



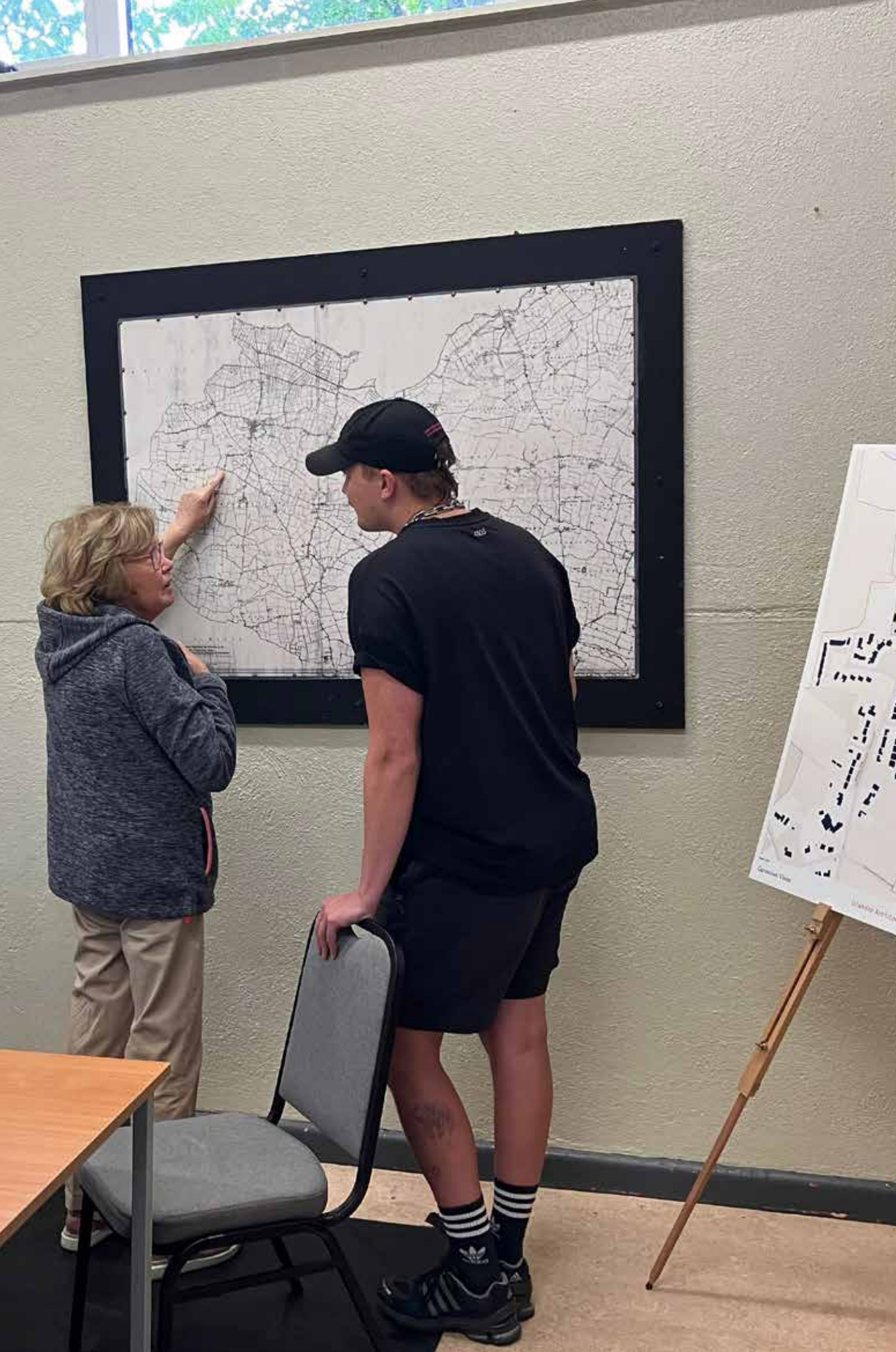
Community Vision for Garristown



A Smart Village Action Plan
2025 - 2035

Community Vision for Garristown

Appendices



Community Vision for Garristown

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Contents

Appendices. 7

(A) Mapping the Garristown Context 7

(B) Summary of Community Engagement Process. 13

(C) Engagement workshop materials from engagement events 19

(D) Promotional mixed media materials. 31

(E) Survey questions & results 35

(F) Workshop feedback 63

(G) Youth engagement findings 69

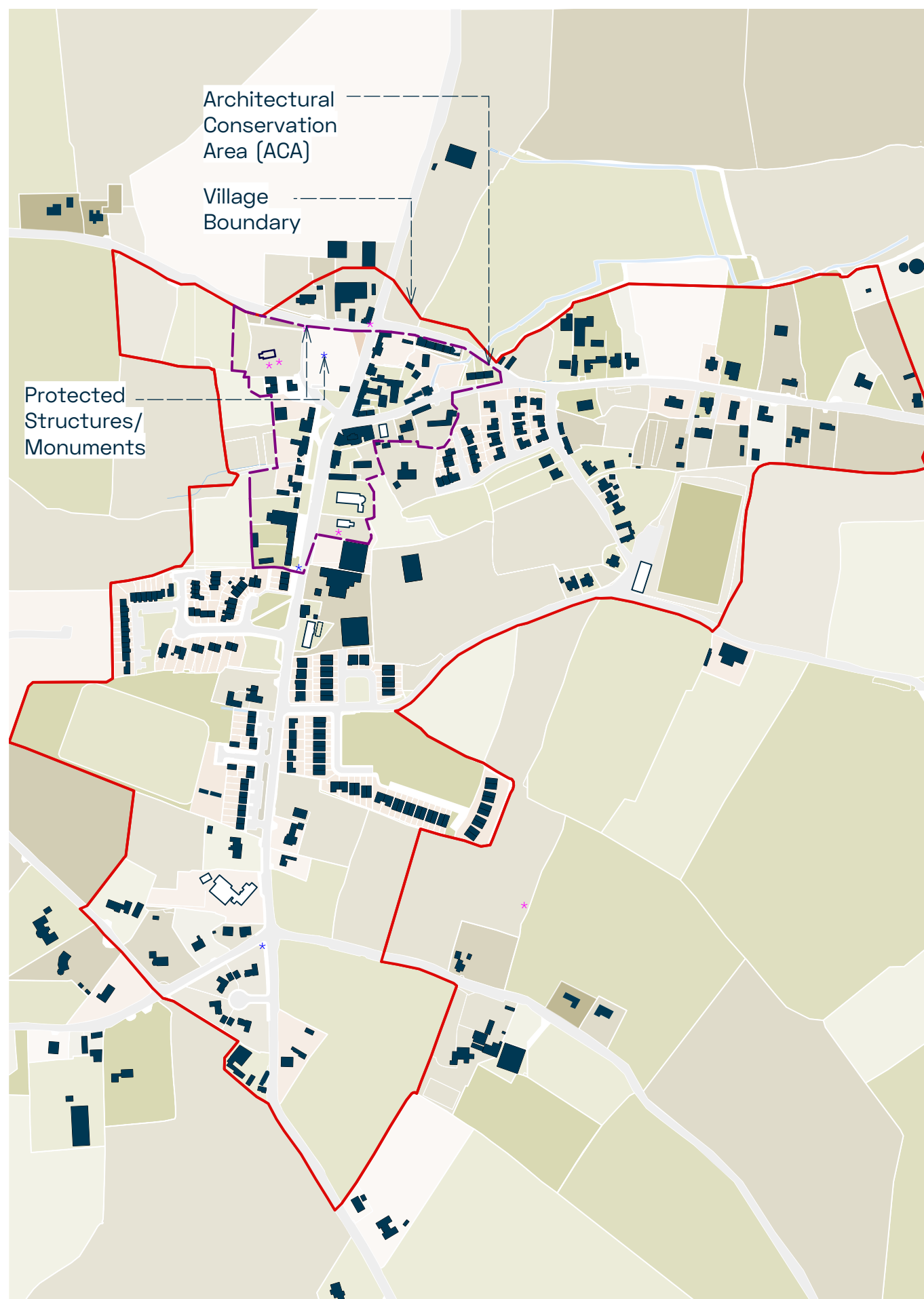
(H) SCOT matrix and project sorting methodology 75

(I) Exemplar Precedent Projects 95

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The consultant team would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge all of the comments, suggestions, experiences & insights offered by the members of the Garristown Vision Team, the Garristown Community Council, local residents & stakeholders during the process of preparing this document. Thank you to those who responded to the survey & attended the engagement events and to those who went above and beyond in sharing information and memorabilia with us.

It is hoped that the publication of this community vision document will be useful to the people of Garristown as a key reference for their future development.



Appendices (A) Mapping the Garristown Context

Context & Characteristics

Garristown is a rural village in North County Dublin, serving as a local centre for the surrounding hinterland. It is located near the Meath border, 25 km north-west of Dublin City, 18 km north-west of Swords, and 6 km north-east of Ashbourne.

Geographically, Garristown occupies a distinctive elevated position at 120 meters above sea level, making it one of the highest points in the Fingal Uplands area. The topography features a gentle slope from west to east across the village.

The village layout is characterized by a wide main street running north-south, distinguished by a tree-lined mall along its western side. The primary commercial and social heart is at the junction of Naul Road and Main Street. Notable landmarks include the Church of the Assumption, the Carnegie Library on Main Street, and the former Church of Ireland with its associated cemetery, further afield, to the south-western outskirts are remains of a

windmill from 1736 stands on a nearby hill fort.

The village is low in density and is linear in nature. This arrangement maintains close proximity between residents and the rural landscape. The highest residential density is found within the original village core, followed by multi-unit housing developments. Single-house developments primarily extend along the roads at the village's periphery.

Fingal County Council has designated an Architectural Conservation Area. This designation aims to preserve the collective qualities of the village, the distinct identity of its buildings, and the character of its public realm.

The Project Boundary

The focus for the majority of practical and tangible actions promoted in the community vision will be related to areas of Garristown contained within the rural village settlement boundary from the Fingal County Development Plan map 2023-2029. However, people who live within the Garristown electoral division boundary or those from further afield who identify with Garristown were welcome to be involved in the engagement for the project.

Population & Socio-Economic Data

The village has experienced substantial growth, with its population increasing by over 50% since 2006 to 1,801 residents as per 2022 Electoral Division data. 619 residents are recorded in the Garristown village.



Garristown electoral division boundary

The Pobal HP Deprivation Index shows the level of overall affluence and deprivation. Garristown’s wider Electoral Division area is ‘Marginally Above Average’. The village of Garristown is divided into two Small Areas - SA: 267091004 to the right hand side of the main street is considered Affluent, and the Small Area to the left of the main street SA: 267091002 is considered Marginally below Average. Garristown Village has an unemployment rate of 7.08% for females and 8.6% for males. There is an age dependency rate of 31.84%, a demographic metric that expresses the proportion of the population that is considered economically dependent (typically children under 15 and adults 65 and over) relative to the population of working-age adults in the area.

Services, Facilities & Amenities

Garristown provides a range of commercial and community facilities. Commercial establishments include pubs, a cafe, a butcher’s shop & grocers, a hairdressing salon, and a petrol station.

Popular built community amenities consist of a community hall, primary school, church, and library.

A wide variety of local clubs are active in the village including but not limited to; the Garristown GFC, Garristown Men’s Shed, Garristown Flyers AC, Tuesday Club, the Garristown Historical Society and the Garristown Community Council. The amount of volunteers for such groups will need to be extended to support the implementation of this Community Vision for Garristown along with ensuring that these groups are representative of the local population.

Previous Studies of Garristown

Fingal County Council had previously commissioned the following studies and reports to be carried out in 2005 and 2010:

- » Garristown East - Urban Design Framework was carried out in May 2005 by Architects Murray Ó Laoire in collaboration with Fingal County Council.

- » Garristown Local Area Plan and the Garristown Village Design Framework Plan was carried out in 2010 by Icon with Cummins & Voortman in collaboration with Fingal County Council.

In July 2015 Fingal County Council approved the extension of the Local Area Plan until July 2020. No updates or further extensions have been carried out to the Local Area Plan since then.

The Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029

In the Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029 (FDP), Garristown is characterized as a traditional village settlement with a Rural Village (RV) zoning objective. This designation aims to:

“Protect and Promote the character of the Rural Village and promote a vibrant community in accordance with an approved land use plan, and the availability of physical and community infrastructure.”

Rural Village zoning objective description in FDP

Garristown is recognized in the FDP as possessing significant land-banks with considerable potential for redevelopment and regeneration. This potential necessitates a masterplan to address the social and physical infrastructure requirements needed to support an anticipated population increase.

As a core village in Fingal’s settlement hierarchy, Garristown fulfils local service and employment functions. Future development will be encouraged to proceed in a sustainable and sequential manner, prioritizing the consolidated growth of its centres, the identification of sites suitable for renewal, and the enhancement of public realms within the town centre. The FDP incorporates Town Centre First: A Policy Approach for Irish Towns, which seeks to boost economic activity and overall vibrancy. All development proposals should also consider the recommendations for small towns outlined in the Ministerial

Guidelines on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.

Placemaking and Quality Homes

National Policy Objective 18b of the National Planning Framework supports a program where Local Authorities, public infrastructure agencies (like Uisce Éireann), and local communities collaborate to provide serviced sites with necessary infrastructure in small towns and villages. The goal is to attract individuals to build homes and live in these areas. This could involve the coordinated development of private serviced sites, potentially through outline permission and site development works, to create “ready-to-go” sites in Rural Villages. Relevant Policies from the FDP include:

- » Policy SPQHP52 – Growth of Rural Villages
- » Policy SPQHP53 – Encourage appropriate residential, social and community uses in town and village centres in order to enhance their vitality and viability.
- » Policy SPQHP55 – layout and design of rural housing should be sensitively sited to suit immediate Landscape Character Type. (Garristown is defined as High Lying Agricultural)

Employment & Economy

Garristown is recognized as a catalyst for the rural economy, supported by nearby local agri-food businesses including Keelings, Sam Dennigan, and Keoghs. Both the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy endorse these industries, advocating for the support of rural economies and communities across agriculture, forestry, tourism, and various enterprises. This support aims to prevent urban sprawl and associated housing pressures. Rural areas face significant challenges, such as urban-driven influences and demographic shifts like decreasing and ageing populations. To address these issues, the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund has been established

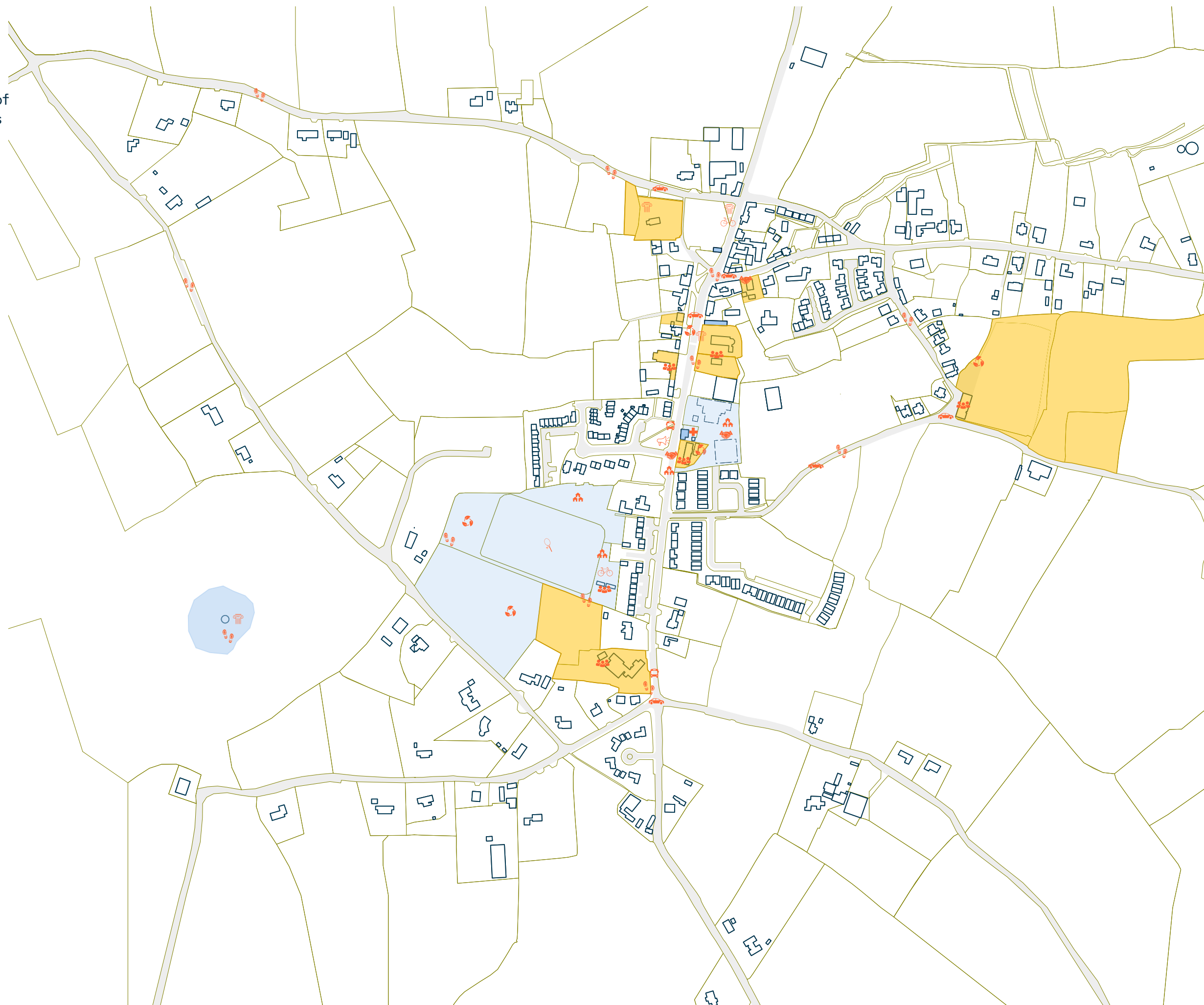
to fund rural revitalization projects in towns and villages with populations under 10,000. Garristown is also classified as Level 5 in the Retail Hierarchy (Objective EE099) determined by the FDP with relevant Policies that include:

- » Policy EEP23 – Support and protect existing rural economies such as valuable agricultural lands to ensure sustainable food supply
- » Policy EEP25 – Support outdoor and indoor markets in towns and villages in Fingal.
- » Objective EE061 – Facilitate the provision of space for small scale employment including office development.
- » Objective EE062 – Encourage the re-use of vacant and under-utilised buildings within Rural Villages as remote working hubs and/or accommodation for small and medium sized enterprises.
- » Objective EE065 – Support the licensed operation of local country markets.
- » Objective EE0101 – Ensure that the Level 5 Local Shops and Small Villages have a retail offer that is sufficient in terms of scale, type, and range.
- » Objective EE0102 – Provide for civic, leisure, cultural and tourism attractions while ensuring that retailing remains a core function of these centres.

