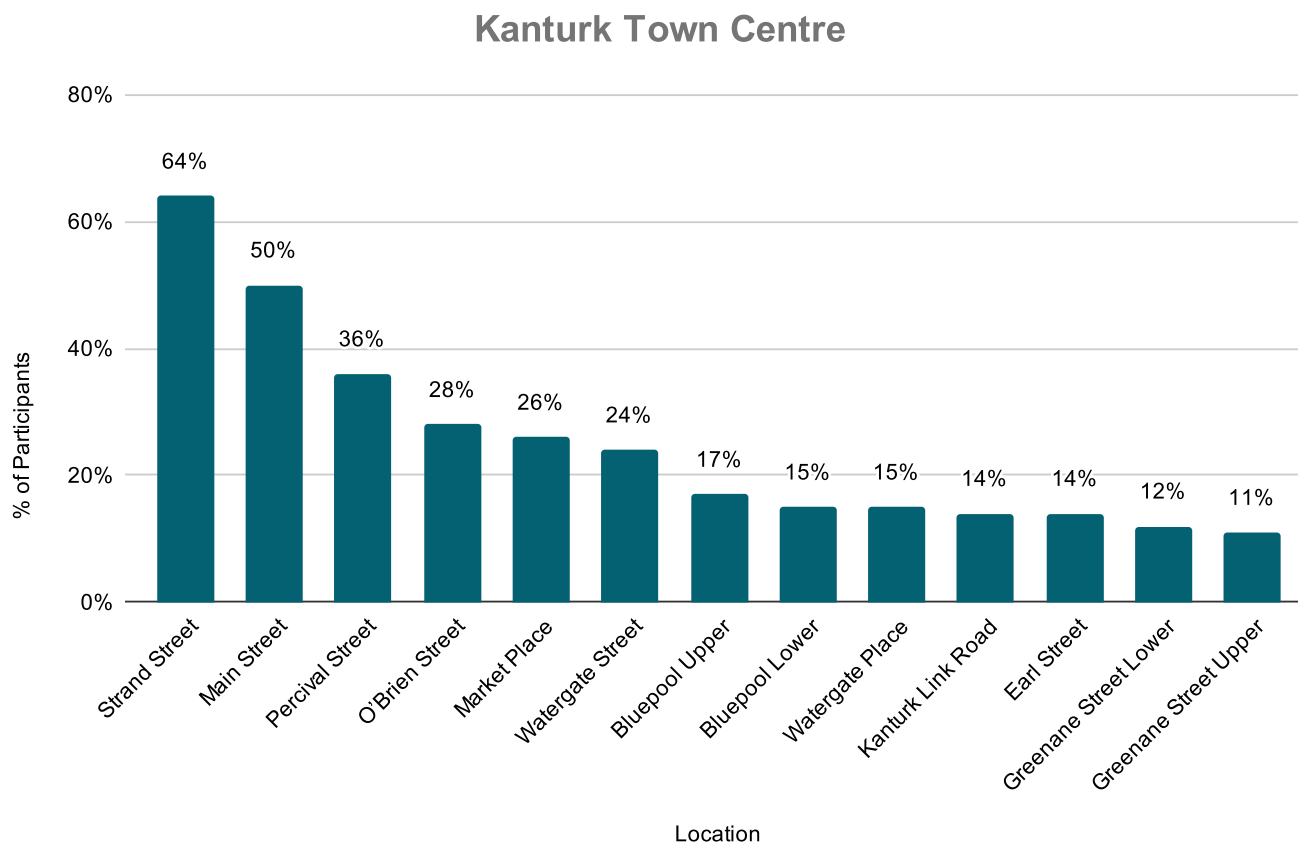
- There were 302 survey participants, with over half of participants in the 36-to-55 age group.
- The majority of participants live in or near Kanturk town.
- Almost half of survey participants are members of sports or community/volunteer groups.
- The most common types of groups that survey participants are members of are sports, business, education and community groups
- Among the specific groups mentioned were sports organisations (GAA, soccer, rugby, cycling, basketball, LGFA, athletics, pickleball, golf), Tidy Towns, Community Council, Kanturk Courthouse Committee, Book Clubs, Men's Shed, Active Retirement, Astro Community Group, Flower Groups, Scouts, Charity organisations and Arts & Heritage groups.
- The majority of participants are concerned or very concerned about climate change.
- A large majority of participants feel that environmentally sustainable initiatives and projects are important

A screenshot of the 'Town Centre First Survey - Kanturk' form. The header features a colorful illustration of a town street scene. The text explains the survey's purpose under the Town Centre First Policy initiative, aimed at developing a regeneration plan for Kanturk. It mentions that funding has been made available to Cork County Council for this purpose. The form asks for participants' thoughts and views on the town's opportunities and challenges. It states that participation will help inform the development of the Kanturk Town Regeneration Plan. A thank you message follows, noting the survey is expected to take no more than 10 minutes. The form includes several sections with radio button options: 'How old are you?' with categories 17 or Younger, 36 to 55, over 75, 18 to 35, and 56 to 75; 'Do you live in, work in or visit Kanturk?' with options 'I live in the town', 'I live near the town', 'I own a business in the town', 'I am a visitor to the town', and 'I work in the town'; 'Are you a member of a club, sports organisation or other community / volunteer group?' with 'Yes' and 'No' options; 'How concerned would you say you are about climate change?' with 'Very Concerned', 'Concerned', and 'Not Concerned' options; and 'How important are environmentally sustainable initiatives and projects to you?' with 'Very important', 'important', and 'Not important' options. There is also a section for listing relevant groups if the respondent is a member of one.

3.2 Survey Participants' views on Kanturk

Participants' views of Kanturk Town Centre

- Strand Street, Main Street, Percival Street, O' Brien Street, Market Place and Watergate Street are the main areas participants view as the Town Centre



Strand Street

How participants get to and around Kanturk

- The majority of participants travel to town by car.
- Better footpaths, more crossing points, additional traffic controls, increased bus services, better street lighting and the introduction of cycle paths were identified as the most common factors that might improve travelling to town for participants who travel to town on foot, by bike or by bus.
- More frequent and accessible public transport – chiefly local bus services, the introduction of cycle lanes, improvements to footpaths, and the implementation of traffic controls and other safety measures were the most common measures suggested by participants to encourage non-car modes of transport.
- The majority of participants park on Strand St.
- The majority of participants get around Kanturk Town Centre on foot.
- More pedestrian crossings, improved footpaths, traffic reduction (especially HGVs) and traffic management measures were some of the suggestions made by participants to improve moving around Kanturk Town Centre.
- The majority of participants park on Strand St.
- The majority of participants get around Kanturk Town Centre on foot.
- More pedestrian crossings, improved footpaths, traffic reduction (especially HGVs) and traffic management measures were some of the suggestions made by participants to improve moving around Kanturk Town Centre.



Strand Street

The new footpath from the cross outside the castle is really good. If it was possible to have a safe path around Jacko's loop it might bring more people into town to go for a walk and then shop in the town centre.

It is easy to walk around the centre but I think a more reliable and regular public transport system is very needed.

The foot paths on the mainstreet bridge are too narrow and there are WAY too many arctic trucks going through the town.