- Current Assets
- Opportunity Sites
- Proposed Regeneration of Existing vacant buildings

Opportunities:

- Sustainability
- Mobility Routes
- Sports/ Leisure
- Transport
- Traffic & Parking
- Bike Parking
- Communications
- Housing
- Community Groups
- Heritage
- Economy/ Business
- Healthcare





(B) Summary of Community Engagement Process

A Vision for Garristown was fundamentally a community-driven process, ensuring that project proposals were shaped by the voices of those who live, work and visit Garristown. The engagement process uncovered a wealth of information through local knowledge and experiences which helped to identify key themes, needs and aspirations. Engagement was carried out through multiple means as outlined here:

Initial Project Team Presentation

In April 2025, the consultant team presented the initial engagement strategy and draft of the proposed visual identity options to the Garristown Vision Team and Garristown Community Council. This meeting was to gather feedback on the strategy, to ensure that any assumptions were sense-checked from a local perspective so that key opportunities were not being missed in the process. The project branding, narrative and FAQs were discussed and agreed for developing a dedicated project website. During this event, the title for the project 'Community Vision for Garristown' was chosen by the community to make it more relatable and recognisable in contrast to the original title of 'Garristown Smart Village Plan'. A draft version of the survey questions were shared at this event for comment and amendment prior to the launch.

Bespoke Visual Identity

The consultant team developed a bespoke visual identity for the project. It created a cohesive, and easily recognisable brand identity for the whole project. Initial options for the visual identity were presented to the Garristown Vision Team and Garristown

Community Council and through a collaborative discussion the visual identity was refined and agreed upon. This ensured a sense of ownership and collaboration within the community from an early stage.

Digital Promotion

For a more sustainable promotion campaign, a greater weighting of resources was placed on digital advertisement to reduce physical printing. A dedicated project website was launched in April 2025 to support engagement with the community. It was developed with key project information and an FAQ section. The content of the website was updated at key stages of the project to promote the survey, provide access to the survey results booklet or to advertise engagement events. It was intended that the website could be handed over to the community for their own use going forward from this report. It has the potential to become a digital community resource promoting local events, businesses, as well as hosting a community calendar among other features.

The existing community groups social media pages were utilised throughout the engagement period to promote the survey, public workshop events and activities. Paid promotion of the engagement survey was implemented on Instagram and Facebook by New Practice to raise awareness of the project further. This promotion targeted audiences in the wider Garristown area, so that the advertisements were pushed directly to the community more consistently. Over 6,000 views of the online advertisements were recorded for the project and over 130

link clicks were recorded to reach the project website across that period.

Physical Promotion

In an effort to raise awareness of the project to those not active on social media, a suite of flyers, posters and beer mats were designed to promote the project and the engagement programme. All printed materials directed the reader towards the project website, resulting in multiple versions of printed assets not being required, and therefore reducing wastage. The website hosted a download link for the poster to encourage community members to assist in promoting the project by printing the poster and putting it up in additional locations of their choosing.

25 A3 posters were hung up in various public locations around the village and in selected local businesses. 50 beer mats were dropped into the cafe and pub and a leaflet drop was carried out by the local volunteers to each household to further promote the project, additional leaflets were handed out to members of the public during each engagement session. Each print contained a QR code linking directly to the project website.

Word of Mouth Promotion

Promotion copy was shared by the consultant team with key community groups to help spread the word in a consistent way. Existing community WhatsApp groups, for example the school and GAA clubs group chats, were a key feature in disseminating information about the project and proposed events. Anecdotally, from the survey feedback it was word of mouth and group chats that were listed as the main source of hearing about the project.

Public Survey

The public engagement began with a survey which ran for a month between April and May 2025.

The survey received over 330 responses from the community on a range of topics including services, transport, environment and recreational facilities. The digital version of the survey was hosted on the project website and

paper versions of the survey were available for completion in the library. The Survey was structured into four parts:

- » Part One: General Liveability
- » Part Two: Movement and Connectivity
- » Part Three: Locations with ‘Potential’- Business and Tourism and Sustainability
- » Part Four: Final Steps (summary & demographics)

What makes you proud of Garristown? What are Garristown’s greatest strengths?

“A small friendly community where people are helpful and friendly.”

“How quaint, charming, friendly, clean and village-like it is, and how it has retained this feel.”

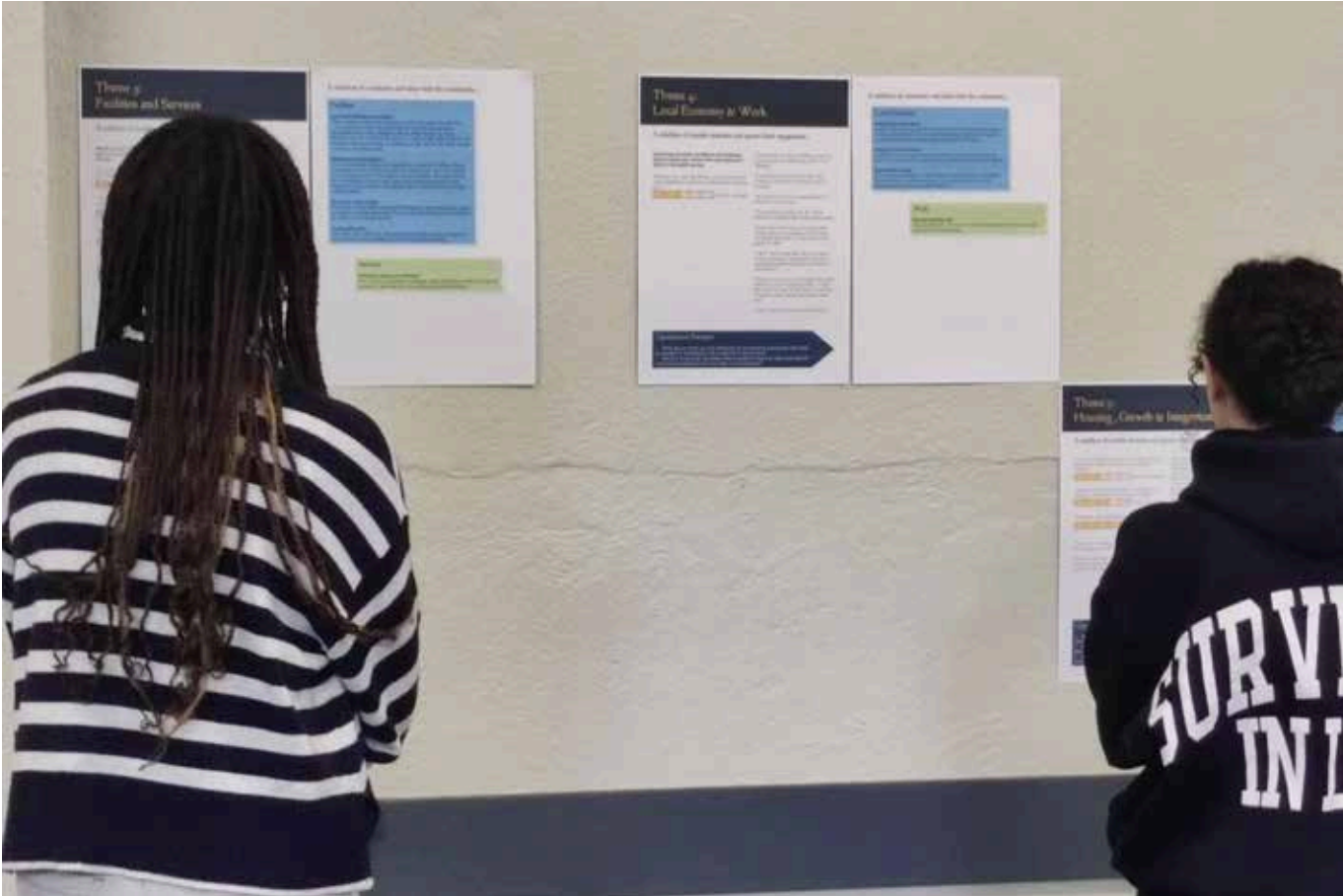
“Plenty of greenery and wildlife.”

“Relatively unspoiled rural village with an historic core.”

“The strong community of people. The library and playground are fantastic resources. Clubs like Flyers and GAA run by amazing volunteers who are so welcoming and supportive.”

“Sense of community, families having been here through many generations”

“I love that the village has retained its rural character. . As someone who trained in archaeology and folklore, I also love the built heritage of the area.”



Public drop-in engagement session

The survey primarily asked quantitative rating questions (i.e. ‘out of 5 stars’) alongside multiple choice questions. A series of open questions were also provided with an opportunity for more qualitative input. The results of this survey informed a series of in-person engagement events in June.

In-person Engagement

Public Drop-in Events & Stakeholder Workshop

Large scale maps, survey results including key data and quotes were displayed on the walls of the Community Centre with A4 information booklets made available for members of the public to find out more about the project.

Based on analysis of the survey results the consultant team devised 8 high level themes, which expanded the Smart Village methodology to be more inclusive and cover a broader range of topics. The themes were as follows:

- » Theme 1: Transport, Traffic & Parking
- » Theme 2: Greenspace, Sustainability & Recreation
- » Theme 3: Facilities & Services
- » Theme 4: Local Economy & Work
- » Theme 5: Housing, Growth & Integration
- » Theme 6: Heritage & Rural Character
- » Theme 7: Young People
- » Theme 8: Village Rejuvenation

These 8 themes were devised so that people could engage with the theme that interested them most. This was useful for the public drop-in events, held on the 8th and 10th of June over a two and a half hour period, where visitors were invited to speak directly with the consultant team or provide written comments on the findings and themes displayed.

To complement this, a two hour invited engagement workshop was organised with key stakeholders such as local businesses, clubs, groups and services on the 9th June. The stakeholders were organised around tables into groups while the consultant team presented the findings on each theme. This was followed by group exercises to gather the feedback and thoughts.

Youth Workshop

The consultant team worked alongside Stephen Whelan of the Garristown Biodiversity Group to develop the youth engagement workshop for 5th and 6th class in St. Mary's National School. Stephen gave a presentation about the Swift bird, how they travel to Ireland and live here in Garristown. The youth engagement also included a mapping exercise 'To and From School', 'Postcards from the Future' and a biodiversity walk behind the school grounds. The feedback from the youth workshop reflects a strong desire for Garristown to better support young people's recreational and safety needs.

Engagement Feedback

Based on feedback received at each of the community events the consultant team analysed the strengths, constraints, opportunities and threats for the future development of Garristown. These were cross-checked against 7 core drivers for the community's vision and resulted in the identification of 100+ ideas for potential action areas. These were then appraised and ranked into a selection of the top ideas. This shortlist was cross checked against the existing community assets. These results from this analysis were presented at the final public engagement event.

Garristown Festival Pop-up

The final public engagement event coincided with the GAA Football Blitz and the annual Garristown Festival on the 16th August 2025. The consultant team were present at the main pitch and erected a gazebo at the festival to speak with the public attending the day's events.

This was the final chance to gather feedback to help assess the community's capacity for each of the potential action areas identified. The festival was an opportunity to sense-check these various projects, actions, activities and ambitions that had come out of the engagement and analysis up to that point.

About the Project Team

An architect-led, multi-disciplinary team of consultants were selected through a competitive tender and appointed by the Garristown Vision Team and the Garristown Community Council.

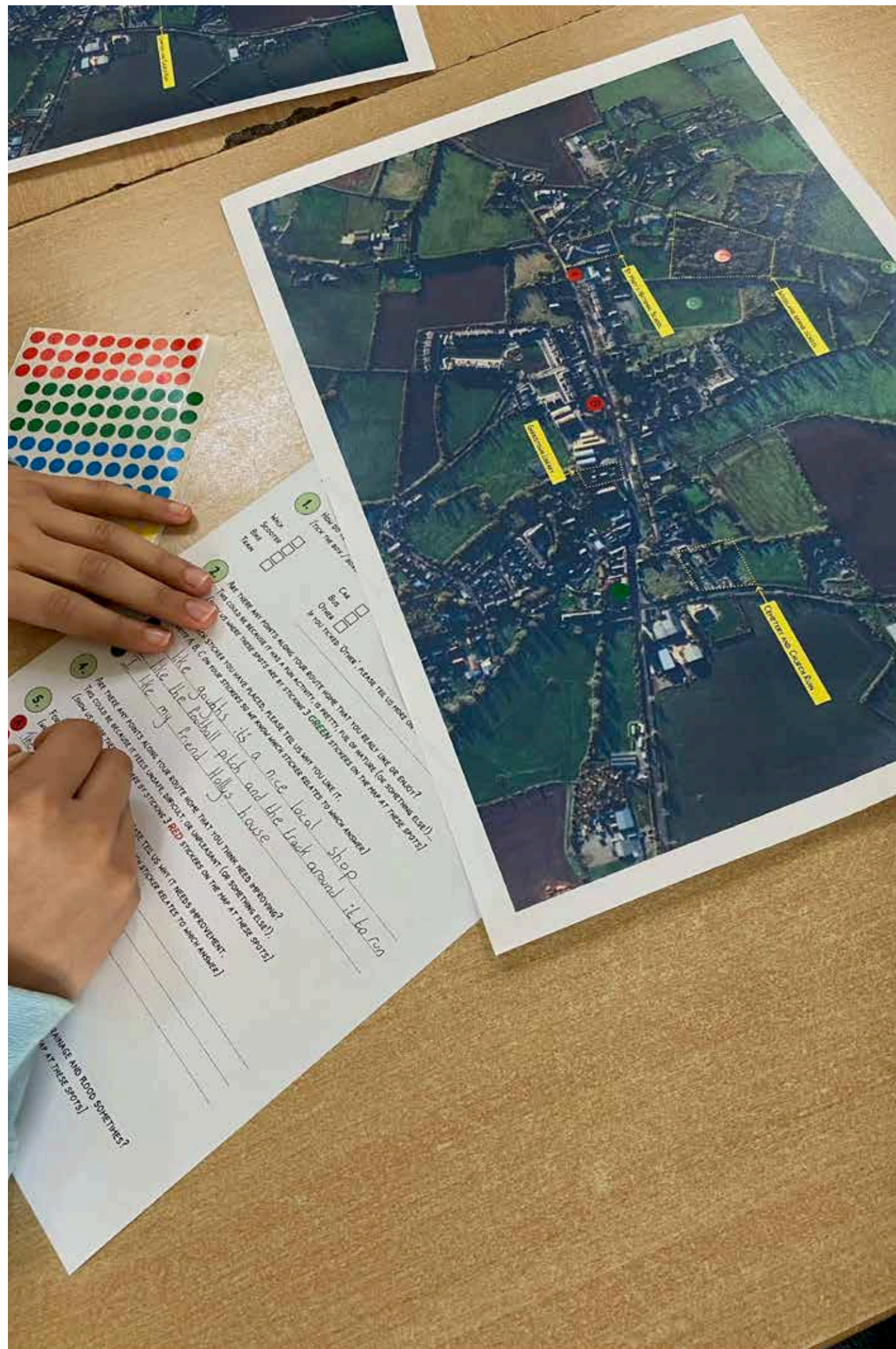
The consultant team was led by Islander Architects. Their experience of community engagement projects along with their local knowledge was valuable in the development of a professionally prepared community vision.

Islander are supported by Civic's experience of road engineering, sustainable urban drainage solutions and New Practices' expertise in delivering regenerative placemaking projects, local place plans and resilient strategies across a range of urban, suburban and rural areas in Scotland.

The Consultant Team have provided professional guidance and impartial advice to the community through their public engagement strategy and the development of this report.



Example of physical promotion





(C) Engagement workshop materials from engagement events

The engagement workshop and event materials listed below are compiled in the following pages of this appendix:

- » Workshop facilitator worksheet
- » Feedback booklet
- » Youth engagement worksheet
- » Youth engagement 'field notes booklet'
- » Youth engagement 'postcard from the future' activity
- » Final project lists

Note: please refer to Appendix E for materials relating to the online survey and the engagement booklet which summarised the survey findings for consultation.

A Community Vision for Garristown

Name (optional):.....
Age:..... Postcode:..... Gender:.....

Theme 1
Transport, Parking and Traffic

Theme 2
Green Space, Sustainability & Recreation

Theme 3
Facilities and Services

Theme 4
Local Economy and Work

Theme 5
Housing, Growth and Integration

Theme 6
Heritage and Rural Character

Theme 7
Young People

Theme 8
Village Rejuvenation

Other comments

THEME 6: Heritage and Rural Character

THEME 7: Young People

THEME 8: Village Rejuvenation

A Community Vision for Garristown

Make your way around the room and use this feedback form to comment on the proposed Themes.

Facilitators from New Practice are here to guide you through the Themes and write down any further comments or thoughts you would like to share with us.

All comments written here will be used to guide the development of the Community Vision for Garristown and pinpoint what your aspirations are for the future of the town!

Thank you!



Name (optional)

Postcode

Age

If you would like to be contacted and keep up to date with project related information, write your email below:

Email (optional)

THEME 1: Transport, Traffic and Parking

THEME 2: Green Space, Sustainability and Recreation

THEME 3: Facilities and Services

THEME 4: Local Economy and Work

THEME 5: Housing, Growth and Integration

Age:

FIELD OBSERVATION NOTEPAD

Woodland Research

- If you ticked 'Other', please tell us more on the line below:

- C


- C

6. Are there any areas in Garristown that you notice have bad drainage and floods sometimes?
[show us where these spots are by sticking BLUE stickers on the map at these spots]

Write your thoughts below...

Observation Four:

Draw something that you've found interesting in the woods, or something that you think should be protected. It could be anything, a plant or animal, a shape, a sound or smell, or something that's happened! Make sure to also write what it is...




.....

Extra Observations:

Use this space to note down anything else you'd like...

[illegible]

Postcard from the future!



Activity Three - Postcard from the future!

Imagine it is five years in the future, and Garristown has created an outdoor 'Biodiversity Space' for young people to hang out, socialise and use as an outdoor classroom in nature. We want you to write a postcard from the future, to someone now (a friend, a family member, or maybe even yourself!), telling them about this new Biodiversity Space! It's your space in your mind, so you get to decide what it's like!


Somethingstotryandincludeinyourpostcardmessage...

1. Does your Biodiversity Space and outdoor classroom have a name?
2. Where in Garristown is it located?
3. What are you doing there today? What are you looking forward to doing there next week?
5. What do you enjoy or love about it most?
6. What does it look like?
7. Is there any difference between the social space and outdoor classroom area?

Finally, turn over your postcard and draw a picture of your Biodiversity Space and outdoor classroom. Maybe it's a picture of what it looks like, a map of how it's organised, or even a comic-book strip of some of the activities that happen there!

Postcard from the future!

Postcard from the future!






A blank postcard template. In the top right corner, there is a dashed rectangular box intended for a stamp. Below the title, there are ten horizontal dashed lines spanning the width of the card, intended for an address.

Garristown Vision

What are our initial project ideas, based on our community consultation so far?

Projects Scored Against Community Criteria (1 to 19)

No. and Score			Type	Project
1	O	24		Bus Service Improvements with new Local Links bus shelters with seating, increased frequency of Local Links busses on existing routes, and the purchase of a Community Bus for clubs, groups and day-trips.
2	J	24		Create and Improve Walking Routes to be accessible underfoot for all ages, restoring through-access to key points of interest, and constructing local 'loop walks' stopping at local landmarks with an Orienteers Club.
3	L	23		Equitable Car-Parking Strategy , reallocating dedicated parking bays for community groups, providing additional accessible parking bays, and creating a new set-down area for the school and an off-street parking area.
4	K	23		Creating a Regional 'Rural Fingal' Pillar Framework , covering economic, roads, tourism, creative and sustainability concerns across the wider region.
5	H	23		Intergenerational Green Spaces to improve local biodiversity, and for community growing, learning, leisure and to provide an outdoor youth space that can double as an 'outdoor classroom' for the young people.
6	G	22		Main Street Improvements , focussing on improving accessibility underfoot, providing more benches, bins and lighting, and enhancing greenery with street trees and rebalancing space given to verges and planting.
7	A	22		Heritage as Celebratory Social-Connector , with a new signposted heritage trail, involving young people in inter-generational creativity on heritage, creating an oral history archive, and a calendar of heritage-skills learning.
8	F	22		Improved Bike Amenities with cycle parking, storage and hire facilities.
9	I	21		Renovation and Formalisation of Community Assets for new intergenerational initiatives (i.e. community centre co-working and youth hub extension with wellbeing garden, and an improved men's shed facility).
10	P	21		Building Rehabilitation Scheme for the sustainable retrofit/restoration of existing vacant or derelict buildings or sites.
11	B	21		Community Communication Strategy to promote and increase promotion of and engagement with local initiatives, transport schedules, businesses and activities (i.e. a notice board, website, event posters).
12	R	20		Sustainable Housing Development that provides intergenerational amenity to the neighbourhood at an appropriate scale (i.e. infill housing where possible, assisted living for older residents).
13	E	20		Region-Wide Engagement with other communities to foster social links, share knowledge and opportunities to learn together, host regional events, optimise transport improvements, and create a regional youth council.
14	D	20		A Calendar of Activities to share learning on sustainability, growing, the environment and biodiversity (i.e. field and market days, horticulture events, Garristown Biodiversity Group, edible gardens in streets etc.).
15	M	20		Improve Safety around the School , with a new route to the school via the football pitch with dedicated drop-off and turn-around zones, and community initiatives such as a traffic warden and a cycle bus.
16	C	19		Rethink and Renew Tidy Towns and Pride of Place Campaigns.
17	N	14		Estiablish Spaces for a Greater Range of Multi-Use Outdoor Sports Facilities (e.g. basketball, table tennis, boules, tennis etc.).
18	Q	14		Shop Front Renovation Scheme that encourages local businesses to carry out cohesive improvements, with options to explore community training and funding options.
19	S	10		Establish a Community Pharmacy Delivery Service to cut down on out-of-town trips by providing medicines directly to the door or a central location in Garristown.

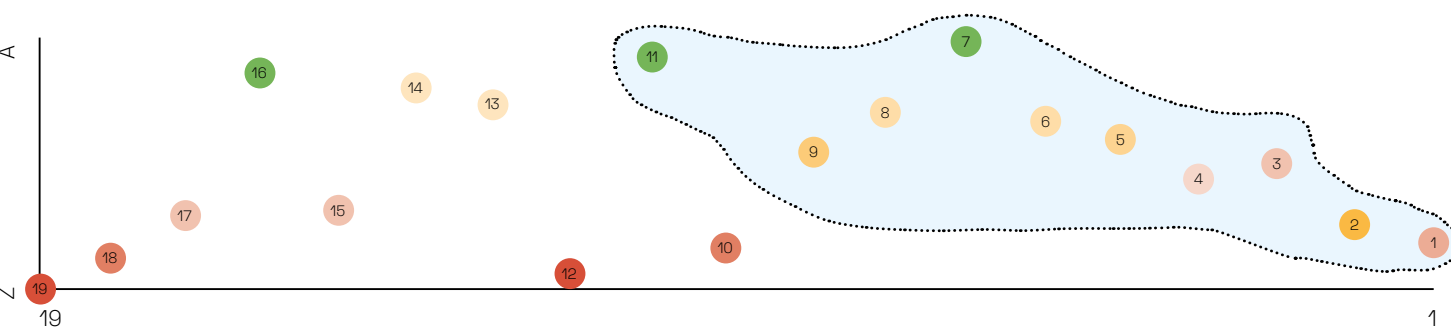
What was the criteria we used?

1. Maintains a rural character
2. Fosters sustainable population growth
3. Enhances sustainability
4. Celebrates heritage
5. Integrates a wider range of the community
6. Fosters engagement with nature and greenspaces
7. Fosters local economic growth
8. Creates safer, more neighbourhood-friendly streets

Projects Scored by 'Red, Amber, Green' System for Potential Locations (A to Z)

No.		Where could it go?	Project
7	A	Community Centre & Grounds, Library, GAA Clubhouse & Pitches, Church Ruin & Graveyard, Church & Grounds, Garda Station, Primary School & Grounds	Heritage as Celebratory Social-Connector , with a new signposted heritage trail, involving young people in inter-generational creativity on heritage, creating an oral history archive, and a calendar of heritage-skills learning.
11	B	Community Centre & Grounds, Library, GAA Clubhouse & Pitches, Petrol Station & Shop, Pubs, Coffee Shop, Church & Grounds	Community Communication Strategy to promote and increase promotion of and engagement with local initiatives, transport schedules, businesses and activities (i.e. a notice board, website, event posters).
16	C	Community Centre & Grounds, Library, Playground, Village Pitch & Entrance, GAA Clubhouse & Pitches, Main Street, Wider Rural Area, Primary School & Grounds , Church & Grounds, Garda Station	Rethink and Renew Tidy Towns and Pride of Place Campaigns.
14	D	Community Centre & Grounds, Library, Playground, Primary School & Grounds , Main Street, Pubs, Coffee Shop, Woodland, Church & Grounds, Wider Rural Area	A Calendar of Activities to share learning on sustainability, growing, the environment and biodiversity (i.e. field and market days, horticulture events, Garristown Biodiversity Group, edible gardens in streets etc.).
13	E	Community Centre & Grounds, Library, Pubs, Coffee Shop, Main Street, Wider Rural Area, GAA Clubhouse & Pitches, Primary School & Grounds , Petrol Station & Shop, Church & Grounds, Garda Station	Region-Wide Engagement with other communities to foster social links, share knowledge and opportunities to learn together, host regional events, optimise transport improvements, and create a regional youth council.
8	F	Community Centre & Grounds, Playground, Village Pitch & Entrance, Primary School & Grounds , Main Street, Library, GAA Clubhouse & Pitches, Petrol Station & Shop, Pubs, Coffee Shop, Garda Station	Improved Bike Amenities with cycle parking, storage and hire facilities.
6	G	Community Centre & Grounds, Playground, Village Pitch & Entrance, Main Street, Library, GAA Clubhouse & Pitches, Primary School & Grounds , Petrol Station & Shop, Pubs, Coffee Shop, Church & Grounds, Garda Station	Main Street Improvements , focussing on improving accessibility underfoot, providing more benches, bins and lighting, and enhancing greenery with street trees and rebalancing space given to verges and planting.
5	H	Community Centre & Grounds, Library, Playground, Main Street, GAA Clubhouse & Pitches, Primary School & Grounds , Church Ruin & Graveyard, Church & Grounds, Wider Rural Area	Intergenerational Green Spaces to improve local biodiversity, and for community growing, learning, leisure and to provide an outdoor youth space that can double as an 'outdoor classroom' for the young people.
9	I	Community Centre & Grounds, Playground, Library, Village Pitch & Entrance, GAA Clubhouse & Pitches, Primary School & Grounds , Main Street, Woodland, Church & Grounds	Renovation and Formalisation of Community Assets for new intergenerational initiatives (i.e. community centre co-working and youth hub extension with wellbeing garden, and an improved men's shed facility).
2	J	Village Pitch & Entrance, Main Street, GAA Clubhouse & Pitches, Woodland, Church Ruin & Graveyard, Wider Rural Area	Create and Improve Walking Routes to be accessible underfoot for all ages, restoring through-access to key points of interest, and constructing local 'loop walks' stopping at local landmarks with an Orienteers Club.
4	K	Community Centre & Grounds, Library, Pubs, Coffee Shop, Garda Station	Creating a Regional 'Rural Fingal' Pillar Framework , covering economic, roads, tourism, creative and sustainability concerns across the wider region.
3	L	Village Pitch & Entrance, GAA Clubhouse & Pitches, Primary School & Grounds , Main Street	Equitable Car-Parking Strategy , reallocating dedicated parking bays for community groups, providing additional accessible parking bays, and creating a new set-down area for the school and an off-street parking area.
15	M	Village Pitch & Entrance, Primary School & Grounds , Main Street, Woodland, Garda Station	Improve Safety around the School , with a new route to the school via the football pitch with dedicated drop-off and turn-around zones, and community initiatives such as a traffic warden and a cycle bus.
17	N	Community Centre & Grounds, Village Pitch & Entrance, GAA Clubhouse & Pitches, Woodland, Church & Grounds, Wider Rural Area	Establish Spaces for a Greater Range of Multi-Use Outdoor Sports Facilities (e.g. basketball, table tennis, boules, tennis etc.).
1	O	Main Street, Wider Rural Area	Bus Service Improvements with new Local Links bus shelters with seating, increased frequency of Local Links buses on existing routes, and the purchase of a Community Bus for clubs, groups and day-trips.
10	P	Community Centre & Grounds, Main Street	Building Rehabilitation Scheme for the sustainable retrofit/restoration of existing vacant or derelict buildings or sites.
18	Q	Community Centre & Grounds, Main Street	Shop Front Renovation Scheme that encourages local businesses to carry out cohesive improvements, with options to explore community training and funding options.
12	R	Village Pitch & Entrance, Main Street, Wider Rural Area	Sustainable Housing Development that provides intergenerational amenity to the neighbourhood at an appropriate scale (i.e. infill housing where possible, assisted living for older residents).
19	S	Wider Rural Area, Community Centre & Grounds	Establish a Community Pharmacy Delivery Service to cut down on out-of-town trips by providing medicines directly to the door or a central location in Garristown.

Projects Mapped Against Location Scores and Criteria Score (19S to 7A)





(D) Promotional mixed media materials

The promotional materials listed below are compiled in the following pages of this appendix:

- » Poster
- » Flyer
- » Beer coaster
- » Online paid advertisement

What is your vision for Garristown?

What are its strengths and challenges?

We want to hear from you! Find out how to have your say...

A Community Vision for Garristown

Visit our website
to find out more!



The Community Vision for Garristown is an opportunity for those who live, work or regularly visit Garristown to come together in the development of a plan for the future of the village.

What is your vision for Garristown?

What are its strengths and challenges?

We want to hear from you! Find out how to have your say...

Turn over to find out more!

What is your vision for Garristown?

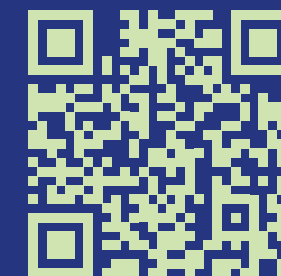
What are its strengths and challenges?

We want to hear from you! Find out how to have your say...

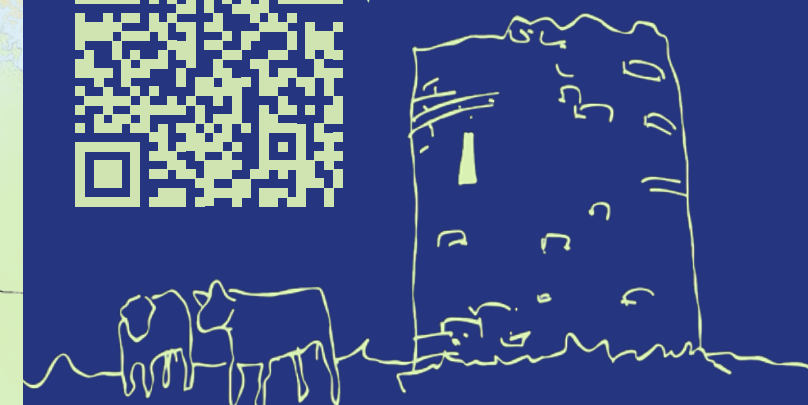
Turn over to find out more!

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Visit our website to
find out more!



www.garristownvision.ie

New
Practice
CIVIC

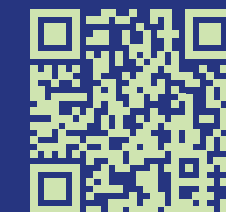
Islander Architects

CIVIC

(Above): Flyer
(Below): Beer coaster

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CIVIC

Islander Architects

New
Practice
CIVIC

(E) Survey questions & results

The online survey provided the following text and asked the following questions. **Note: all questions which ask to 'rate' a topic use a 1-to-5 star system.**

Note: refer to the booklet appended do Appendix E for the survey results summary booklet, which was shared with the public during consultation events. The full data from the online survey is provided directly as a separate file.

some of the key challenges or opportunities for its future. The questions are organised under relevant themes for the project; there are several questions which ask for optional written answers, we suggest keeping these brief so the survey doesn't take you too long to complete! Space is provided at the end to give extended written comments if you wish to.