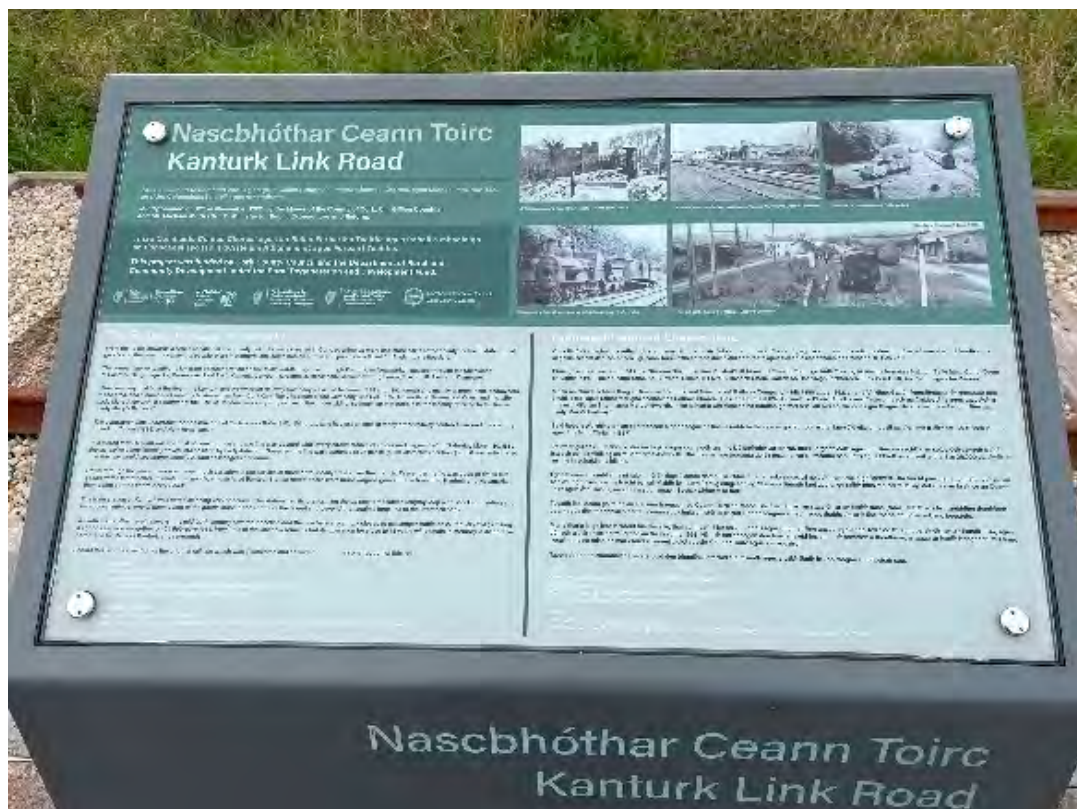


Photo by: Cork County Council

Rating the choice of retail and social outlets in Kanturk

- The majority of participants currently use the town for Shopping, and Bar & Restaurants; however, the town is being used for a wide range of uses.
- The majority of participants have a favourable opinion of the choice of retail and social outlets in Kanturk, with 59% choosing Good or Excellent.

The main reasons given by participants who answered Excellent was the choice of outlets (particularly retail).

It is possible to get most things in the town, it has a big range of shops and restaurants.

Participants who answered Good noted that there is a good choice of retail outlets; however social outlets are lacking.

Good choices for retail especially with 3 major supermarkets. Leisure/entertainment is very poor. Nothing available for younger people except pubs.

The main reasons given by participants who answered Satisfactory was the lack of choice of outlets (particularly social).

Kanturk has a lot to offer but has the potential to have more. Kanturk has a lack of leisure activities.

Participants who answered Poor noted that there is lack of both retail and social outlets

I'd love to shop more in Kanturk but there's not enough variety and it's costly in clothes shops. I find myself leaving town to shop, get the same stuff cheaper elsewhere

Rating the choice of public services in Kanturk

- The most common reason provided by participants who gave a rating of Excellent, Good or Satisfactory for their positive rating was the presence of Kanturk Town Library. The Civic Amenity Site was also noted by a number of participants for their favourable rating.
- Inadequate public transport and healthcare facilities were the main reasons offered by participants choosing the rating of Poor and were also the most common reasons why participants choosing Satisfactory or Good did not rate the choice of public services higher.

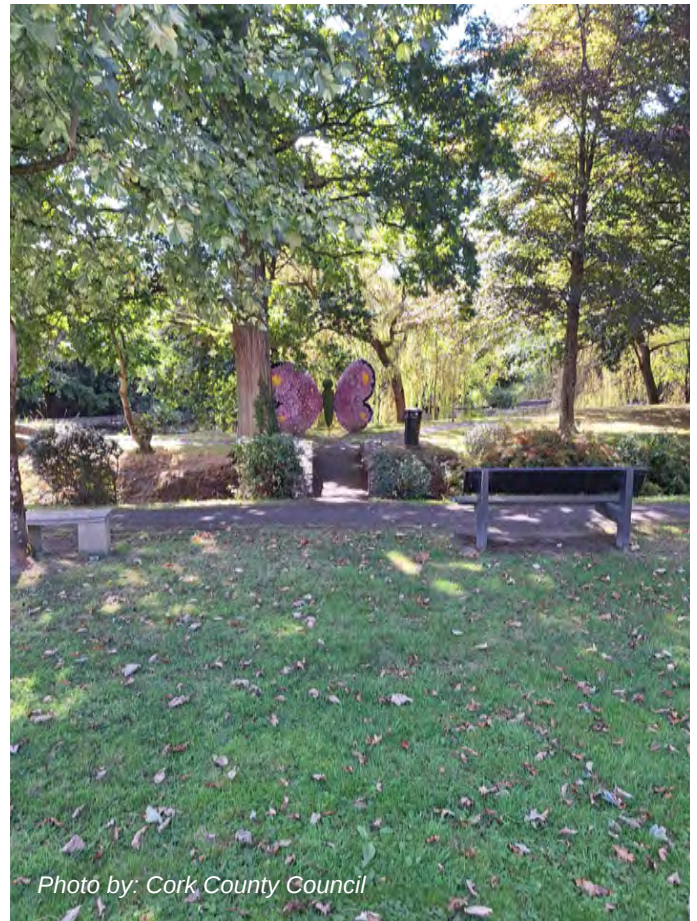


Participants' favourite things about Kanturk town

- The sense of community (the people, community spirit, friendliness, pride in the town) is the most common response of participants' regarding their favourite thing about Kanturk town
- The town's three parks were also mentioned as many participants' favourite thing about Kanturk
- The location and variety of services in the town
- The river was another common response

It has a good community spirit (especially the Tidy Towns Committee) and it is in a great location right in the centre of Munster.

Kanturk is a pretty and friendly town with 3 beautiful parks within the town. Also 2 rivers meeting in the middle of the town...not too many towns in Ireland with two rivers.



I love Kanturk with a passion, the people are friendly, our parks are the envy of Duhallow and further afield - the businesses of Kanturk have a genuine connection with their customers - people look out for one another - Kanturk is a fantastic place to live.

There's great options for retail and local cafes, you can pick up most things that you might need or make use of many services locally which is great for a town of this size.

Participants' least favourite things about Kanturk?

- Dereliction/Vacancy
- Traffic congestion – including HGVs driving through the town
- Lack of social/cultural events
- Littering / anti-social behaviour
- Lack of parking
- Lack of facilities
- Lack of public transport / taxis
- Lack of accommodation
- Inadequate footpaths / pedestrian crossings / cycle lanes

The traffic and safe place to walk or cycle with family and friends-greenway would be a fantastic asset for health and well-being of people in Kanturk and surrounding areas of Duhallow, Cork and beyond.



Photo by: Cork County Council

The fear that our youth do not have adequate entertainment, and the danger of anti-social behaviour because of boredom.

Retail closes too early (no cafes after 5; two restaurants after 6pm)... And NO hotels for visitors.

Some shopfronts are very tacky and run down. Amenities for teens, somewhere they can socialise after 6pm to stay out of pubs.

Poor connectivity, for example, average bus service during the week, 1 bus on a Saturday and none whatsoever on a Sunday to either Mallow or Cork.

Some of the buildings could do with a lick of paint. Especially up the older streets, makes the town look a bit rough. Especially stands out beside the new road and school.

Traffic at the junction of strand street to main street and trying to get out over the bridge.

There has been no town plan or proposal to modernise the town centre. Several prominent buildings are derelict and these buildings are in prime locations.

Dereliction. Although this changing all the time with houses getting sold and bought and done up.

Sports club and community groups are not aligned on plans, there has been multiple missed opportunities to create a sports, social and activity hub near the town centre which would increase football and community facilities.

What do participants think Kanturk's greatest assets or strengths are?