The following themes are covered in the coming questions:

- » General Liveability
- » Movement and Connectivity
- » Locations with 'Potential'
- » Business and Tourism
- » Sustainability

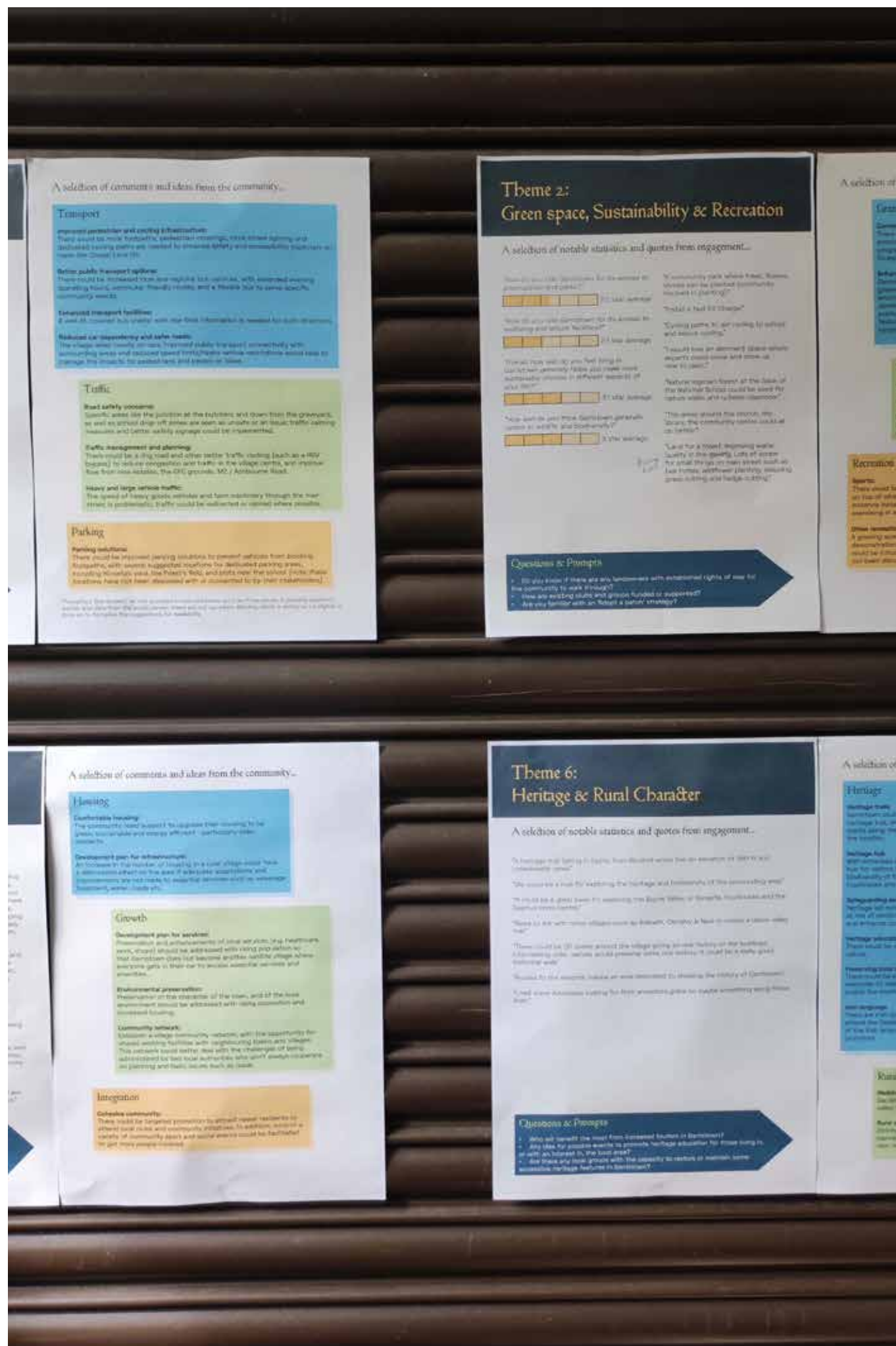
* Denotes compulsory questions throughout this survey.

First, we'd like to know about your relationship to Garristown.

What is your relationship with Garristown?*

- » I live here
- » I work here
- » I go to school here

As the Community Vision is developed by and for the people of Garristown, we need to understand your aspirations and vision for the village. In this survey, we will be asking you some general questions about Garristown, to understand your thoughts and highlight



- » I regularly visit friends or family here
- » I regularly visit Garristown for business, leisure or other activities
- » I live nearby or in the surrounding area, but not directly within the village of Garristown
- » I have no relationship with or rarely am in Garristown
- » I live in Garristown and work entirely from home
- » I live in Garristown and work from home part of the week
- » I live in Garristown and work from home only very occasionally in a flexible capacity
- » I live in Garristown and never work from home
- » I work from home outside of Garristown, but am in Garristown when I’m not working from home
- » None of the above
- » A poster in up in Garristown
- » A promotional coaster at a venue in Garristown
- » On online advertisement
- » An Instagram post on the architect’s social media
- » A post shared in an online community group etc.
- » Word of mouth

Before we begin with the full survey, we want to get a sense of your initial, overall thoughts

on improving Garristown.

What makes you proud of Garristown? What are Garristown’s greatest strengths?

Rank from 1 to 9 the below issues in order of their importance to you. We’ve created this list as a starting point, and we know that there may be themes missing – there will be space to communicate these throughout the survey.*

- » Opportunities and facilities for tourists
- » Improving economic conditions, and supporting existing and encouraging new businesses in Garristown
- » Increased frequency of community events
- » Establish a village community network with neighbouring towns and villages
- » Restoration of local heritage sites and buildings
- » Opportunities and facilities for children and teenagers
- » Improve digital services in Garristown
- » Increased and better access to services for residents in Garristown
- » Increased sustainable, environmental and biodiversity measures in Garristown

Now we want to know what it’s like to live in Garristown. Help us understand the general feeling and experience of being in the village and the wider area. To get a more general sense of Garristown, some of these questions are intentionally more vague than those in the following sections, which are focused on more specific topics.

How would you rate the atmosphere of Garristown in terms of social activity?*

How would you rate the sense of community of Garristown?*

Do you attend any community events in Garristown?

If you answered ‘yes’ to the previous question, can you recall your favourite local event?

What community projects are/have been successful in your opinion?

Are you involved in any local group, club or society?

How safe does Garristown feel?

Is there anything that you feel could help to improve safety?

How accessible is Garristown? How well does Garristown cater for diverse accessibility needs?

Do you feel accessibility in Garristown could be improved? If so, let us know the particular areas of concern that you feel need to be addressed.

How do you rate Garristown in meeting the needs of residents over the age of 65?*

How do you rate Garristown in meeting the needs of teenagers?*

How well does Garristown meet the needs of younger children?*

Thank you. Now we want to understand Garristown’s access to different services and amenities. Out of 5 stars, how would you rate Garristown’s access to the following?*

- » Greenspaces and parks
- » Wellbeing and leisure facilities
- » Groceries and produce
- » Shops and general businesses

» Schools and childcare

» Healthcare, GP and pharmacy

Is there anything that could be done to improve your access to services? Are there any particular services that are lacking?

Thank you for completing the first half of the survey. All of the following sections are optional, so if you’re unsure of an answer, feel free to skip any question.

How safe does it feel to move around the streets of Garristown if you’re not in a car?

Is there anything that could be done to make moving around Garristown without a car safer? Are there any particularly unsafe streets or junctions?

How direct and practical are the routes to move around Garristown without a car?

Is there anything that could be done to make Garristown while driving a vehicle safer? Are there any particularly unsafe streets or junctions?

Is there anything that could make navigating Garristown clearer and more practical? Are there any particularly confusing areas, any routes that could be improved, or any areas that could be more directly and better connected?

Roughly how often do you use the existing local bus service?

How well-connected is Garristown to Dublin or other major areas by public transport?

How well-connected is Garristown to other neighbouring areas by public transport?

Do you ever cycle? If so, what type of cycling do you do?

We want to know if there are any missed opportunities in Garristown, waiting for a

better use or creative idea...

Are there any pieces of land (not a building) around or in Garristown that you think have more potential, or could be used better? Please tell us where, and if you have any ideas for their future.

Are there any existing buildings or amenities that you think are underutilised and could have a new or improved use? Please tell us where, and if you have an idea for their future.

Now we'd like to understand what it's like to work, find work, or operate a business within the local economy of Garristown.

How do you rate Garristown as a place where new businesses would be interested in setting up?

Are there any facilities in Garristown for remote working, with access to wifi, meeting spaces or other amenities? If you use any, please tell us where and describe the facility to us.

If you think tourists are coming to Garristown, what are they coming to see or do?

Are there any missed opportunities or assets that could be better celebrated to increase the number of tourists visiting Garristown?

Thanks! You're close to the end! We now want to understand what opportunities or challenges there may be to make Garristown a more sustainable place, to help its residents live more sustainable lives.

Overall, how well do you feel living in Garristown generally helps you make more sustainable choices in different aspects of your life?

How well do you think Garristown generally caters to wildlife and biodiversity?

Are there any locations that you think could be protected or improved to better cater to local wildlife or opportunities to improve biodiversity in the Garristown area? Please tell us where.

In terms of sustainability, are there any other opportunities or is there anything else that could be improved in Garristown?

As a last step, here's a chance to sum things up for us with some big picture thoughts or even get involved with our work!

What do you think is the biggest challenge facing Garristown going forward?

If you could have one wish for Garristown for the future what would it be?

Would you be willing to get involved in the Garristown Community Council or Vision Team? If so, please provide us with the best way to get in touch! We will only contact you to confirm your interest about this project in the first instance, and will not share your contact details.

Finally, we have a few questions about you. To make sure our engagement with the community is as equitable as possible, it's important we ask robust demographic questions to identify any trends which may be experienced by different groups in the community. The following questions about demographic background have been informed by the same questions in the Irish census as best practice.

Your responses to these questions are anonymous, and we are not able to identify you by your answers.

What best describes your gender?

» Woman

» Man

» Trans woman

» Trans man

» Non-binary

» Prefer not to say

What is your age group?

» Under 16

» 16 - 25

» 26 - 35

» 36 - 45

» 46 - 55

» 56 - 65

» 66 and over

» Prefer not to say

What best describes your ethnic group?

» White Irish

» White Irish Traveller

» White Roma

» Any other White background

» Black Irish

» Black African

» Any other Black background

» Asian Irish

» Asian Chinese

» Asian Indian, Pakistani or Bangladeshi

» Any other Asian background

» Arabic Irish

» Any other Arabic background

» Prefer not to say

Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more?

» Yes

» No

» Prefer not to say

Before you go, did you have any other comments, ideas or important information you think we missed?

You're done!

Thank you for taking the time to complete our public survey, the information you've provided us here is crucial to making sure we start the Community Vision for Garristown with a strong and informative response directly from the local community.

We will use the information we find in the results from this survey to prepare our first pieces of work for the project, which we will bring back to the community to develop and sense-check across our public engagement in June. Please make sure to check the project website for details on these activities closer to the time!

Finally, we encourage you to share this survey with your friends, family, colleagues and community groups in Garristown, to help us reach and hear from as many people as possible!

A Community Vision for Garristown

This is the information booklet for the public engagement events of the Community Vision for Garristown.

In these pages, you will find some key data, quotes and initial findings from our work to date - primarily from our public survey which recently closed.

The information is sorted into eight high level themes for ease of navigation. Start from the beginning, or jump straight to a theme that's important to you!

Once you've had a look at the content of this book, we invite you to provide feedback, give any additional thoughts, or some new ideas that may be missing!

Use one of the feedback cards available or speak to a member of our team in person. All comments are very welcome and much appreciated!



*Find out more about the project and keep up to date
with ways to get involved on our project website!*

www.garristownvision.com

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We asked...
What makes you proud of Garristown?
What are Garristown’s greatest strengths?

“A small friendly community where people are helpful and friendly.”

“How quaint, charming, friendly, clean and village-like it is, and how it has retained this feel.”

“Plenty of greenery and wildlife.”

“Relatively unspoiled rural village with an historic core.”

“The strong community of people. The library and playground as a fantastic resource. Clubs like Flyers and GAA run by amazing volunteers who are so welcoming and supportive.”

“Sense of community, families having been here through many generations”

“I love that the village has retained its rural character. . . As someone who trained in archaeology and folklore, I also love the built heritage of the area.”

How did the community rank some key issues?

- Highest
- Lowest
1. Improving economic conditions, and supporting existing and encouraging new businesses in Garristown.

2. Increased and better access to services for residents in Garristown.

3. Opportunities and facilities for children and teenagers.

4. Increased frequency of community events.

5. Establish a village community network with neighbouring towns and villages.

6. Restoration of local heritage sites and buildings.

7. Improve digital services in Garristown.

8. Increased sustainable, environmental and biodiversity measures in Garristown.

9. Opportunities and facilities for tourists.

The Story So Far...

How did the project begin?

In early 2025 a partnership of community members formed the Smart Village Team to develop a Smart Village Plan for Garristown. To carry out this task they appointed a consultant team, led by Islander Architects. This consultant team is also supported by New Practice and Civic Engineers.

What work has happened to date?

Our work kicked off with our first visit to Garristown in February, to meet the Smart Village Team and see the local area. Following this, we began our community engagement with a public survey, which was available both online and on paper in Garristown Library. The findings from this survey helped us to understand the aspirations of local residents, the positive experiences of living in Garristown and where there is room for improvement.

What now?

The findings from the public survey gave us a good foundation to begin our work. However, we need to make sure we are on the right track and get more detailed community input on some of our initial thoughts. That brings us to the present, where we’re carrying out our second round of community engagement, to meet and hear from residents in person.

What next?

The feedback and ideas we receive from speaking with the community will underpin our continued work to develop the Smart Village Plan for Garristown. This will primarily encompass more analysis, research and consideration of local and national planning policies to devise a robust final document, with strong community aspirations at its heart. We will be back in August to get your thoughts on the final draft!

What is A Community Vision for Garristown?

It’s a community engagement project inviting Garristown’s residents, groups and businesses to come together and have a say on the practical and tangible solutions to overcome local challenges. Along with general aspirations for the future of the town, this work will directly inform a plan for the European Union ‘Smart Village’ initiative: a Smart Village Plan.

Some Key Stats from the Survey...

The community of Garristown stepped-up and gave an incredible result for the public survey! Thank you to all who took part or shared it with their networks.

330+ responses to the survey
This is a great turnout!

8% of respondents aged 16-25
46% of respondents aged 26-45
It is often difficult to get responses from working-age and young people; not in Garristown!

6,000+ people saw our online ads
100+ people clicked the link in our online ads

Want to find out more?

Visit our project website for more details on the project, the teams involved, and some FAQs!

www.garristownvision.com

A summary of our initial understandings from the findings in this booklet...

The following key issues were identified based on the responses in our community survey of Garristown. These are not ranked in any particular order.

Strengths

- Sense of community
- Size of rural Village
- On the doorstep of Dublin
- Established community groups
- Facilities like the library, playground, shop, butcher, cafe
- The built heritage of the area - the picturesque main street
- Proximity to greenery and wildlife
- Proximity to bigger towns for commuting
- Participation in the SEAI Sustainable Community Energy Initiative

Constraints

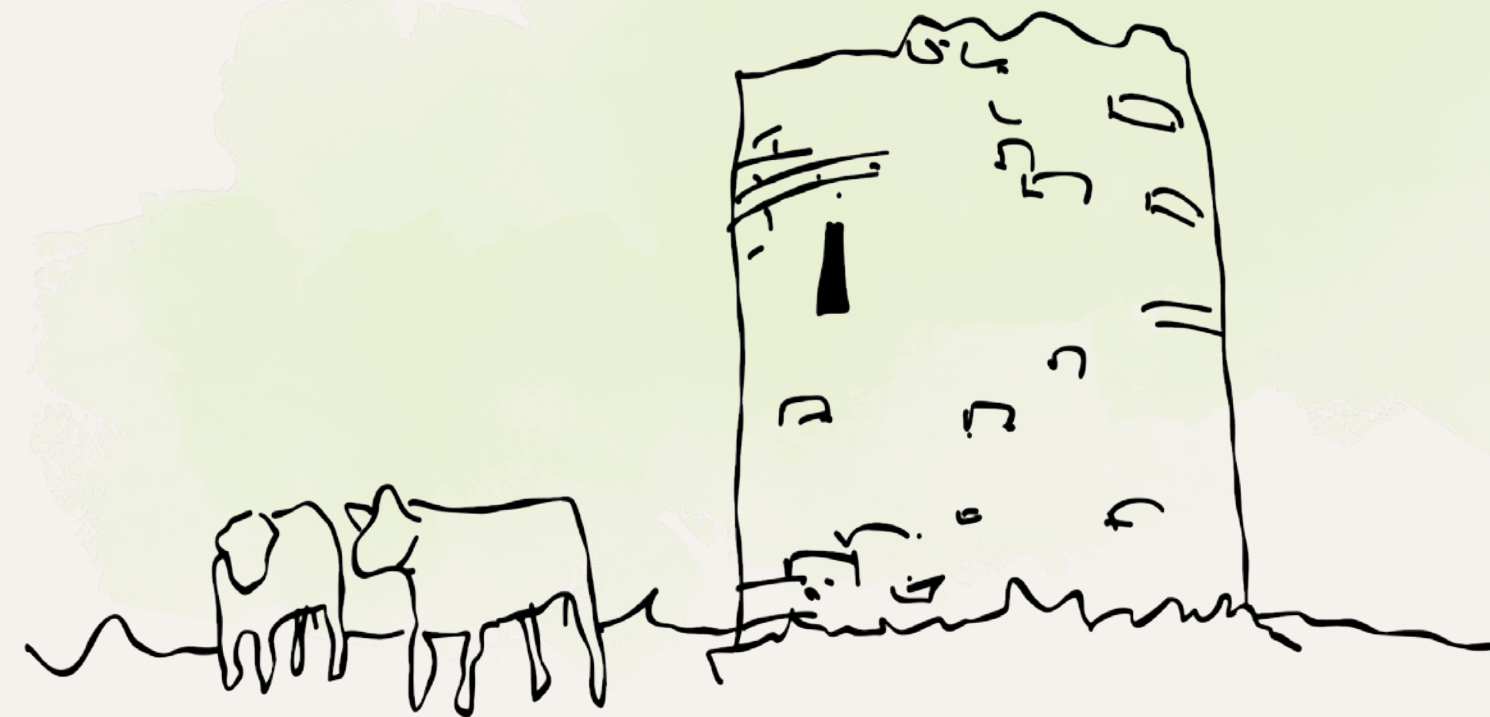
- Narrow roads
- Broadband and internet connectivity
- Access to safe public spaces for teenagers
- Public transport routes
- Availability of volunteers
- Access to health care facilities nearby
- Access to secondary school nearby
- Limited job opportunities
- Lack of a Village development masterplan

Opportunities

- Local mobility initiatives
- Enhancing community safety
- Teenager wellbeing
- Collaboration between community groups, businesses and authorities on Road safety
- Access to heritage and nature
- Promote and strengthen the Irish language
- Sustainable energy initiatives

Threats

- Road speeds
- Vehicle parking
- Integration of newer residents
- Anti-social behaviour
- Litter/ illegal dumping
- Dereliction
- Commuting
- Invasive plants
- Depopulation/ young people moving away/ migration to larger towns
- Overpopulation

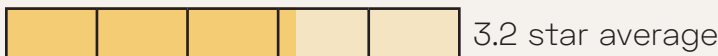


Theme 1:

Transport, Traffic & Parking

A selection of notable statistics and quotes from engagement...