- Parks/Walkways
- Amenities/Facilities
- Community Spirit / People
- Historic features, e.g. Castle, Edel Quinn Hall
- Size/location of the town
- River
- Schools
- Sports/Leisure/cultural activities
- Choice of supermarkets
- Tidy Towns/Volunteers



What do participants think Kanturk's greatest challenges or weaknesses are?

- Dereliction/vacancy
- Traffic congestion
- Lack of community activities
- Public transport
- Parking
- Lack of facilities/amenities
- Lack of housing/tourist accommodation
- Lack of enterprise/jobs
- Tourist attractions need improvement
- Lack of hotel and cinema
- Road improvements/traffic management

What do participants believe would make Kanturk a better place to live, visit or work?

- Less dereliction
- More facilities/amenities (especially social and leisure facilities)
- Traffic measures (e.g. traffic management; restrictions on HGVs through the town; second bridge, bypass)
- A more aesthetically-pleasing town centre
- Better Car Parking
- More Cultural/Community events
- Better use of tourist attractions
- Better public transport
- More enterprise/businesses

Improve infrastructure, make pedestrian crossing safe, encourage cafe / restaurants to open daily and for longer hours

Better parking, less traffic congestion, traffic lights to help with traffic flow, new bridge to divert heavy traffic away from the main areas of the town and a public swimming pool with gym facilities.

Making more of Kanturk Castle e.g. hosting summer events there.

A general tidy up of old and derelict buildings, better transport links and some more amenities like modern restaurants and bars and small boutiques.

Safety in parks during the day, evenings with additional lighting, additional monitoring of rubbish, toilets and parks.

A walk way along the river banks to connect our 3 parks. Open up the visibility and access to the river to improve the towns aesthetic appeal.



Photo by: Sheila Fitzgerald

Good & Longer walking/running links or routes light up for evenings and weekends. Open up old railway line to castle and link with existing path at castle. This would benefit all ages and people working and living in town and bring people from surrounding area into town.

Renovating the town center to make it welcoming and a place where people can socialize, congregate and enjoy without having to dodge scores of cars, trucks and through-traffic.

While I am all for active travel schemes and reducing cars from town centre area, the reality is that people still require cars to get around. Free parking on the outskirts of the town might promote more people to park and walk into the town centre as opposed to driving in and parking illegally for a short period.

Less derelict buildings. A central area to the town. Adding more flowers, mini gardens etc. to the already great displays they have.

More leisure activities especially for younger people.

Some paint and a few flower boxes. Upkeep of parks and walkways. Derelict buildings, although a country wide issue.

A relief bridge near the North Cork Creameries to facilitate trucks

Make more use of town park build a sustainable work hub with zero imitations! Develop community gardens etc. hold renewable energy courses!

More aesthetically pleasing, another cafe or evening restaurant as the population increases, more options of socialising for teens/young adults that doesn't involve alcohol, a public gym/ potential pool, cycling facilities, increase in public transport, coworking spaces.

More places for our kids to hangout in besides the park and the street, getting into trouble. Also, more bins around the street with free poo bags and with more people with dogs in the town.

3.3 Highlights and Key Recommendations

The majority of participants taking part in the survey are aged between 18 and 75 years old, with over half of participants in the 36-55 age-group.

The majority of participants live in the Town Centre.

Respondents on the whole are concerned about climate change and would like to see environmentally sustainable initiatives and projects in the town.

Participants in general are reliant on cars to travel to town, with many participants saying that improvement to the bus service, upgrading footpaths, and adding cycle lanes and walkways/greenways may encourage them to use other forms of transport. Respondents who travel to town on foot, by bike or by bus mentioned the same measures as potentially improving travelling to town for them.

The majority of participants currently use the town for Shopping, and Bar & Restaurants; however significant percentages of respondents also use the town for Leisure & Entertainment, Healthcare and Public Services.

A favourable opinion of the choice of retail outlets in Kanturk is prevalent; however, a significant proportion of participants expressed the desire to see a greater range of social and leisure facilities in the town.

The majority of participants are satisfied with the rate of Public Services in Kanturk, and are particularly appreciative of the town library and the Civic Amenity Site. Respondents cited public transport and healthcare facilities as two areas that were inadequately provided for. The sense of community, the parks and river, and the range of services in the town are among participants' favourite things about Kanturk. These were also seen as Kanturk's greatest assets, along with the historic features and the size/location of the town.

Among the greatest challenges to the town, participants included dereliction/vacancy; traffic congestion; a lack of community activities; inadequate public transport; insufficient parking spaces; lack of facilities/amenities; and underdeveloped tourism opportunities due to lack of tourist accommodation and tourism attractions in need of improvement.

Addressing dereliction in the town centre was proposed as a key solution to issues in the town, as was the introduction of more outlets for social and leisure activities for the community.

Many participants flagged a need for the introduction of a range of traffic measures such as restrictions on HGVs driving through the town, the addition of a link road / bypass, the addition of crossing points.

While the overall response rate was good and the quality of input was excellent, there are opportunities for greater engagement with youth in the town and the student population in particular. There is also scope for greater engagement with the commercial sector in the town. At the time of writing, the Kanturk Chamber of Commerce is reforming and this is a most welcome development.



Chapter 4

Defining Kanturk Analysing Kanturk's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council

Photo by: Sheila Fitzgerald

4. Defining Kanturk

Analysing Kanturk's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats

4.1 SWOT Analysis

SWOT stands for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats. A SWOT analysis is a framework to help assess and understand the internal and external forces that may create opportunities or risks for an entity, organisation or place. The Town Centre First approach advocates for the use of SWOT analysis as a tool in understanding our towns and in identifying solutions for the challenges they face.

Strengths

Strengths may be any number of areas or characteristics where a community or place excels and has an advantage over other towns or communities. Advantages may be more qualitative in nature and therefore difficult to measure (like a great community spirit, strong cultural identity) or they may be more quantitative such as sporting successes, population growth or local jobs created.

Weaknesses

Weaknesses are areas or characteristics where a community or town is at a disadvantage relative to its peers. Like strengths, these can also be more qualitative or quantitative. Examples include geographic location or local unemployment levels.

Opportunities

Opportunities can include inherent community or town features such as landscape or retail offerings that could be developed or external factors such as increased regional tourism that could be diverted / attracted to Kanturk.

Threats

Threats are generally viewed as external or inherent attributes that represent risks to a town and its ability to develop and grow. Examples here might include limitations to essential services such as water supply or to environmental factors such as flood risk .

Questions in the Kanturk Community Survey were designed and phrased to aid participants in thinking about their town in the context of its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. The SWOT analysis summarised here for Kanturk represents the views of the Kanturk community and factual conclusions arising from;

- Public consultations
- Survey responses
- Baseline analysis
- Available data sets, plans and policies

4.2 Kanturk Strengths

4.2.1 History and Heritage

The majority of Kanturk town centre is a designated Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) given the prevalence of vernacular building stock.

32 Buildings/Structures in Kanturk are entered into the Record of Protected Structures (RPS).

Included in the RPS are Kanturk Bridge (Connecting Church St. and Egmont Place) and Kanturk Castle to the south of the town.



Photo collection by: Cork County Council

Kanturk town also contains a number of archaeological monuments reflecting the historical significance of the area. An appraisal of the town's heritage and history shows that there is already great pride and interest within the Kanturk community, in its history and heritage.

This is seen as an attribute to be promoted and supported further by all stakeholders so that Kanturk's identity is preserved for future generations and utilised to attract visitors to the town and to the region.

Monuments, buildings, historic markers



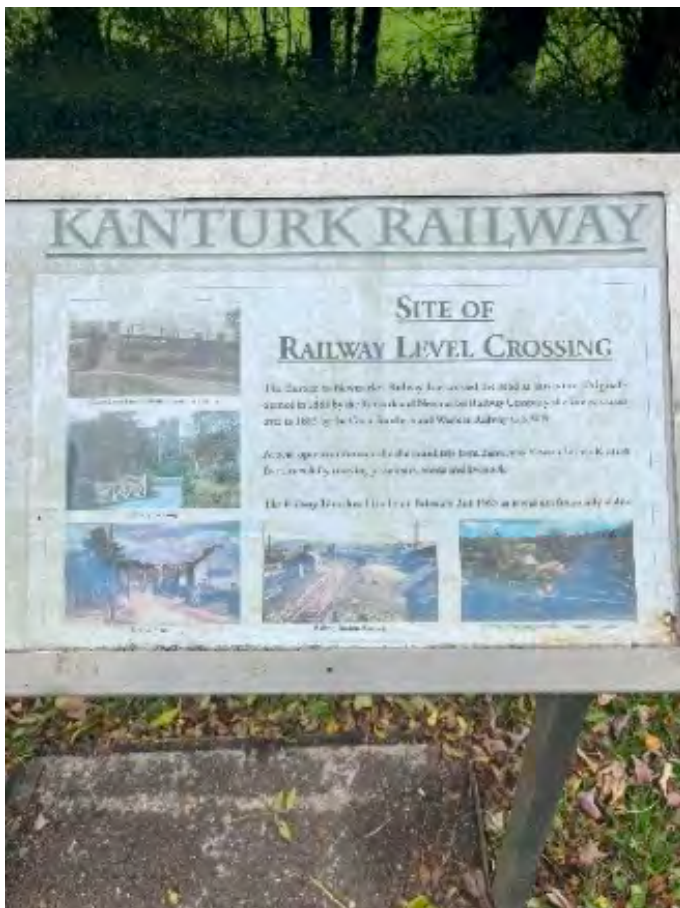


Photo
collection by:
Cork County
Council





Photo collection by: Cork County Council

4.2.2 Compact Town Centre

Kanturk has a compact and walkable town centre. The town is built around the confluence of the Allow and Dalua rivers, giving it a natural focal point. The community survey undertaken as part of the development of this Town Centre First Regeneration Plan for Kanturk found that the size of the town is seen as an asset by locals. It is compact enough to facilitate ease of movement and connectivity between the various services and sectors that visitors and residents access in the town centre.

A compact town centre is also more conducive to a greater sense of safety, security and social inclusion as there is greater opportunity for passive surveillance and community engagement. There may be an opportunity to capitalise on this compact town centre and identify and develop a public focal point for the town to facilitate community gatherings, festivals and events.



Photo collection by: Cork County Council

4.2.3 Riverside amenities

The Allow River is the main spine of the green infrastructure within the town and provides the majority of amenity functions. It is connected from the north and west by the Dalua and the Brogeen Rivers, which play a more passive amenity role and are also important local biodiversity areas.

The Linear park along the Allow and Dalua (including Town Park, O' Brien St. Park, Greenane Park) provides a mix of multifunctional uses for walking, recreation, biodiversity and floodplain. Opportunity exists to enhance connectivity through the town along these blue-green corridors.

Connecting these assets could serve as a singular attraction or amenity in itself that would attract visitors to the town and build upon the towns draw within the region.



Kanturk demonstrates a strong sense of community spirit through a variety of local initiatives, volunteer efforts, and civic engagement. A key example is Kanturk Tidy Towns Group, whose volunteers put in many hours each work to keep the town looking well, and come together to maintain parks, plant flowers, and promote biodiversity. Kanturk Community Council also plays a key role in organising inclusive community events and ensuring the community infrastructure such as the Edel Quinn Hall and the Temperance are maintained for the Kanturk community.

The community survey for Kanturk revealed that the sense of community in Kanturk is among locals' favourite thing about the town. The CSO 2022 data also shows a strong volunteer presence.



Photo collection by: Cork County Council

4.3 Kanturk Weaknesses

4.3.1 Town Centre Vacancy and Dereliction

The prevalence of vacant properties in Kanturk town centre has been identified by both Cork County Council and participants in the community survey as a major problem affecting the town.

Under its Residential Vacancy Survey, Cork County Council has surveyed 98 properties in Kanturk town that were identified as potentially vacant/derelict for the purposes of verifying whether these properties are vacant and/or derelict, and identifying and implementing measures to stimulate property activation. 56 of these properties were found to be vacant and/or derelict. While some of these properties are already in a process of activation either through an application for planning permission, renovation or vacant property refurbishment grant, there is a cohort that do not, at the time of writing have a clear path to occupancy.



A number of the vacant properties in Kanturk town centre have also been identified as derelict by Cork County Council, with further potentially derelict properties subject to investigation by the Council.

As of the end of Q3 2025, 8 properties in Kanturk town centre stood entered on Cork County Council's Derelict Sites Register. Two properties were removed from the Derelict Sites Register in 2025 following completion of works to remove the properties from dereliction. A further two properties were under consideration for addition to the Register, with Notices having issued to the owners by Cork County Council under the Derelict Sites Act 1990.

Opportunities exist to regenerate these properties for the betterment of the social and economic fabric of the town.

4.3.2 Lack of tourist accommodation

Among the challenges to the town identified in the community survey is lack of tourist accommodation. It was noted that there is no hotel in the town. This is seen to contribute to underdeveloped tourism opportunities and it is the contention of many community stakeholders that the presence of tourist accommodation in Kanturk might encourage visitors in the region to consider a stay in Kanturk.

4.3.4 Quality of Public Realm

The County Development Plan highlights dealing with through traffic and a degraded public realm as key challenges for Kanturk. These issues were mirrored in a great many of the responses to the community survey.

According to the CDP, Kanturk has great potential for enhancement of its public realm but reaching this is problematic due to its high vacancy rate, disrepair of buildings and dominance of cars, which poses problems for development of the pedestrian environment. On some streets, the pedestrian environment is problematic, with the town dominated by the private car.

Walk from Town Centre to Kanturk Castle



Photo by: Cork County Council



Photo by: Cork County Council



Photo collection by: Cork County Council

4.4 Opportunities

4.4.1 Expansion of Economic Development and Enterprise

There may be potential for expansion of and for targeted investment in the existing industrial estate / industrial-zoned land in Kanturk.

There may be a greater role for the Local Enterprise Office to promote and encourage uptake of Local Enterprise Office supports to existing business and to potential start-ups in Kanturk town.

4.4.2 Tourism Growth

Opportunity exists to enhance the overall tourism product of the town through protection of its attractive setting, rejuvenation of the town centre, public realm improvements and provision of additional tourism and recreational infrastructure where appropriate. Aside from infrastructural improvements, there is scope also for greater engagement with tourism-focussed agencies and perhaps scope for the Town Team to consider and develop a tourist itinerary for a visitor to Kanturk.

4.4.3 Location of the town in the wider North Cork hinterland

Kanturk is located 20 km NW of Mallow, within the Allow and Dalua river valleys, close to where the tributaries flow into the Blackwater. The Brogeen River to the south of the town forms an attractive broad floodplain.

The Vision for Kanturk as set out in the Cork County Development Plan (CDP) 2022-2028 is to develop the role of Kanturk as an important centre whilst establishing strong links with Millstreet and Newmarket so as to form a strategic growth and development focus for North-West Cork. Recent road network improvements including to the Balymaquirke Junction serve to support this objective

4.4.4 Streetscape Enhancement

Opportunities exist in promoting and encouraging uptake in the Cork County Council Streetscape Enhancement Scheme annually in conjunction with the Tidy Towns, Community Council and Kanturk Chamber to focus on improving traditional shop-front signage, de-cluttering the streetscape and the development of bespoke colour palettes for participating residences and businesses.

4.5 Threats

4.5.1 Town Centre Congestion and HGV Traffic

Congestion and the presence of HGVs on Kanturk's major streets was identified by many respondents to the Kanturk community survey as a significant challenge facing the town. The County Development Plan (CDP) noted that traffic congestion/management is problematic at peak times at certain junctions.

The CDP highlights that pedestrian access around the town could benefit from better connectivity to the pedestrian and cyclist environment, and that there is a need to make the town centre a more accessible and inviting space for pedestrians and address congestion issues.

4.5.2 Uisce Eireann Capacity

According to the County Development Plan, Kanturk's wastewater status in 2022 was Amber (some capacity available). It was believed that capacity was likely to be exceeded in 2024, which may hinder development in Kanturk due to inadequate capacity.