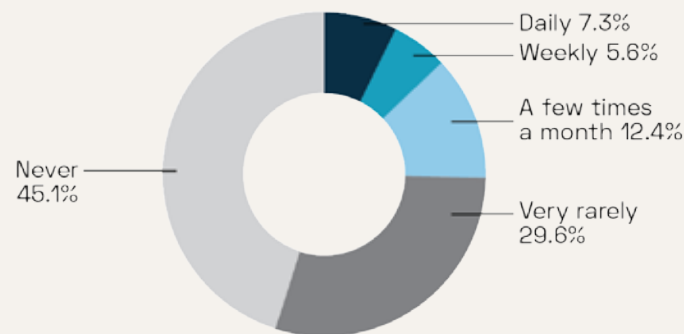
“How safe does it feel to move around the streets of Garristown if you’re **not in a car**?”



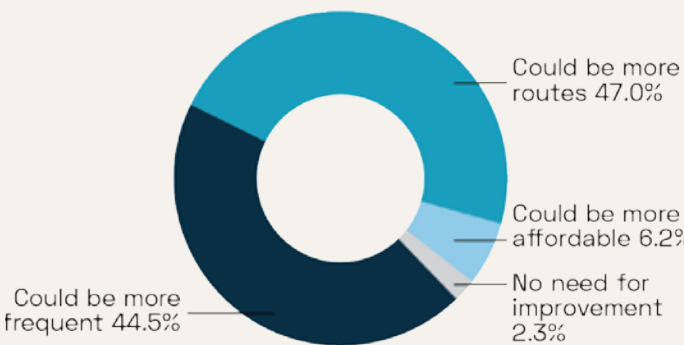
How direct and practical are the routes to move around Garristown **without a car**?



“Roughly how often do you use the existing local bus service?”



“How well-connected is Garristown to other neighbouring areas by public transport?”



“A bus shelter with seats and a timetable would be welcomed, with times extended after 7pm.”

“I’d love if there was a way to make the Local Link service flexible, like having a Local Link bus go between Garristown and Naul, when it is cinema night in the Seamus Ennis Centre.”

Do you ever cycle? If so, what type of cycling do you do?

- 34% I don’t cycle but I’d like to, but I don’t feel safe
- 28% I don’t cycle and I have no desire to
- 18% I cycle for leisure, mainly on the standard road network
- 8% I don’t cycle but I’d like to, but there aren’t any or I’m not aware of the direct routes to my destination
- 5% I cycle for leisure, mainly on cycle routes and pathways
- 4% I commute further afield
- 2% I commute within Garristown or nearby
- 1% I don’t cycle but I’d like to, but I can’t afford a bike

Questions & Prompts

- Could a local campaign help to stop people parking on the paths in the village? What do you think could work?
- What can be achieved through community actions, versus what needs direct council input?

A selection of comments and ideas from the community...

Transport

Improved pedestrian and cycling infrastructure:

There could be more footpaths, pedestrian crossings, more street lighting and dedicated cycling paths are needed to enhance safety and accessibility, especially on roads like Chapel Lane Hill.

Better public transport options:

There could be increased local and regional bus services, with extended evening operating hours, commuter-friendly routes, and a flexible bus to serve specific community events.

Enhanced transport facilities:

A well-lit, covered bus shelter with real-time information is needed for both directions.

Reduced car dependency and safer roads:

The village relies heavily on cars; improved public transport connectivity with surrounding areas and reduced speed limits/heavy vehicle restrictions would help to manage the impacts for pedestrians and people on bikes.

Traffic

Road safety concerns:

Specific areas like the junction at the butchers and down from the graveyard, as well as school drop-off zones are seen as unsafe or an issue; traffic calming measures and better safety signage could be implemented.

Traffic management and planning:

There could be a ring road and other better traffic routing (such as a HGV bypass) to reduce congestion and traffic in the village centre, and improve flow from new estates, the GFC grounds, M2 / Ashbourne Road.

Heavy and large vehicle traffic:

The speed of heavy goods vehicles and farm machinery through the main street is problematic; traffic could be redirected or calmed where possible.

Parking

Parking solutions:

There could be improved parking solutions to prevent vehicles from blocking footpaths, with several suggested locations for dedicated parking areas, including Kinsella’s yard, the Priest’s field, and plots near the school (*note: these locations have not been discussed with or consented to by their stakeholders*).

Throughout this booklet, all text provided in coloured boxes such as those above, is primarily based on quotes and data from the public survey; these are not our views. Wording which is edited by us slightly is done so to formalise the suggestions for readability.

Theme 2:

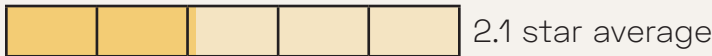
Green space, Sustainability & Recreation

A selection of notable statistics and quotes from engagement...

“How do you rate Garristown for its access to greenspaces and parks?”



“How do you rate Garristown for its access to wellbeing and leisure facilities?”



“Overall, how well do you feel living in Garristown generally helps you make more sustainable choices in different aspects of your life?”



“How well do you think Garristown generally caters to wildlife and biodiversity?”



“A community park where trees, flowers shrubs can be planted [community involved in planting].”

“Install a fast EV Charger”

“Cycling paths to aid cycling to school and leisure cycling.”

“I would love an allotment space where experts could come and show us how to plant.”

“Natural regrown forest at the back of the National School could be used for nature walks and outside classroom.”

“The areas around the church, the library, the community centre could all do better.”

“Land for a forest. Improving water quality in the delving. Lots of scope for small things on main street such as bee hotels, wildflower planting, reducing grass cutting and hedge cutting.”

A selection of comments and ideas from the community...

Greenspace

Connection to local ecosystems:

There is special opportunity to engage with the local plants and ecosystem which could be facilitated by community education programmes and knowledge sharing around topics such as foraging, native plants and their value, and invasive species.

Enhance public greenspace:

Central locations with underutilised land could be converted into greenspace to be used by the community. For instance, the land around the Community Hall, behind the cafe and pub. Any future developments permitted on the main street could feature a new public greenspace as part of the design. Public greenspaces could feature mixed uses, such as tennis courts, table tennis, basketball hoops, play park, and/or dog run.

Sustainability

Public waste disposal:

There could be more street bins with separate compartments for recycling.

Energy efficiency and renewables:

Local awareness of better uses of energy could be developed, as well as how it can be provided locally.

Recreation

Sports:

There could be new sporting facilities introduced to offer more choice on top of what already exists. Existing facilities could be enhanced, for instance installing lights on the walking track around the field to make exercising in winter safer.

Other recreation:

A growing space could be introduced where horticultural workshops and demonstrations are facilitated. A village square with seating and tables could be introduced at Kinsella’s yard and sheds *(note: this location has not been discussed with or consented to by the stakeholder)*.

Questions & Prompts

- Do you know if there are any landowners with established rights of way for the community to walk through?
- How are existing clubs and groups funded or supported?
- Are you familiar with an ‘Adopt a patch’ strategy?

Theme 3: Facilities and Services

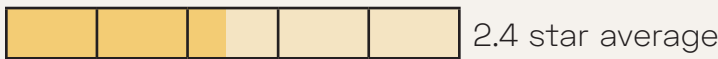
A selection of notable statistics and quotes from engagement...

Better access to services was ranked the second most important issue in the public survey.

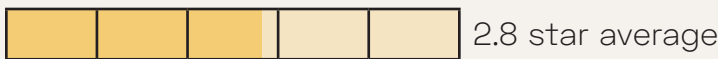
“How do you rate Garristown for its access to groceries and produce?”



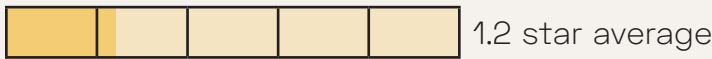
“How do you rate Garristown for its access to shops and general businesses?”



“How do you rate Garristown for its access to schools and childcare?”



“How do you rate Garristown for its access to healthcare, GP and pharmacies?”



“Health care is non existent- GP, Pharmacy, dentist etc. A Primary care centre could be shared with other villages in north west fingal, for Garristown, Naul and Oldtown etc.”

“A crèche is needed along with an after school programme.”

“The community centre could be used more, for other groups such as older people or 12-18 year olds.”

“Open green space for all ages with seating off the main street.”

“A library of things (share economy) would be a great idea.”

“Garristown badly needs another cafe, restaurant and food shop!”

“It would be great to be able to easily buy produce grown in the area. There is nowhere to go for a walk, no park. Green spaces should be more biodiversity friendly too.”

“A new community centre with youth clubs.”

A selection of comments and ideas from the community...

Facilities

Improved healthcare provision:

There could be improved access to a GP, Pharmacy and Dentist - for example if a Primary Care Centre was shared between Garristown and other villages in North-West Fingal e.g. Naul, Oldtown etc. for instance as part of a mixed-use redevelopment of Kinsella’s Yard and Sheds. In addition, a day centre for older people could be provided locally.

Childcare and education:

To accommodate a growing population, a creche or after-school programme could be introduced, for instance as part of a mixed-use redevelopment of Kinsella’s Yard and Sheds. Future provision for a secondary school could also be considered *(note: these locations have not been discussed with or consented to by their stakeholders)*.

Work and study space:

The library could offer improved facilities for work and study, such as desks or study carousels. The Community Hall could be used as an office or hot desking hub.

Community Cafe:

The cafe offer could be improved by providing a space where you can sit down and socialise, all year through all weather.

Services

Enhanced access to services:

With future population increases, steps should be taken to improve access to services for the community of Garristown.

Questions & Prompts

- Are you aware of any plans to add either new facilities or services to the village centre?
- Historically, what have been the obstacles preventing further investment in the area?
- Is safety a concern for you living in Garristown?

Theme 4: Local Economy & Work

A selection of notable statistics and quotes from engagement...

Improving economic conditions and business opportunities was ranked the most important issue in the public survey.

"How do you rate Garristown as a place where new businesses would be interested in setting up?"



"Community working facilities could be a good way to collaborate with other villages."

"A working hub with good WiFi and meeting rooms for working at home people."

"No cafes to sit in or proper desks in library to work from."

"Could have a public hub for office space for people with small businesses."

"If we had a thriving community with locally-owned businesses and locally-focussed activities it might be a nice place to visit."

"I don't think there are many tourists coming, though I have many friends in cycling groups that enjoy a pitstop in Garristown."

"There is not many businesses here and there is a lot of passing traffic - I feel like there is huge potential for business to set up here. Large catchment area etc."

"Lack of short term accommodation."

A selection of comments and ideas from the community...

Local Economy

Supporting businesses:

Supporting existing and encouraging new businesses was seen as of top importance in our survey, indicating a desire for targeted campaigns to attract businesses to invest in the area.

Access to local produce:

A regular farmers style market could be introduced so that the local community can access produce that is grown in North Dublin.

Commercial zoning:

Any future masterplan for the village could consider commercial zoning stricter implementations, to ensure there is room for business growth and new job creation.

Work

Remote working hub:

The introduction of a hub for remote working or start-ups would support local businesses.

Questions & Prompts

- What do you think are the attributes of the existing businesses that have succeeded in maintaining their presence in Garristown?
- Would a 'shop local' campaign have a positive impact or raise awarness of existing businesses across the wider rural hinterland?

Theme 5: Housing , Growth & Integration

A selection of notable statistics and quotes from engagement...

“How accessible is Garristown? How well does Garristown cater for diverse accessibility needs?”



“How do you rate Garristown in meeting the needs of residents over the age of 65?”



“How safe does Garristown feel?”



“The paths / walking routes - not suitable for buggies or wheelchairs”

“More accessibility for special needs is needed around the village roads need to be improved for better transport journeys.”

“The concern for me is that the amenities and services won’t follow this population influx, and we will become another satellite village where everyone gets into their cars and drives elsewhere to do their work, get their healthcare, do shopping etc. Concentrate on upping services and amenities now, before any future phases of house building. Then, by all means, add more housing.”

“How to manage a rising population and increased housing in the town, while preserving the character of the town, the local environment and providing enough services for residents.”

“Cars parking on footpaths is a big issue.”

“Lack of child care to cater for growing population.”

“Making sure that the community is well informed and in touch with each other, to get to know each other, to promote understanding and tolerance and continued wellbeing.”

“Getting people involved, where all are considered not just specific groups.”

Questions & Prompts

- What do you think is essential to prevent a decline in population and loss of services?
- What types of housing should be considered for future development in Garristown?
- What can be done to support integration at a community level (i.e. festivals and street parties), versus what needs council input?

A selection of comments and ideas from the community...

Housing

Comfortable housing:

The community need support to upgrade their housing to be green, sustainable and energy efficient - particularly older residents.

Development plan for infrastructure:

An increase in the number of housing in a rural village could have a detrimental effect on the area if adequate adaptations and improvements are not made to essential services such as sewerage treatment, water, roads etc.

Growth

Development plan for services:

Preservation and enhancements of local services (e.g. healthcare, work, shops) should be addressed with rising population so that Garristown does not become another satellite village where everyone gets in their car to access essential services and amenities.

Environmental preservation:

Preservation of the character of the town, and of the local environment should be addressed with rising population and increased housing.

Community network:

Establish a village community network, with the opportunity for shared working facilities with neighbouring towns and villages. This network could better deal with the challenges of being administered by two local authorities who don’t always cooperate on planning and basic issues such as roads.

Integration

Cohesive community:

There could be targeted promotion to attract newer residents to attend local clubs and community initiatives. In addition, more of a variety of community sport and social events could be facilitated to get more people involved.

Theme 6: Heritage & Rural Character

A selection of notable statistics and quotes from engagement...

“A heritage trail taking in sights from Windmill which has an elevation of 390 ft and unbelievable views”

“We could be a hub for exploring the heritage and biodiversity of the surrounding area.”

“It could be a great base for exploring the Boyne Valley, or Sonairte, Fourknocks and the Seamus Ennis Centre.”

“Need to link with other villages such as Ardcath, Clonalvy & Naul to create a Delvin valley trail.”

“There could be QR codes around the village giving an oral history of the buildings, interviewing older natives would preserve some oral history. It could be a really good historical walk”

“Access to the windmill, maybe an area dedicated to showing the history of Garristown.”

“I met some Americans looking for their ancestors grave so maybe something along those lines.”

Questions & Prompts

- Who will benefit the most from increased tourism in Garristown?
- Any ideas for possible events to promote heritage education for those living in, or with an interest in, the local area?
- Are there any local groups with the capacity to restore or maintain some accessible heritage features in Garristown?

A selection of comments and ideas from the community...

Heritage

Heritage trails

Garristown could promote its heritage assets via a formalised heritage trail, with the opportunity to place QR codes at various points along the route which could link to oral histories related to the location.

Heritage hub

With enhanced amenities, Garristown could become a touristic hub for visitors to use as a base while exploring the heritage and biodiversity of the surrounding area e.g. Boyne Valley, Sonairte, Fourknocks and the Seamus Ennis Centre.

Safeguarding existing heritage

Heritage led conservation of buildings that are currently derelict, or at risk of dereliction, could improve the appearance of the village and enhance community pride.

Heritage education

There could be more events based on themes of local heritage and nature.

Preserving local memories

There could be an oral histories project which aims to preserve the memories of older community members who grew up in Garristown and/or live locally.

Irish language

There are Irish speaking families in the area and many children attend the Gaelscoil in Ashbourne. The daily use and visibility of the Irish language in Garristown could be strengthened and promoted.

Rural Character

Walking trails

Garristown could collaborate with other villages to create a Delvin valley trail, for example Ardcath, Clonalvy and Naul.

Rural aspect

Stricter enforcements could be put in place and adhered to by planners to ensure the rural aspect is not further endangered by new developments.

Theme 7: Young People

A selection of notable statistics and quotes from engagement...

Facilities and support for young people was ranked the third most important issue in the public survey.

“How do you rate Garristown in meeting the needs of teenagers?”



“How do you rate Garristown in meeting the needs of younger children?”



“There is nothing in the village for teenagers, although we have a playground it’s really only suited to smaller kids...we seem to forget kids thats are aged 8+”

A selection of comments and ideas from the community...