4.5.3 Commercial Vacancy Rates

A Kanturk town centre health check in 2019 identified a commercial vacancy rate of 18% within the town core. Percival St. was noted for its high vacancy rates. More recent data from the GeoDirectory Commercial Buildings Report (Q4 2024) at county level found a commercial vacancy rate of 12.4% for County Cork.

Vacant buildings present opportunities for new commercial, cultural and community uses to establish in the town centre. Where commercial opportunities have ceased to exist, there may be opportunity (subject to consent / planning permission) for conversion to residential accommodation.

4.5.4 Limitations on Town Centre residential development

Kanturk has been allocated a population target of 2,937 in the County Development Plan to 2028, representing growth of approximately 587 people on Census 2016 figures. In order to accommodate this level of population growth, an additional 224 housing units is required for the period 2020-2028.

The County Development Plan takes a departure from a primarily greenfield, edge of town expansion response to housing land supply, in order to reflect the National Planning Framework policy changes in the way we plan and deliver housing across the State. This change of direction has created a new focus on the consolidation of the existing built envelope by the allocation of 30% of the core strategy target to provide a range of house types and sizes within the town centre. If achieved, this results in a reduced need for housing on greenfield sites in the periphery of the town and the associated demands on services and infrastructure.

As part of the Council's commitment to deliver compact growth within the town a new focus is placed on the better utilisation of the existing building stock, prioritisation of brownfield and under-utilised land and identification of regeneration and infill opportunities that can contribute positively to Kanturk's housing stock and 30% target of 67 units.

Activating and regenerating existing vacant and derelict sites within the centre of Kanturk are key to ensuring that this ambition is reached.

Summary Diagram showing SWOT Summary per below

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Challenges
• History and Heritage. • Compact Town Centre. • Riverside Amenity. • Community Spirit.	• Vacancy and Dereliction. • Lack of Tourist Accommodation. • Quality of Public Realm.	• Expansion of Economic Development and Enterprise. • Tourism Growth • Location of town in wider North Cork Hinterland. • Streetscape Enhancement.	• Congestion and HGV Traffic. • Uisce Eireann Capacity. • Commercial Vacancy • Limitations on town centre residential development.



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Chapter 5

Key objectives, potential
funding sources and plan
implementation structures



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Cork County Council

Photo by: Sheila Fitzgerald

5. Key objectives, potential funding sources and plan implementation structures

5.1 Key Themes to Enable Kanturk

Based on the views expressed by all stakeholders and having regard to available data and to relevant plans, policies and guidelines, 7 key themes were identified as being critical to the sustainable development of Kanturk town. These themes are viewed as intrinsic to enabling Kanturk to reach its full potential, economically and socially. Combined, these themes can promote town regeneration and the specific Town Centre First objectives of supporting town centre vibrancy and helping to make Kanturk town a better place to live, to work and to visit.

1



Regeneration / Tackling
Vacancy and Dereliction

2



Promoting Economic
Development and
Enterprise Supports

3



Promoting Local and
Regional Tourism

4



Public Realm
Improvements

5



Critical Infrastructure

6



Social and Community
Infrastructure

7



Mobility and
Connectivity

5.2 Specific Objectives to Enable Kanturk

The 7 themes set out on the preceding page are underpinned by 14 specific actions to be progressed in a collaborative manner between Cork County Council and the Kanturk Town Team. It is these objectives and initiatives that will form the basis for distinct projects and actions to be advanced and implemented for Kanturk.

Theme 1 - Regeneration / Tackling Vacancy and Dereliction

1. Vacancy and Dereliction Action Plan for Kanturk Town Centre

The production of a targeted vacancy and dereliction action plan for Kanturk town centre to identify, in detail, properties that require intervention by Cork County Council, and an ongoing monitoring programme to support activation of those properties, by the following means:

- Direct engagement with owners (where known)
- Pre-planning meetings
- Planning applications
- Planning enforcement proceedings
- Conservation and heritage advice and grants
- Vacant property refurbishment grants
- Vacancy and dereliction drop-in days for property owners
- Action under the Derelict Sites Act 1990
- Action under the Housing Act
- Local enterprise office engagement



2. Streetscape Enhancement Scheme

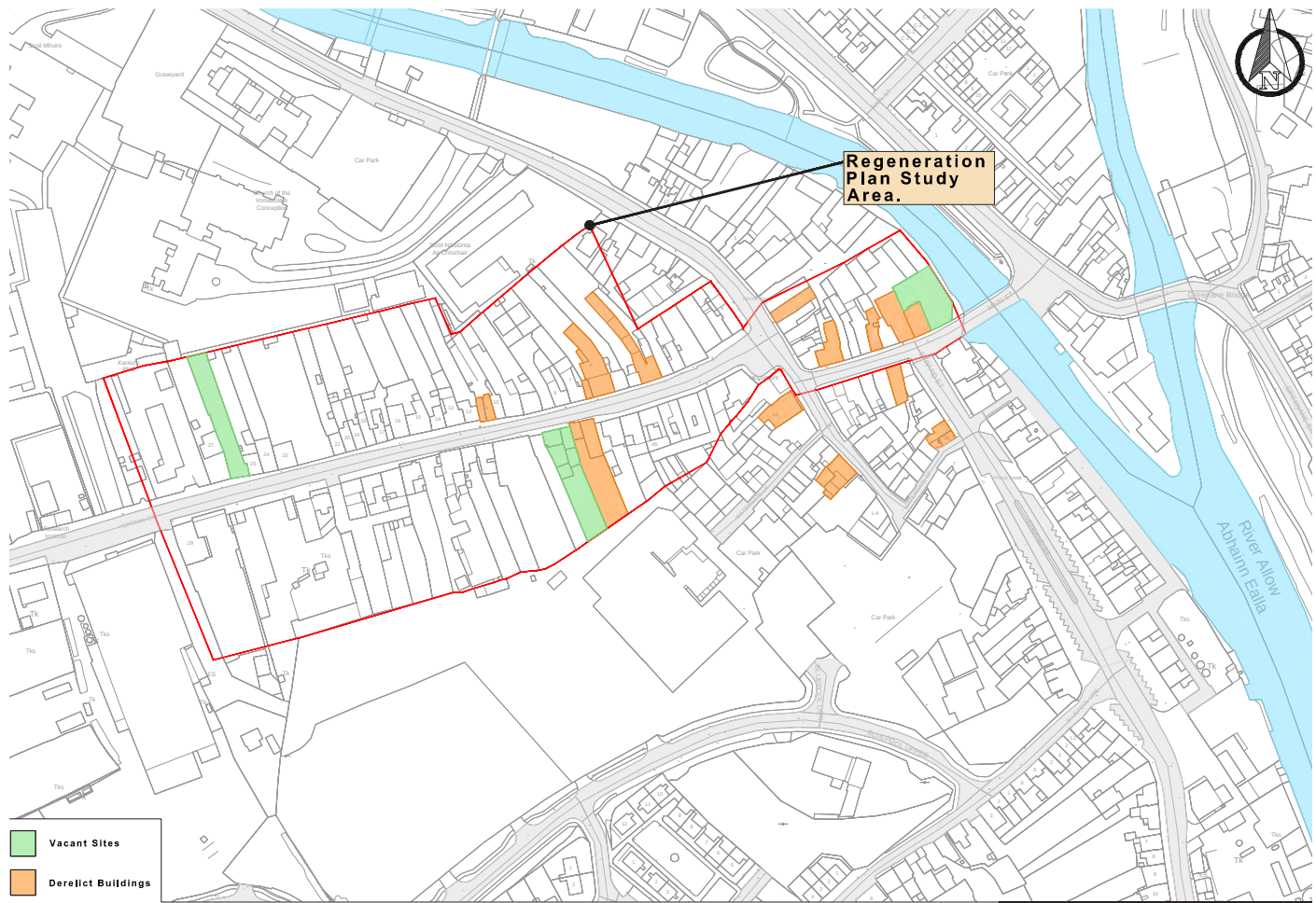
A targeted focus on promoting and encouraging uptake in the CCC Streetscape Enhancement Scheme annually in conjunction with the Tidy Towns, Community Council and Kanturk Chamber to focus on improving traditional shop-front signage, de-cluttering the streetscape and the development of bespoke colour palettes for participating residences and businesses.



Pickled Deli, Macroom benefitted from Streetscape funding

3. Compulsory Acquisition and Regeneration Sites - Activation

- Identification of properties where compulsory acquisition, or negotiated acquisition, is the only likely solution to long-term vacancy and dereliction.
- Development of cost / benefit analyses and robust business cases to support the acquisition of such properties where identified
- Identification of future uses that are compatible with the wider vision for Kanturk town, with the objectives of key policies and plans and with other considerations such as tenure mix and commercial variety





1. **Industrial Estate Sites** - Assessment of existing industrial estate / industrial-zoned land to ascertain scope for expansion and for targeted investment
2. **Local Enterprise Office Promotion** - Focused engagement to promote and encourage uptake of Local Enterprise Office supports to existing business and to potential start-ups in Kanturk town
3. **Enterprise Development** - Advancement of feasibility / market research for the development of a Council-led Enterprise Centre to capitalise on Kanturk's geographic position in North Cork and on the significant commercial and agricultural sectors in its hinterland.

Theme 3 – Promoting Local and Regional Tourism

Destination and Experience Development - Consideration of Kanturk visitor experience to inform the Failte Ireland Destination and Experience Development Plan (DEDP) to include the following:

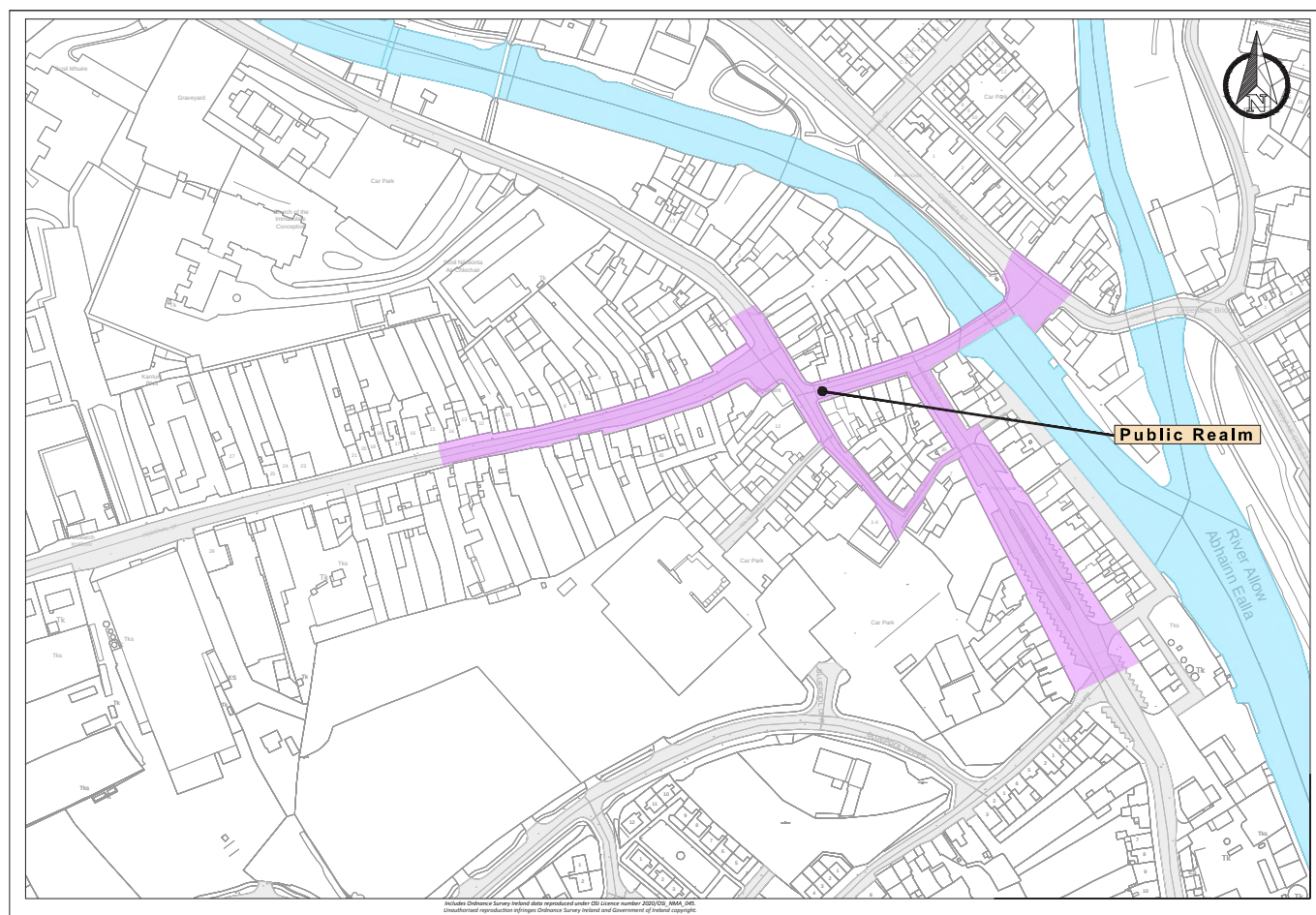
- Inventory of visitor attractions in Kanturk including heritage sites, green infrastructure, hospitality / food producers , accommodation providers
- Development of sample 1 day itinerary for Kanturk
- Analysis of Kanturk Digital Blueprint to action e-promotion of Kanturk
- Linkages with local accommodation providers
- Exploring the potential for a Kanturk to Banteer / Newmarket Greenway / Active Travel Route



Castle and Golf Course

Theme 4 – Public Realm Improvements

Town centre place-making and public realm improvements - place-making, public realm improvements and improved pedestrian connectivity at Strand Street, Main Street, Watergate Street and Percival Street in Kanturk Town Centre.



Theme 5 – Critical infrastructure

Uisce Eireann Service provision - wastewater

- Wastewater Capacity is exceeded in Kanturk and development has been hindered due to inadequate capacity.
- Management of water quality within the Blackwater Catchment is an important issue. The Blackwater River is a SAC and habitat for a number of protected species including the Freshwater Pearl Mussel and Salmon. Ensuring the protection of water quality while managing the development of the town is an important consideration.
- Wastewater infrastructure must be capable of treating any discharges to ensure that water quality in the receiving water does not fall below legally required levels.
- Focussed engagement with Uisce Eireann is required to achieve this objective.