Young People

Spaces for teenagers:

The development of indoor and outdoor spaces designed with local teenagers, specifically for teens.

Safe routes to school:

A community-run ‘bike-bus’ could be established for school children, where there is limited vehicle access at certain hours in a certain zone.

Play opportunities:

There could be enhancements and more play provision for children within all the estates, including some covered or indoor spaces for rainy days.

Questions & Prompts

- Did you grow up in Garristown? How do you think your experience compares to today’s?
- Would a self-organised club for teeangers, or a committee in the community council, help offer perpsectives on the experiences of young people?

Theme 8: Village Rejuvenation

A selection of notable statistics and quotes from engagement...

“How would you rate the atmosphere of Garristown in terms of social activity?”



“How would you rate the sense of community of Garristown?”



“What community projects are/have been successful?”

- GAA
- Tidy Towns
- Tuesday Club
- Annual Festival
- Windmill Run
- Christmas Market
- Yoga
- Spanish Classes
- Running Club
- Fashion Show
- Church Music
- Trad Sessions

“If you could have one wish for Garristown, what would it be?”

“Keep the village vibe.”

“Safer walkways around the town and that it will keeps its rural feel while its grows.”

“More events and social aspects - more sports, get people out and part of the village.”

“Improved services/additional businesses would help sustain the village and create local jobs.”

“A sustainable, locally-focused community with local produce and local businesses.”

“A decent park, possibly tennis courts, table tennis and basket ball hoops.”

A selection of comments and ideas from the community...

Village Rejuvenation

Cohesive community:

There could be more regular events where the community come together, for instance like the village summer festival, or housing estate activities to bring neighbours together.

Informed community:

Improvements could be made to ensure that the whole community is well informed and in touch with each other, for instance via a new, easily-accessible community noticeboard upon which upcoming events or opportunities to participate are promoted.

Questions & Prompts

- How did you hear about this engagement event?
- How informed do you feel about the latest news and events in the village?



(F) Workshop feedback

Transport, Parking & Traffic

- The Priest's Field was identified as a possible site for additional parking to serve the village, particularly for school and church users. Similar 'Park-and-Stride' efforts elsewhere have seen low take-up, with most parents still choosing to park directly outside schools.
- Illegal and informal parking along the Main Street is long-standing and difficult to manage. Residents felt the council's introduction of new parking bays was poorly consulted and has made the street and junctions more dangerous. The new pedestrian crossing at the church has also reduced access for older parishioners.
- Road safety was a major concern, with Goughs Cross highlighted as a danger point due to fast traffic and poor visibility. The narrowing of the road near the butcher's has created problems for trucks and tractors, and ongoing surface deterioration—potholes, weak verges, and mud near the graveyard—has increased risk for all users.
- Parking on footpaths is common, forcing pedestrians onto the road. A designated area near the bottle banks or graveyard was suggested, though earlier discussions with the Roads Department have not advanced. Use of the Priest's Field for school parking remains attractive but complicated by landownership issues.
- Public transport is infrequent and unreliable, and taxis are costly and hard to get. HGVs continue to travel through the

village with no bypass, while cycling feels unsafe despite weekend leisure use along recognised routes.

Green Space, Sustainability & Recreation

- The grass strip outside the Garda Station is maintained by the Council, with regular grass cutting provided. Some residents felt that Garristown already enjoys abundant access to nature due to its rural setting and the large gardens of older homes. Others noted that newer housing estates have smaller plots and could benefit from enhanced planting, such as wildflower areas in shared green spaces.
- The village pitch was recognised as an important community asset and should be retained within future development plans. It is currently leased by the GAA from the Housing Agency, with subleases to the running club and Men's Shed. The lease, renewed every five years, has supported community activity while the GAA improved its main grounds.
- Several residents questioned whether the area truly feels rural, given the lack of safe walking routes. A path connecting to Pucky Lane was suggested, with the local biodiversity group keen to help deliver it. There was strong interest in expanding local walking opportunities, particularly along the Delvin River, and in improving access to local produce and nature.
- Renewable energy potential was also raised. The solar panels on the community

	Pages 64-65	Appendices
<p>centre reportedly over-generate, with capacity to power up to twenty nearby homes. Stakeholders expressed interest in exploring grant support to extend this system more widely across the village.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was mixed opinion about the need for more formal green spaces. While some supported new areas for play and seating, others questioned how much these would be used given the abundance of private gardens. Maintenance responsibilities were a recurring concern, though the area around Quinn’s was cited as an attractive local precedent. Cycling activity is relatively high, particularly among children travelling to school, yet roads remain narrow and uninviting. While there was little appetite for dedicated cycling infrastructure, many supported clearer signage to alert drivers to cyclists. Local volunteer numbers are declining, with few new participants joining community projects. Residents agreed that more litter bins are needed—especially between Goughs Cross and the field—and that fly tipping continues to be a persistent issue. <p><u>Facilities & Services</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The loss of the local GP service has been strongly felt in the community. A doctor once held weekly consultations at the Community Centre, but long waiting times and the rise of private healthcare led many residents to seek alternatives. Since that GP’s retirement, no replacement has been appointed, leaving the village without a regular medical presence. Emergency services now come from Balbriggan or Swords, depending on the case, though a small community first responder group remains active locally. Access to healthcare more broadly is limited. The nearest pharmacy is in Ashbourne, but infrequent bus services make it difficult for those without transport. There was support for either a small local pharmacy or a delivery service from nearby towns, as well as the idea of 	<p>temporary consultation spaces for doctors or visiting practitioners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The closure of the village restaurant was attributed to high overheads and low customer numbers. With operating costs now even higher, it was seen as difficult for new businesses to establish. However, there is optimism that Garristown’s strong agricultural base could be promoted as a ‘rich food producer’, helping to attract visitors and food-related enterprise. Many stressed the importance of balancing new economic activity with the area’s rural character, avoiding over-development or a shift toward a more urban identity. The Community Centre was frequently described as dated and under-scaled for current and future needs. Stakeholders felt it should evolve into a more flexible and appealing facility, potentially hosting co-working spaces, youth activities, or cultural programmes. An extension could provide for arts or visitor functions similar to those in Naul or Skerries Mills, but would require dedicated management and funding support. There was agreement that a full-time coordinator could help secure grants and sustain volunteer engagement. Facilities in general were seen as adequate but limited for a growing population. There is appetite for modest outdoor amenities such as table tennis, a half basketball court, or covered multi-purpose space. The outdoor gym sees some use, but newer, more engaging features could attract wider participation. Early childhood provision is another area of strain, with long waiting lists for local crèches and limited capacity for new families. The Garda presence was described as intermittent, consistent with past arrangements, and not viewed as having changed significantly over time. Garda service has always been scattered, same as now. <p><u>Local Economy and Work</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several stakeholders noted that many residents overlook the availability of local 	<p>use. This has limited options for start-ups and contributed to the loss of informal employment opportunities, such as seasonal fruit picking, which once provided local summer work for young people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Garristown remains a small village rather than a town, and expectations for new commercial development need to be realistic. Footfall remains limited, and even in larger nearby settlements, cafés and restaurants struggle to survive. Maintaining balance—encouraging modest growth while retaining the village’s rural identity—was seen as essential to Garristown’s future character and sustainability. <p><u>Housing, Growth & Integration</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recent housing development near the GAA grounds has raised concerns about the loss of green space and the lack of transparency around financial contributions made to the Council in lieu of on-site open space provision. Further development is expected on lands currently occupied by the Men’s Shed and Running Club, as well as an additional phase to complete the Chapel Hill estate. Stakeholders fear that continued expansion without proper planning for shared space, parking, or amenities risks undermining the village’s rural character. The sports field leased by the GAA remains a vital piece of open space, and its protection is widely seen as a priority for the community. There is strong support for maintaining the existing pattern and scale of housing, favouring family homes rather than apartments. Residents wish to retain the village’s low-rise, rural feel, with some suggesting height restrictions for future development. Assisted living or sheltered accommodation for older residents was viewed positively, offering a way for people to stay within the community as their needs change. However, there are currently no dedicated housing options for older people locally.

- Community participation appears uneven, with many residents—particularly those in new or social housing—less involved in local groups and events. Some newer households commute to Dublin and have limited time or connection to village life. The lack of younger representation on the Community Council and declining volunteer leadership were both noted as challenges to sustaining local initiatives.
- Communication about community activities typically happens through social media channels such as Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp, though engagement is low and not all residents are active online. People want to see more visible results from community efforts and more coordination across different groups to strengthen participation.
- Residents expressed a desire for growth that supports rather than erodes the rural identity of Garristown, combining modest housing expansion with genuine investment in green space, transparency in development contributions, and stronger community leadership.

Heritage & Rural Character

- Garristown’s strong heritage identity remains a source of local pride, with the Historical Society continuing to play an active role in preserving and promoting the area’s past. The group has produced a Heritage Booklet featuring a trail map, and is currently republishing an abbreviated version of earlier local history publications. There is broad community support for a formal “Heritage Trail” to help new residents and visitors engage with the village’s cultural assets.
- Stakeholders highlighted a number of important sites that could form part of such a trail, including the church, library, the old well on the Bog Road, the graveyard, and the historic Windmill. The Four Knocks tomb was mentioned as an under appreciated local landmark that has recently attracted more visitors, likely through increased online exposure. Restoration of the Windmill and improved access to it were identified as potential

long-term projects, though current landownership remains a barrier.

- There was enthusiasm for creative ways of sharing heritage information, such as discreet signage and QR codes linking to stories or archival material. Stakeholders emphasised that interpretive content should remain concise and respectful of the village’s rural character. The existing Well of the Water walk, once popular, has fallen into disrepair following storm damage, but could be reinstated as part of a connected walking route.
- Several participants proposed linking Garristown into a wider North County Dublin or Fingal heritage trail network, potentially incorporating cycling and walking routes like Pucky Lane and paths connecting Naul, Oldtown, and Ballyboughal. Establishing such routes would depend on the goodwill of local landowners, but was viewed as an opportunity to enhance tourism and community integration.
- There was also interest in small-scale adaptive reuse of heritage buildings, such as the old Vet’s office and barn, for community or visitor purposes. Heritage-led initiatives were seen not only as a means of preserving Garristown’s character but also as a way to bring residents together, build local pride, and create gentle, sustainable tourism aligned with the village’s rural setting.

Young People

- Much of the voluntary work sustaining local facilities relies on a small group of long-standing residents. Newer parents are perceived as having limited time or willingness to engage, despite a growing demand for children’s activities such as a Scouts Den. There is frustration that people often expect existing volunteers or the Community Council to deliver new initiatives without offering to help themselves.
- Several participants suggested re-engaging with Foróige, the national youth development organisation, which previously

had a base in the village. With an increasing number of young people now living locally, there was agreement that a structured youth programme could provide valuable outlets for socialising, creativity, and skills development.

- Scouts Ireland was highlighted as a practical opportunity, as the organisation will train and equip community volunteers free of charge. However, parental involvement remains the key challenge. Stakeholders said parents often prefer to drop children off rather than stay and supervise, and that this attitude limits what can be organised safely. There was interest in exploring wraparound services such as before- or after-school clubs to support working families, though insurance issues have been a barrier in the past.
- An open evening at the Community Centre was proposed as a way to gather ideas and encourage new leadership. Suggestions included arts and pottery workshops in collaboration with local schools and artists, alongside expanding sports and outdoor opportunities. Safety concerns were raised about the playground, where children can easily run onto the adjacent road, indicating a need for improved boundaries or traffic calming.

Village Rejuvenation

- One stakeholder reflected on their experience of rural growth elsewhere, noting that fears of losing community identity during a housing boom can sometimes prove unfounded. In Louth, the population increase brought benefits, strengthening the GAA club, supporting a new shop, and even leading to the establishment of a GP clinic.
- Some residents remain anxious that continued expansion could shift the area’s character from rural to urban. While many accept that population growth brings new opportunities, there is a clear desire to maintain the village’s scale, openness, and sense of identity.

- Practical issues around lighting were also raised, particularly at the running track, where motion sensors cause lights to activate at night. Nearby residents described this as intrusive and a potential security concern, as illuminated gardens may make properties more visible to intruders. Requests were made for the lights to be switched off overnight or placed on a timed system.
- There was interest in creating more covered and informal gathering spaces—places for people to meet casually without formal programming. At the same time, residents acknowledged that making fuller use of open green areas could provoke objections about changes to existing views or quiet spaces.
- A broader theme emerging from these discussions was the need for greater individual initiative. Long-standing volunteers observed that few residents attend community meetings or help with events, yet there are frequent complaints about the lack of activity. The sentiment expressed was that positive change depends on people becoming more involved and taking shared responsibility for Garristown’s future.



(G) Youth engagement findings

Note: Please refer to separate file provided which contains the imagery from the 'Postcard from the Future' exercise. The following summaries and quotes are drawn from the written captions provided by young people.

The "postcards from the future" created by young people in Garristown present an imaginative and optimistic vision for the town's future, one where nature, play, learning, and community are fully intertwined. Their ideas reveal a generation that values biodiversity not as something separate or abstract, but as a lived part of their everyday social and educational lives. Across the postcards, the young people consistently imagined spaces that were playful, inclusive, and environmentally conscious, making places to meet, learn, and spend time outdoors together.

At the heart of many postcards was a clear enthusiasm for biodiversity-rich parks and outdoor classrooms. The young people saw these spaces as both fun and functional, and as a way to be active and social while also caring for nature. Many imagined open green areas filled with trees, flowers, and wildlife, where people could relax or learn about the environment.

- » "Biodiversity is very big in nature and for the environment. In my picture I drew about playing and enjoying the environment around you."
- » "A biodiversity space on the Garristown pitch with loads of trees, plants, flowers, benches, picnic tables, natural light and a roof in case it rains, swings and other play things."

Several young people described greenhouses, bug hotels, and outdoor classrooms that double as spaces for creativity and learning. One wrote about a "greenhouse classroom", while another imagined a space where "you can open the roof to let sunshine in and another where you can let the rain in for the plants." Another envisioned "a classroom with fish, frogs and ducks... and a swimming pool for summer," blending environmental curiosity with fun and discovery.

Movement, fitness, and freedom also featured strongly. Young people wanted places where they could be active, safe, and connected, within a rural setting that can sometimes feel limited. The most common ideas involved walking paths, sports areas, and cycle tracks:

- » "A bicycle track around Garristown, so you can keep fit, cycle with friends, and cycle to school and football training."
- » "Biodiversity space called Garristown Greenway which is a cycle track."

Sport was an important social anchor, with many young people imagining enhanced or new facilities, from football pitches, basketball courts, swimming pools, and even water-based sports spaces. One described "a football stadium that anyone can go in to for free at any time... with floodlights for the night powered by solar panels," while another took a more playful approach: "an inflatable football pitch on water which is solar powered with a forest next to it and a zipline."

Social connection was another key theme

— the desire for shared spaces that feel welcoming and alive. The postcards described picnic tables, covered seating, cafés, and informal hangouts that would bring people together. Several young people imagined cafés integrated into parks or forest walks, or places to sit, charge a phone, and watch the world go by:

- » “Outdoor bench and tables with a roof to have a picnic or do your homework and a basketball court.”
- » “Yesterday I went to get a chipper but it’s a new shop with really nice seats and a place to charge your phone and the old chipper van is in the shop as decoration and now I don’t have to sit in the rain. I sat down and then I seen a refillable drink station and I loved it and the food was delicious.”

Several suggested “the chipper becomes a restaurant and Garristown gets a secondary school,” or proposed hybrid spaces that combine learning, ecology, and play. One postcard described a “biodiversity area on the estates, a huge park with an outdoor play area, wildflower garden, lake, woods with exercise equipment, garden centre café to buy coffee and plants, a dog-friendly playground and field.”

Many suggested a desire for balance between rural identity and modern life. The young people want their town to stay green, but also to be connected, lively, and sustainable.

- » “Nice green park area for people to go on nice walks. More restaurants and food places. Beside the park, a café.”
- » “Fun zone behind the school. Pet-friendly park. Walkway with trees. Exercise machines. Café and shop.”