River & Heron

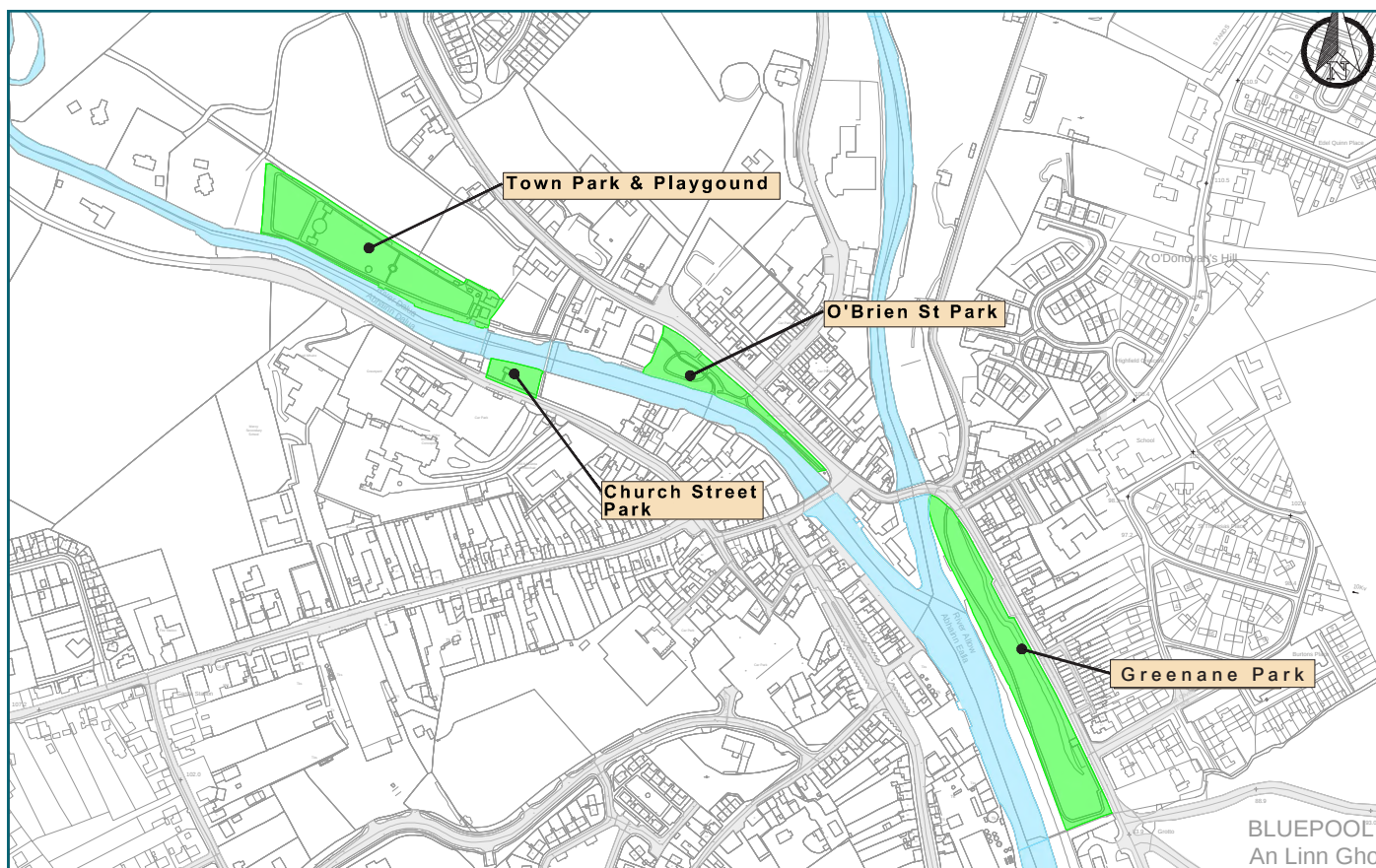
Theme 6 – Social and Community Infrastructure

Enhancement of walkways and parks

- Enhancement and biodiversity improvements to Kanturk Town Urban Green Spaces including the Town Park, O' Brien Street, Greenane Park and Church Street.
- Consideration of the linking of linear parks to develop continuous, way-marked, town-centre greenways.

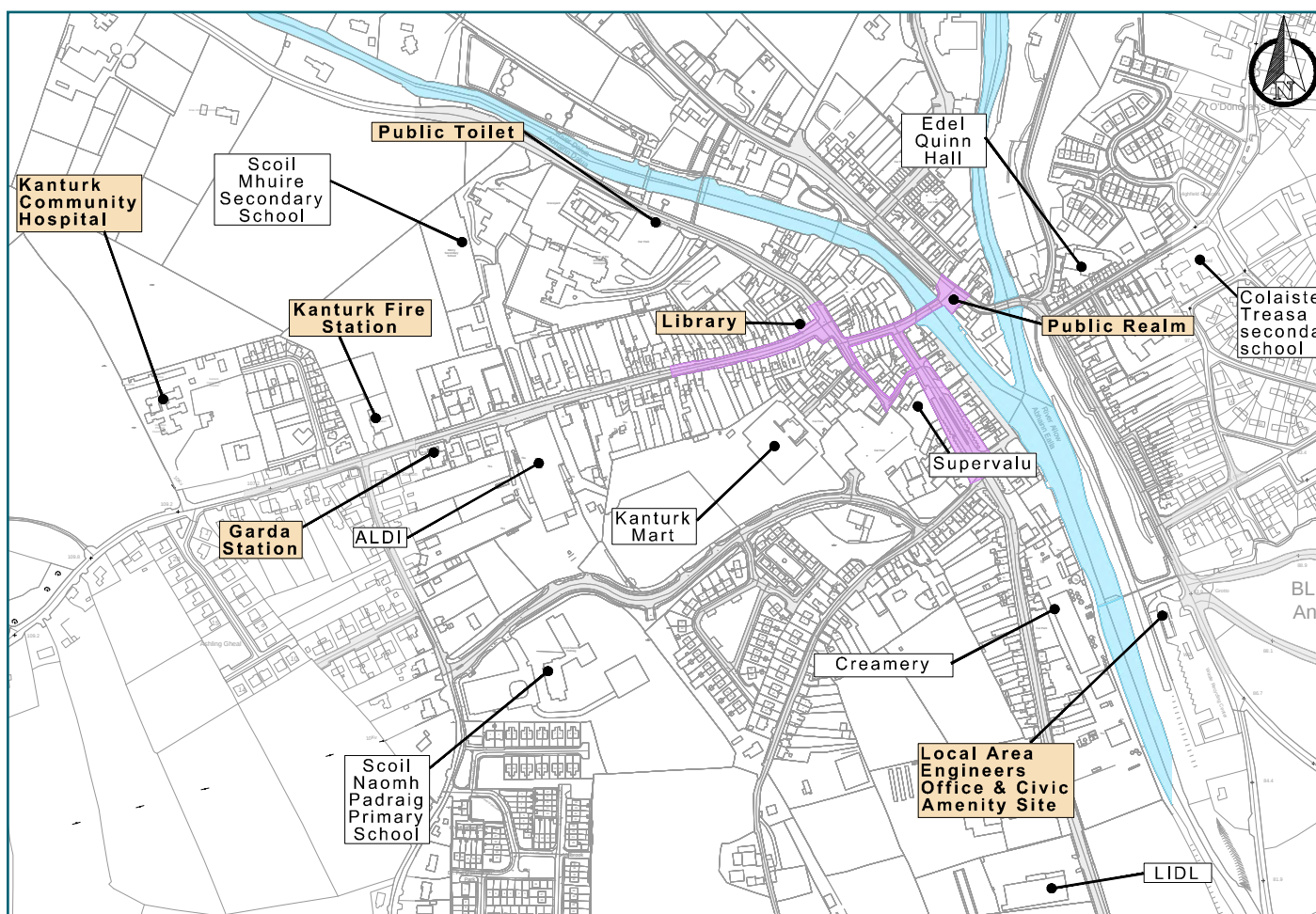


O' Brien St. Park



Modernisation of Community Facilities

- Supporting the ongoing modernisation and decarbonising of community infrastructure including the Edel Quinn Hall and the Temperance Hall.



Theme 7 – Mobility and Connectivity

1. Parking Survey - Completion of a parking survey and associated analysis for Kanturk Town Centre to inform future decision-making around parking provision
2. Safe Routes to Schools - Engagement with key stakeholders to explore opportunities under the 'Safe Routes to Schools' initiatives
3. Signage and Wayfinding - Enhanced signage and way-finding in the town centre and on approaches to the town centre having regard to the following:
 - Relief Road Signage
 - HGV Signage and awareness raising
 - Parking signage
 - Pedestrian way-finding



Photo by: Cork County Council

Way Finding, Bandon



Sustainable Development Goals

5.3 Guiding Principles

For the purpose of clarity and brevity, the specific actions identified above are not prescriptive in terms of reference to strategic objectives such as adherence with the public spending code, code of governance, environmental sustainability, social inclusion, climate action, and equality. However, it is intended that in the course of project development and detailed design, checklists would be utilised by project managers to create awareness of these principles and practices and to promote their consideration in the early stages. (A template checklist is included as an Appendix to this document.)

Aside from national and local guiding principles around corporate governance, value for money and the public spending code, the Sustainable Development Goals established by the United Nations are generally viewed as an important framework against which all 'public good' projects and initiatives should be considered. It is not intended that projects would support all 17 goals, however, it is considered best practice to review project objectives to consider how they might be contributing to, or could contribute to, these goals.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals were adopted by all United Nations member states in 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

5.4 Funds linked with Town Centre First Regeneration

National, Regional and Local plans and policies are enabled through associated funding sources. There are a range of funds nationally, some of which are open only to local authorities and other public bodies to apply for, and some of which are open to the public to apply for.

In some cases, Cork County Council may be eligible to apply for national funding to support the projects identified in this plan and in other cases, applications are limited to individuals or to formally constituted organisations.

Below is a sample of the types of funds available, however, it should be noted that the application process for each fund type is competitive and each fund has its own eligibility terms and conditions for applicants.

- **Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant (VPRG)** (€50K - €70K per property. Property must be vacant for 2+ years and must be derelict to avail of the max. grant of €70K)
- **Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF)** – strong focus on improving public realm and property regeneration. Grants given directly to the Local Authority to progress and manage eligible projects.
- **Town and Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS)** - grants to community groups and to local authorities for infrastructural regeneration projects (Ranging from €50k to €500K)
- **THRIVE** – European Funding for restoration and re-use of heritage buildings in Local Authority Ownership (Limited to particular locations)
- **Historic Structures Fund (HSI)** – grants ranging from €50K - €200K for owners of protected or historic structures
- **Planning Exemptions** – Article 10(6) of the planning and development Regs – change of use from commercial to residential. (23 notified to CCC in 2024)
- **Over the Shop Living** – DHLGH currently examining financial incentivization of development of 'over the shop' units for residential use. Likely extension to the VPRG,
- **Cork County Council own funds** – There are a number of community funding schemes that are administered by Cork County Council annually. These include festival funding, arts funding, capital and amenity grants (Community Fund), and Climate Action funding.

In general, many of the National and European funding streams require the Local Authority as applicant. These generally cover significant infrastructural projects with correspondingly significant funding allocations. With these allocations comes significant responsibilities and administrative requirements such as procurement, audit, insurance, project management, health and safety management, and ongoing maintenance.

This is not the case with all funding however, and there are numerous funds that community and business groups can apply directly for. It is recommended that community, business and sporting groups in Kanturk consider this plan and consider how the objectives of their organisations can aid in implementing this plan, particularly when preparing applications for competitive funding calls.

5.5 Plan Implementation Structure

Critical to the success of this plan is the continued engagement between the local authority and the Kanturk community via the Kanturk Town Team.

It is envisaged that, subject to adherence with the Town Team Guiding Principles included as an appendix to this document, the Kanturk Town Team meetings will continue to aid in:

- Promoting a focus on the core objectives of this plan
- Maintaining a structured form of multi-stakeholder engagement for Kanturk
- Identifying and prioritising initiatives in light of available budgets, open funding calls, strategic and organisational priorities
- Monitoring progress of core objectives
- Providing local context and insight in the course of detailed design and project planning

5.6 Summary of Plan Themes and Actions

1. Regeneration / Tackling Vacancy and Dereliction

Sub-headings / Initiatives	Explanatory Narrative
Vacancy and Dereliction Action Plan for Kanturk	The production of a targeted vacancy and dereliction action plan for Kanturk town centre to identify, in detail, properties that require intervention by Cork County Council, and an ongoing monitoring programme to support activation of those properties, by the following means: • Direct engagement with owners (where known) • Pre-planning meetings • Planning applications • Planning enforcement proceedings • Conservation and heritage advice and grants • Vacant property refurbishment grants • Vacancy and dereliction drop-in days for property owners • Action under the Derelict Sites Act 1990 • Action under the Housing Act • Local enterprise office engagement
Streetscape Enhancement Scheme	Targetted focus on promoting and encouraging uptake in the CCC Streetscape Enhancement Scheme annually in conjunction with the Tidy Towns, Community Council and Kanturk Chamber to focus on improving traditional shop-front signage, de-cluttering the streetscape and the development of bespoke colour palettes for participating residences and businesses.
CPO and Regeneration Sites	• Identification of properties where compulsory acquisition, or negotiated acquisition, is the only likely solution to long-term vacancy and dereliction. • Development of cost / benefit analyses and robust business cases to support the acquisition of such properties where identified • Identification of future uses that are compatible with the wider vision for Kanturk town, with the objectives of key policies and plans and with other considerations such as tenure mix and commercial variety

2. Promoting Economic Development and Enterprise Supports

Sub-headings / Initiatives	Explanatory Narrative
Industrial Estate Sites	Assessment of existing industrial estate / industrial-zoned land to ascertain scope for expansion and for targeted investment
Local Enterprise Office Promotion	Focused engagement to promote and encourage uptake of Local Enterprise Office supports to existing business and to potential start-ups in Kanturk town
Enterprise Development	Advancement of feasibility / market research for the development of a Council-led Enterprise Centre to capitalise on Kanturk's geographic position in North Cork and on the significant commercial and agricultural sectors in its hinterland.

3. Promoting Local and Regional Tourism

Sub-headings / Initiatives	Explanatory Narrative
Destination and Experience Development Plan	- Consideration of Kanturk visitor experience to inform the Failte Ireland Destination and Experience Development Plan (DEDP) to include the following: - Inventory of visitor attractions in Kanturk including heritage sites, green infrastructure, hospitality / food producers , accommodation providers - Development of sample 1 day itinerary for Kanturk - Analysis of Kanturk Digital Blueprint to action e-promotion of Kanturk - Linkages with local accommodation providers - Exploring the potential for a Kanturk to Banteer / Newmarket Greenway / Active Travel Route

4. Public Realm Improvements

Sub-headings / Initiatives	Explanatory Narrative
Town centre place-making and public realm improvements	Place-making, public realm improvements and improved pedestrian connectivity at Strand Street, Main Street, Watergate Street and Percival Street in Kanturk Town Centre (per the ambition set out in the 2025 RRDF application)

5. Critical Infrastructure

Sub-headings / Initiatives	Explanatory Narrative
Uisce Eireann Service provision - wastewater	- Wastewater Capacity is exceeded in Kanturk and development has been hindered due to inadequate capacity. - Management of water quality within the Blackwater Catchment is an important issue. The Blackwater River is a SAC and habitat for a number of protected species including the Freshwater Pearl Mussel and Salmon. Ensuring the protection of water quality while managing the development of the town is an important consideration. - Wastewater infrastructure must be capable of treating any discharges to ensure that water quality in the receiving water does not fall below legally required levels. - Focussed engagement with Uisce Eireann is required to achieve this objective.

6. Social and Community Infrastructure

Sub-headings / Initiatives	Explanatory Narrative
Enhancement of walkways and parks	• Enhancement and biodiversity improvements to Kanturk Town Urban Green Spaces including the Town Park, O' Brien Street, Greenane Park and Church Street. • Consideration of the linking of linear parks to develop continuous, way-marked, town-centre greenways.
Modernisation of Community Facilities	Supporting the ongoing modernisation and decarbonising of community infrastructure including the Edel Quinn Hall and the Temperance Hall.

7. Mobility and connectivity

Sub-headings / Initiatives	Explanatory Narrative
Parking Study	Completion of a parking survey and associated analysis for Kanturk Town Centre to inform future decision-making around parking provision
Safe Routes to Schools	Engagement with key stakeholders to explore opportunities under the 'Safe Routes to Schools' initiatives
Signage and Wayfinding	• Enhanced signage and way-finding in the town centre and on approaches to the town centre having regard to the following: • Relief Road Signage • HGV signage • Parking signage • Pedestrian way-finding

6. Appendices

- CSO Census 2022 Kanturk statistics
- Kanturk Digital Blueprint
- Kanturk Town Centre First Survey
- Kanturk Town Centre First Survey Insights
- Town Team Guiding Principles
- Template Project checklist for compliance with CCC Strategic Objectives

Appendices can be obtained at Kanturk library, or accessed online through the following link:
<https://www.corkcoco.ie/en/resident/municipal-districts/town-centre-first-town-regeneration-office>

Kanturk Town Centre First Regeneration Plan
A community-centric vision for Kanturk



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council



Lár Bailte ar dTús
Town Centre First