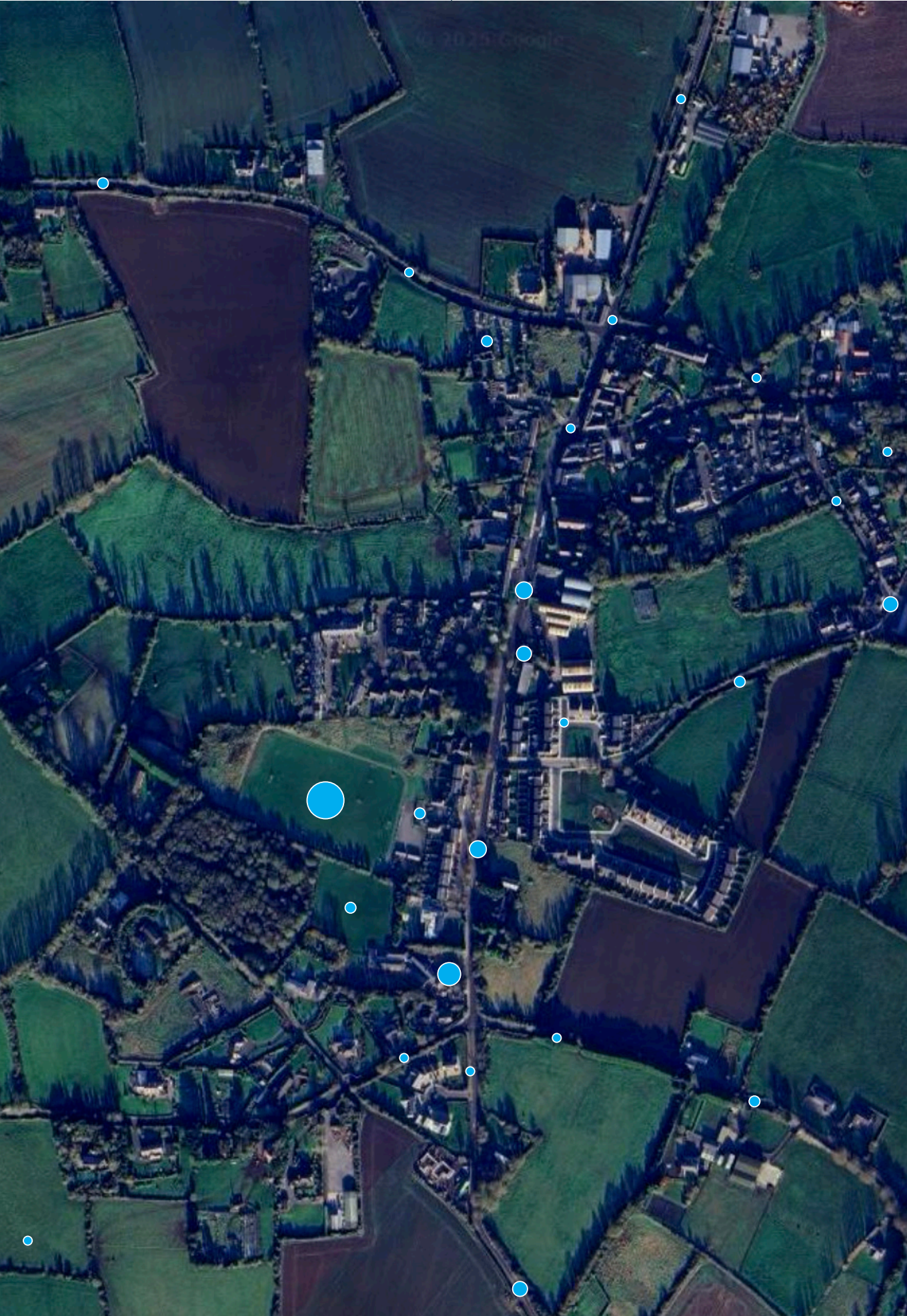
“Areas or routes that I like and/or feel safe”



“Areas or routes that feel unsafe or need improvement”



“Areas that flood or I can’t use in the rain”





(H) SCOT matrix and project sorting methodology

The findings from community engagement were summarised into a series of Strengths, Constraints, Opportunities and Threats. These formed a 22 point SCOT Analysis. Using the methodology outlined the SMART Village process, these 22 points were mapped against each other in a matrix to identify individual project ideas. Project ideas which had been raised during consultation were fit into this matrix where possible, and the intersection of individual SCOT points created unique project opportunities which had not yet been considered.

The SCOT matrix produced 101 individual project ideas. To sort and refine this list, these were initially mapped against eight 'core drivers,' which were the main ambitions and priorities for any projects brought forward, as identified during community engagement. These eight core drivers were:

- » Maintains a rural character
- » Fosters sustainable population growth
- » Enhances sustainability
- » Celebrates heritage
- » Integrates a wider range of the community
- » Fosters engagement with nature and greenspaces
- » Fosters local economic growth
- » Creates safer, more neighbourhood- friendly streets.

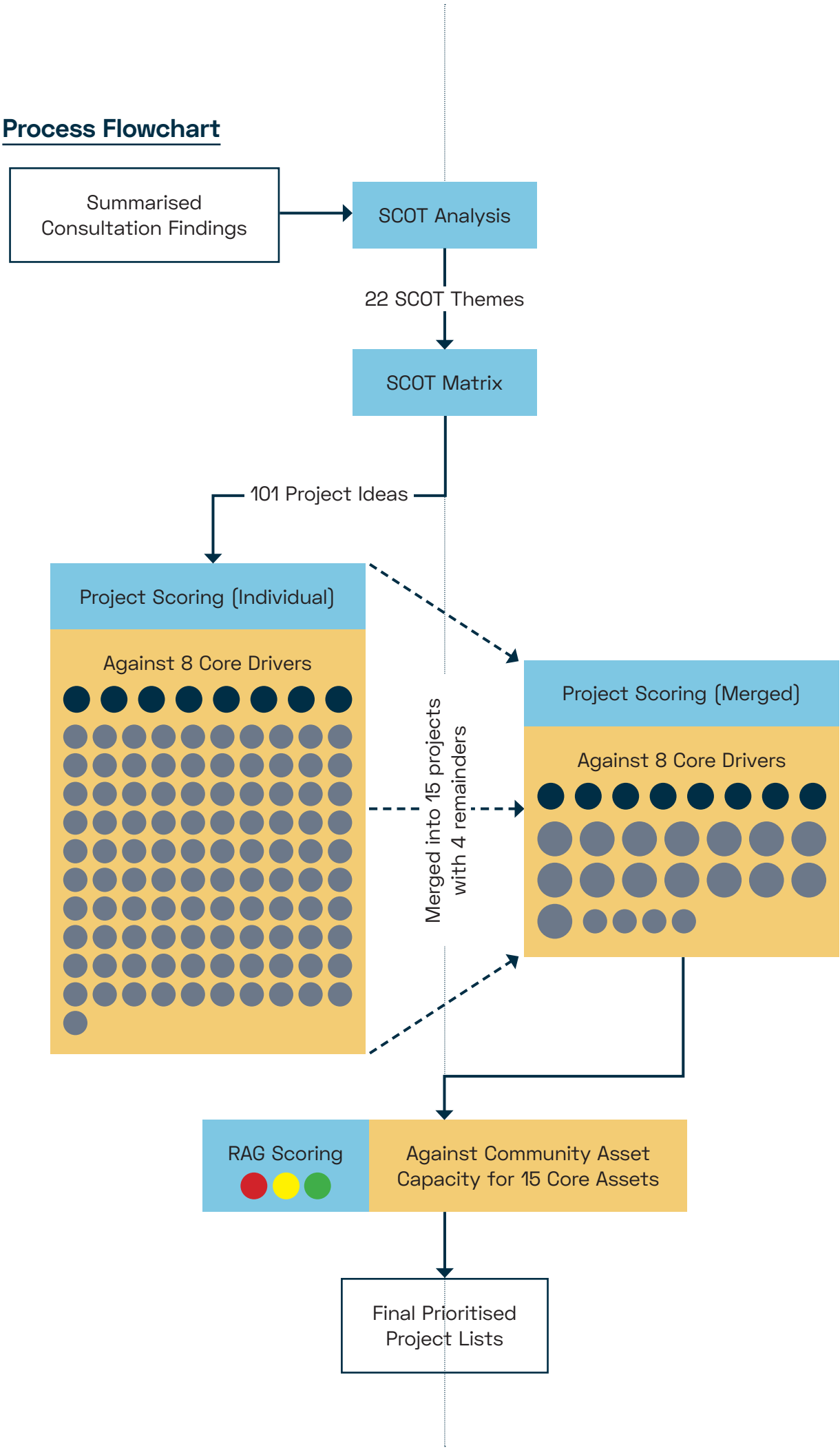
Mapping 101 projects against these eight drivers was found to be impractical, as many of the projects scored similar rankings, or projects that we knew had popular appeal scored low against the core driver method. To refine this list, and to create some 'joined up' wins, projects which were seen to be deliverable in tandem were merged to create a more realistic and practical series of macro-projects. These 15 merged projects were then mapped against the same eight core drivers, suitably prioritising them against the community ambitions.

To further understand how the identified projects may be formed into a useful action plan, these projects were put considered in traffic light system of Red-Amber-Green (RAG) scoring, against 15 core community assets within Garristown. This helped to understand which projects were more feasibly deliverable with sites already at the disposal of the village.

The key finding in the RAG process was that, while there were potentially physical sites that were available, many projects required greater community volunteer capacity to drive them forward in the first instance. The final list of projects was then presented to the community in the September engagement event, ranked against both the core drivers and the community assets for reference. These lists, upon discussion with the local community, informed the action plan and roadmap within the SMART Village document.

Refer to the flow-chart and tables on the following pages for a thorough presentation of this process.

Process Flowchart



SCOT Analysis

Strengths	Constraints	Opportunities	Threats
Established community capacity	Limited access to public spaces	Local mobility initiatives	Traffic
Existing community assets	Limited availability of volunteers	Integration of newer residents	Frequency of bus
Built heritage	Limited access to healthcare	Sustainability initiatives	Lease of village pitch
Proximity to nature	Limited job opportunities	Access to heritage and nature	Cost of doing business
Proximity to other towns and villages	Uncontrolled car parking	Collaboration between groups and businesses	Future housing needs & developments
	Lack of opportunities, social space or leisure for young people		An ageing population and poor community volunteer succession

Opportunities		Strengths				
		Established community capacity	Existing community assets	Built heritage	Proximity to nature	Proximity to other towns and villages
	Local mobility initiatives	(1) Directory of volunteer drivers	(1) Planters at businesses, (2) loop walks	(1) Heritage trail	(1) Establish access routes (right of way)	
	Integration of newer residents	(1) Local campaign with FCC community development officer, (2) community website and noticeboard, social media campaign	(1) Social event in cafe (2) promote resources available in library more visibly on main street	(1) Irish architecture foundation open house event (2) oral history archive/ trail with qr codes	(1) Renewed tidy towns/ pride of place campaigns (2) fairy walk co-designed with school pupils	(1) Community website and noticeboard linked to regional activities
	Sustainability initiatives	(1) Improve resource efficiency	(1) Reduced environmental footprint and greenhouse gas emissions	(1) Restore derelict/ vacant structures i.e.. Houses, barns etc. (2) Incentivise adaptive reuse over new build where possible	(1) Implement biodiversity schemes i.e.. Swift boxes (2) establish a loop walk	(1) Campaign for increased frequency of bus to reduce car dependency
	Access to heritage and nature	(1) Update the rural villages of fingal map (2) partnership with local artists and photographers	(1) Increase planting/ establish a community garden around community centre	(1) Establish routes or viewing points to monuments	(1) Field day with talks, walks and workshops e.g.. Honey, foraging and herbal tea making (2) establish an outdoor classroom for use by the school and community groups	(1) Update the rural villages of fingal map with a signposted trail route to be established
Opportunities	Collaboration between groups and businesses	(1) Increase in local markets seasonal, (2) directory of local businesses and services on community website with qr code on a community noticeboard	(1) Seasonal advertisement of produce available from local businesses displayed in community facilities such as the gaa club, library etc. (2) Find permanent indoor and outdoor facilities for existing men's shed	(1) Oral history of established local businesses or groups to be recorded/ published	(1) Adopt a patch	(1) Establish a touring market for local makers/ businesses (2) establish a chamber of commerce between villages

Constraints						
	Limited access to public spaces	Limited availability of volunteers	Limited access to healthcare	Limited job opportunities	Uncontrolled car parking	Lack of opportunities, social space or leisure for young people
Opportunities	(1) Safe walking routes (2) introduction of bus shelter with seating and timetable	(1) Local walking group (2) branded campaign	(1) Establish pharmacy delivery services	(1) Construction and maintenance of new community trails	(1) Planters at businesses, (2) flip path and grass verges on main street outside garda station	(1) Community-led initiative for learner drivers. (2) A bike bus for safe cycling to school.
	(1) Greater range of outdoor sports facilities e.g.. Basketball, table tennis, boules, tennis etc.	(1) Open call for new volunteers e.g.. Sign up day similar to ‘freshers week’ in third level, (2) forum of residents associations		(1) Establish a chamber of commerce for networking (2) work hub / desk space provisions for co-working/ remote working	(1) Adopt a patch on main street (2) playful streets day on main street to raise awareness of parking issues	(1) Engaging young people from the entire area in a youth zone initiative.
	(1) Village pitch to incorporate more planting, segregated bins, nature signage etc.	(1) Increased membership for garristown sustainable energy committee and biodiversity group	(1) First aid training events for community on first response (2) return scheme bin for fundraising	(1) Heritage skills training for restorations of built heritage (2) horticultural coaching for new community gardens	(1) Planters and benches at businesses,	(1) Biodiversity social space for young people and an outdoor classroom.
	(1) Intensification of use of village pitch (2) establish access to woodland behind school	(1) Encourage new interest among younger residents	(1) Encourage healthier lifestyles e.g.. Couch to 5k, utilising places of interest as orienteering checkpoints	(1) Local tour guides (2) employing local artists to signpost key areas/ monuments etc.	(1) Establish approved viewing points to monuments, (2) safer walking routes e.g., pucky lane or to ‘well of the water’	(1) Biodiversity social space for young people and an outdoor classroom. (2) Get young people involved in the heritage society. (3) Improve the woodland for young people to feel safe and comfortable in it.
	(1) Publish timetable for community centre for public viewing, (2) survey of occupancy ‘above the shop’ on main street for adaptive reuse potential	(1) Corporate volunteer days for maintenance/ planting/ clean-up etc.		(1) Pillar group focused on attracting new investment in garristown to prioritize job creation	(1) Introduce new car parking spots at bottle bank, (2) coordinate the location of planters where footpath is wide enough	

		Strengths				
		Established community capacity	Existing community assets	Built heritage	Proximity to nature	Proximity to other towns and villages
Threats	Traffic	(1) Roadside signage campaign to highlight concerns to commuters (2) establish a working relationship with FCC roads department on issues to be addressed including speed	(1) Establish a safe parking and walking route for school pupils from village field to school, keep children off the main road (2) education campaign for parents to avoid congestion at drop off/ collection times	(1) Establish a new seating area and sculpture on the main street to encourage traffic calming (2) introduction of traditional kerbing and 'gateway' to village main street	(1) Consider planting of new street trees on main street as part of DMURS strategy	(1) Bike rental facilities across neighbouring towns and villages
	Frequency of bus	(1) Car pooling, (2) purchase and operation of community bus	(1) Space to park bus in gaa club (2) establish a multi-purpose booking system for use of bus		(1) Incorporate map for village trail on the local links bus to raise awareness more widely (2) day trips on community bus to areas of interest	(1) Increased frequency of local links bus to existing route, e.g.. At rush hour and post 7pm from ashbourne
	Lease of village pitch	(1) Replace temporary structures with permanent multi-purpose facilities for men's shed and athletic club	(1) Increase range of outdoor sports on the village pitch (2) establish community garden	(1) Permanent structures required for existing established groups already situated on the land.	(1) Opportunity to create loop walk	(1) Hosting of regional sports day
	Cost of doing business	(1) Promotion of a shop local campaign (2) tax breaks for businesses who support community groups and charitable events	(1) Promotion of local business directory for community and visitors (2) feasibility study for 'greening your business' to reduce operation costs	(1) Identification of existing buildings that could house new businesses (2) food or agri-tourism to increase footfall	(1) Supplemental income from day trips to farms and horse studs (2) camping sites	(1) Could travelling services be set up and shared among other small villages e.g.. Like mobile clinic, food trucks etc.

		Constraints				
		Limited access to public spaces	Limited availability of volunteers	Limited access to healthcare	Limited job opportunities	Uncontrolled car parking
Threats		Lack of opportunities, social space or leisure for young people				
	(1) Introduction of public bike stands (2) introduce car parking at bottle bank	(1) Parent organised school 'walking/ cycling bus' during school term with sponsorship for hi-vis and bikes	(1) Introduction of community first responders group (2) re-establish weekly GP/ nurse facility for community	(1) Introduction of a school traffic warden for safety of pupils	(1) Introduce traffic calming measure at key junctions assisted by FCC	
	(1) Construction of bus shelters with seating and timetable	(1) Establish a directory of drivers for carpool network	(1) Increased frequency of local links bus to existing route	(1) Training for new bus drivers	(1) More frequent bus would reduce car dependency	
	(1) Secure longer lease to ensure continued access to the village pitch		(1) Maintenance people (2) training programme from scouts Ireland		(1) Dedicated car parking spots for community groups (2) set-down area for school drop-off and collection	(1) Safe route to school from the back of the pitch.
	(1) Shop front renovation scheme for mutual benefits		(1) Mobile clinic	(1) Employment opportunity for rural fingal tourism office i.e.. Website updates and promotional campaigns to encourage visitors to region (2) rural fingal job fair event	(1) New off-street car park with first half-hour free of charge	

		Strengths				
		Established community capacity	Existing community assets	Built heritage	Proximity to nature	Proximity to other towns and villages
Threats	Future housing needs & developments	(1) Community-led energy upgrades, group together for funding	(1) Vacancy audit of village, are there empty 'above the shop' units?	(1) Renovation of existing vacant/ derelict properties for housing (2) opportunities for new 'right-size' housing types for older residents	(1) Campaign for future housing to be 'infill' rather than 'green field' built on the outskirts	
	An ageing population and poor community volunteer succession	(1) A youth-run youth zone overseen by an existing group or groups.	(1) Update of an existing community asset to include a youth-run youth zone.	(1) Engage younger people with the heritage society to capitalise on youth creativity with bringing heritage to life, while learning built heritage-based skills.	(1) Involve young people with an outdoor biodiversity space to learn skills and manage nature.	(1) Start a region-wide youth council.

		Constraints					
		Limited access to public spaces	Limited availability of volunteers	Limited access to healthcare	Limited job opportunities	Uncontrolled car parking	Lack of opportunities, social space or leisure for young people
Threats		(1) Ensure that adequate green space is being provided for housing developments (2) future developments to be balanced to provide mix of open spaces for young children, teenagers and older residents 'right-sizing'	(1) Campaign for more volunteers for garristown sustainable energy community, more buy in from community will open up more funding streams	(1) Increase in housing and the resultant population growth will make a stronger case for investment to develop a permanent GP facility in the village	(1) Community-led retrofit initiatives may create jobs (2) local farms could help grow produce natural materials for sustainable construction, e.g. thatch etc.	(1) More off-street car parking could be incorporated as part of future housing development guidelines	
		(1) Update appropriate routes through public and natural spaces underfoot to improve accessibility in all seasons and weather conditions.	(1) Encourage young people to get involved by inviting engaged young people to come up with the ways and initiatives to engage their peers, rather than adults.	(1) Create a car-pooling system within the community for group trips to healthcare.	(1) Involve young people in the creation of a calendar of skills and activities they could learn, while also learning in the creation of the youth zone, biodiversity space and/or heritage society.	(1) More accessible parking bays around the town to accommodate for potential future need.	(1) A youth-run youth zone, outdoor bio space, outdoor classroom or similar.

Project Scoring (Individual)

	Core Drivers								Score
	Maintains a rural character	Fosters sustainable population growth	Enhances sustainability	Celebrates heritage	Integrates a wider range of the community	Fosters engagement with nature and greenspaces	Fosters local economic growth	Creates safer, more neighbourhood- friendly streets	
Renewed Tidy Towns/ Pride of Place Campaigns	3	1	3	2	3	3	3	1	19
Identify and construct safe loop walk	3	1	3	2	3	3	1	3	19
Streetscape enhancement scheme; benches, bins, lighting, planting	2	0	3	2	3	3	3	3	19
Purchase and operation of a Community Bus for commuters, clubs and group day trips	3	3	3	2	2	2	1	2	18
Community-led retrofit initiatives	3	2	3	3	3	1	2	0	17
Signpost a heritage trail with QR codes and oral history - Local and/or Regional	3	0	2	3	3	2	2	2	17
New tree planting either side along the Main Street Edible streets; annual/ seasonal community planting events for fruit trees, berries, herbs etc.	3	0	3	2	2	3	1	3	17
Involve young people with an outdoor biodiversity space to learn skills and manage nature.	3	0	3	2	3	3	2	1	17
Field Day with talks, walks and workshops e.g.. Beekeeping, foraging and herbal tea making	3	3	2	2	3	2	1	0	16
Promotion of a Shop Local campaign	3	2	3	2	2	1	3		16
Future housing to be 'infill' rather than being located on 'greenfield' lands on the outskirts	2	3	3	1	3	3	1	0	16
Construction of Local Links bus shelters with seating and timetables	2	3	3	0	3	1	2	2	16
Formation of a Rambling Group or social walking group	3	1	2	2	2	3	1	2	16
New roadside sculpture/ water feature with seating area along the Main Street	2	0	3	3	3	2	1	2	16
Bike rental facilities across neighbouring towns and villages	2	1	3	2	2	3	1	2	16
New planting on Main Street	3	0	3	2	2	2	1	3	16
Heritage skills training events or courses	3	1	3	3	2	1	2	0	15
Community Communication strategy Seasonal advertisements of produce available from local businesses displayed in community facilities	2	1	2	2	3	2	3	0	15
Increased frequency of the Local Links bus along existing routes	2	3	3	1	3	1	1	1	15
Signpost a nature trail with wildlife facts	2	1	3	1	3	3	0	2	15
Introduction of public bike stands for parking or storage of bikes	2	1	3	1	2	3	1	2	15
Update appropriate routes through public and natural spaces underfoot to improve accessibility in all seasons and weather conditions.	3	1	2	1	2	3	0	3	15
Community Communication strategy Community Website (linked to regional activities)	2	2	1	3	3	1	2	0	14
Greater range of multi-use outdoor sports facilities e.g. Basketball, table tennis, boules, tennis etc.	2	3	3	0	3	2	1	0	14
Restore derelict/ vacant structures i.e.. houses, barns etc. for new uses	3	2	1	3	2	1	2	0	14
Horticultural coaching events	2	2	3	1	2	3	1	0	14

	Core Drivers								Score
	Maintains a rural character	Fosters sustainable population growth	Enhances sustainability	Celebrates heritage	Integrates a wider range of the community	Fosters engagement with nature and greenspaces	Fosters local economic growth	Creates safer, more neighbourhood- friendly streets	
Development of community garden/ community allotments	2	2	3	1	2	3	1	0	14
Community Communication strategy A directory of local businesses and services	3	3	1	2	2	0	3	0	14
Shop front renovation scheme	3	0	2	3	1	2	3	0	14
Exchange events with other communities; impart their knowledge on successful events and funding applications etc.	3	0	2	3	3	1	2	0	14
Spatial expansion of Community Centre within owned lands	3	0	2	2	3	2	2	0	14
Fairy house trail co-designed with young children	2	2	2	1	3	3	0	1	14
Agree lease with landowner of the woodland behind school to establish a right of way for accessing it safely by a wider range of the community	3	0	3	1	3	3	0	1	14
Playful Streets day organised for the Main Street	2	2	1	1	3	1	1	3	14
New off-street car park with first half-hour free of charge	1	2	2	1	2	0	3	3	14
Introduction of a School Traffic Warden with regular 'walking/ cycling bus' times during school term	2	3	3	0	1	2	0	3	14
Raised surface at road junctions to prioritise pedestrian safety	2	1	1	1	3	2	1	3	14
Engage younger people with the Heritage Society to capitalise on youth creativity with bringing heritage to life, while learning built heritage-based skills.	3	0	2	3	3	1	2	0	14
Involve young people in the creation of a calendar of skills and activities they could learn, while also learning in the creation of the youth zone, biodiversity space and/or heritage society.	1	0	2	2	3	2	3	1	14
Feasibility studies for local businesses and community buildings to implement sustainability initiatives	1	3	3	1	2	1	2	0	13
Replace temporary structures with permanent structures for community groups e.g. Men's Shed and Athletic Club	1	2	2	2	3	3	0	0	13
Survey of occupancy 'above the shop' on Main Street, potential for new businesses/ housing	3	3	2	2	1	0	2	0	13
Future housing developments to be balanced to provide mix of open spaces for young children, teenagers and older residents 'right-sizing'	1	3	2	0	3	3	1	0	13
Intergenerational mentorship; skills, oral history etc.	3	0	1	3	3	2	1	0	13
Replace temporary structures with permanent structures for community groups e.g. Men's Shed and Athletic Club	1	2	2	2	3	3	0	0	13
Survey of occupancy 'above the shop' on Main Street, potential for new businesses/ housing	3	3	2	2	1	0	2	0	13

	Core Drivers								Score
	Maintains a rural character	Fosters sustainable population growth	Enhances sustainability	Celebrates heritage	Integrates a wider range of the community	Fosters engagement with nature and greenspaces	Fosters local economic growth	Creates safer, more neighbourhood- friendly streets	
Future housing developments to be balanced to provide mix of open spaces for young children, teenagers and older residents 'right-sizing'	1	3	2	0	3	3	1	0	13
Intergenerational mentorship; skills, oral history etc.	3	0	1	3	3	2	1	0	13
Establish access routes through private land with/ or designated viewing points of monuments	3	2	1	3	1	2	0	1	13
Flip path and grass verges on Main Street (outside Garda Station)	2	0	3	0	2	2	2	2	13
Signage at crossroads with Information leaflet for parents to avoid congestion at school drop off/ collection times	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	3	13
Biodiversity social space for young people and an outdoor classroom.	2	0	3	1	3	3	0	1	13
Biodiversity social space for young people and an outdoor classroom.	2	0	3	1	3	3	0	1	13
Improve the woodland for young people to feel safe and comfortable in it.	3	0	3	1	2	3	0	1	13
Start a region-wide youth council.	1	1	2	3	3	2	1	0	13
Information evening with the assigned Community Development Officer from Fingal County Council	2	2	1	1	3	1	2	0	12
Community Communication strategy Community Noticeboard (linked to regional activities)	3	1	0	2	3	1	2	0	12
Promote Library resources	2	2	2	2	3	1	0	0	12
Oral history archive, for local residents and businesses	2	1	0	3	2	2	2	0	12
Sign-up day for new volunteers (similar to 'Freshers Week' in third level)	2	2	2	0	3	3	0	0	12
Forum of representatives from the different Residents Associations	1	2	1	0	3	2	3	0	12
Establishment of a Regional 'Rural Fingal' Chamber of Commerce/ Economic Pillar group	2	2	2	0	3	0	3	0	12
Adopt-a-patch' initiative for the Main Street	2	1	3	1	1	3	1	0	12
Community Communication strategy Event posters and regular meetings to increase membership for Garristown Biodiversity Group	2	1	3	1	2	3	0	0	12
Updated pamphlet with the Rural Villages of Fingal Map in collaboration with local creatives and advertised on the Local Links bus service	2	0	0	3	3	2	2	0	12
Establish an all-year outdoor classroom for use by the school and community groups	3	1	3	1	1	3	0	0	12
Establish course routes incorporating local accessible landmarks as part of the 'Run Your Town' initiative with the Fingal Orienteering Club, the Irish Orienteering Association	2	0	2	2	2	3	1	0	12
Increase frequency of local markets e.g. 1 per season that could tour the other villages consecutively	3	1	0	2	3	1	2	0	12

	Core Drivers								Score
	Maintains a rural character	Fosters sustainable population growth	Enhances sustainability	Celebrates heritage	Integrates a wider range of the community	Fosters engagement with nature and greenspaces	Fosters local economic growth	Creates safer, more neighbourhood- friendly streets	
Sites for wild camping or glamping	3	0	2	0	1	3	3	0	12
Opportunities for new 'right-size' housing types for older residents	2	3	2	2	2	1	0	0	12
A directory of volunteer drivers for carpooling network	2	1	3	1	3	0	1	1	12
New set-down area and accessible route to school and community centre	1	2	1	1	3	1	0	3	12
A youth-run youth zone, outdoor bio space, outdoor classroom or similar.	1	0	2	2	3	3	1	0	12
Addition of Swift Boxes to more businesses and community buildings	3	0	3	1	1	3	0	0	11
Community Communication strategy Event posters and regular meetings to increase membership for Garristown Sustainable Energy Committee	1	3	3	1	2	1	0	0	11
Supplemental income from day trips to farms and horse studs	1	0	2	2	1	3	2	0	11
Formation of a Rural Fingal Tourism office or 'pillar' group	2	0	1	3	1	2	2	0	11
Establishment of a daytime co-working hub/ evening space to study	0	3	2	0	3	0	3	0	11
Formation of a local 'pillar' group focused on coordinating road safety measures with the Roads Department in Fingal County Council	2	1	1	0	3	0	1	3	11
Update of an existing community asset to include a youth-run youth zone.	2	0	2	3	3	1	0	0	11
Establish pharmacy delivery services	1	3	2	0	2	0	2	0	10
Regular social events organised in cafe	1	2	0	1	3	1	2	0	10
Formation of a local 'pillar' group focused on attracting new investment in Garristown with the Local Enterprise Office	1	3	1	0	2	0	3	0	10
Hosting of a regional sports day competition between neighbouring villages	2	1	1	1	2	2	1	0	10
Training programme from Scouts Ireland	2	0	2	1	2	3	0	0	10
Make space for girls: public spaces in village field?	2	0	2	0	3	3	0	0	10
Branded hi-visibility clothing for walking on local roads	2	0	1	1	2	3	0	1	10
A bike bus for safe cycling to school.	0	0	3	0	3	1	0	3	10
Open House Event with Irish Architecture Foundation	1	0	0	3	2	2	1	0	9
Segregated bins for waste management and fundraising e.g. Return scheme bin in aid of Local First Response Volunteers	1	2	3	0	2	1	0	0	9
Community Communication strategy Publish updated timetables for Community Centre for public viewing throughout the village	2	3	0	1	3	0	0	0	9
Corporate volunteer days	0	0	2	2	1	2	2	0	9

	Core Drivers								Score
	Maintains a rural character	Fosters sustainable population growth	Enhances sustainability	Celebrates heritage	Integrates a wider range of the community	Fosters engagement with nature and greenspaces	Fosters local economic growth	Creates safer, more neighbourhood- friendly streets	
Rural Fingal job fair event/ business mentoring	1	3	0	0	2	0	3	0	9
Get young people involved in the heritage society.	1	0	0	3	3	2	0	0	9
Safe route to school from the back of the pitch.	2	0	0	0	1	3	0	3	9
More accessible parking bays around the town to accommodate for potential future need.	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	3	9
Dedicated car parking spots for community groups	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	3	8
Create a car-pooling system within the community for group trips to healthcare.	0	1	2	0	3	0	0	2	8
First aid training events	2	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	7
Signage campaign for improving road safety across the local road network	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	7
Local tour guide	1	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	6
Encourage young people to get involved by inviting engaged young people to come up with the ways and initiatives to engage their peers, rather than adults.	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	1	6
Engaging young people from the entire area in a youth zone initiative.	1	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	5
A youth-run youth zone overseen by an existing group or groups.	1	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	5
Community-led initiative for learner drivers.	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	4

Project Merging



Project Scoring (Merged)

	Core Drivers								Score
	Maintains a rural character	Fosters sustainable population growth	Enhances sustainability	Celebrates heritage	Integrates a wider range of the community	Fosters engagement with nature and greenspaces	Fosters local economic growth	Creates safer, more neighbourhood- friendly streets	
Bus service improvements	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	24
Formalising and improving walking routes for all ages, to engage with local natural assets, improved through-access across private land to key points of interest	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	24
Equitable car-parking restructuring and reallocation	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	23
Creation of a Regional 'Rural Fingal' Pillar Framework	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	23
Create intergenerational green spaces for growing, learning and improving local biodiversity	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	23
Main street accessibility and green improvements	3	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	22
Using heritage as a celebratory social connector and catalyst for developing local skills and training	3	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	22
Improved facilities and amenities for bike parking, storage and hire	3	2	3	3	3	3	2	3	22
Renovation and formalisation of community assets, with extension for intergenerational initiatives	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	0	21
Built environment scheme for sustainable retrofit	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	0	21
Creation of a Community Communication strategy to promote and increase engagement with local initiatives, businesses and activities	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	0	21
Sustainable housing development that provides intergenerational amenity to the neighbourhood	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	0	20
Region-wide engagement with community groups and initiatives to foster social links and share knowledge	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	0	20
Activities and events to share learning on sustainability, growing, the environment and biodiversity	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	0	20
Improved safety around the school, with a new route to the school via the pitch, and community initiatives such as a traffic warden and a cycle bus	3	3	3	2	3	3	0	3	20
Renewed Tidy Towns/ Pride of Place Campaigns	3	1	3	2	3	3	3	1	19
Greater range of multi-use outdoor sports facilities e.g. Basketball, table tennis, boules, tennis etc..	2	3	3	0	3	2	1	0	14
Shop front renovation scheme	3	0	2	3	1	2	3	0	14
Establish pharmacy delivery services	1	3	2	0	2	0	2	0	10

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Asset Capacity RAG Analysis

	Community Assets								
	Community centre & grounds	Library	Council playground	Village pitch & entrance	GAA Clubhouse & pitches	Primary school & grounds	Petrol station & shop	Pubs	Coffee shop
Bus service improvements									
Formalising and improving walking routes for all ages, to engage with local natural assets, improved through-access across private land to key points of interest				3	1.5				
Equitable car-parking restructuring and reallocation				3	3	3			
Creation of a Regional 'Rural Fingal' Pillar Framework	3	3						3	3
Create intergenerational green spaces for growing, learning and improving local biodiversity	3	3	3	3	1.5	1.5			
Main street accessibility and green improvements	3	1.5	3	3	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Using heritage as a celebratory social connector and catalyst for developing local skills and training	3	3			3	1.5			
Improved facilities and amenities for bike parking, storage and hire	3	1.5	3	3	1.5	3	1.5	1.5	1.5
Renovation and formalisation of community assets, with extension for intergenerational initiatives	3	1.5	3	1.5	1.5	1.5			
Built environment scheme for sustainable retrofit	3								
Creation of a Community Communication strategy to promote and increase engagement with local initiatives, businesses and activities	3	3			3		3	3	3
Sustainable housing development that provides intergenerational amenity to the neighbourhood			1.5						
Region-wide engagement with community groups and initiatives to foster social links and share knowledge	3	3			1.5	1.5	1.5	3	3
Activities and events to share learning on sustainability, growing, the environment and biodiversity	3	3	3	3		3		1.5	1.5
Improved safety around the school, with a new route to the school via the pitch, and community initiatives such as a traffic warden and a cycle bus				3		3			
Renewed Tidy Towns/ Pride of Place Campaigns	3	3	3	3	3	1.5			
Greater range of multi-use outdoor sports facilities e.g. Basketball, table tennis, boules, tennis etc..	3			3	1.5				
Shop front renovation scheme	3								
Establish pharmacy delivery services	1.5								

	Community Assets						RAG Score
	Main street (public realm)	Woodland (private property)	Old church ruin & graveyard grounds	Church of the assumption & grounds	Wider rural area	Garda station	
Bus service improvements	3				3		0.6
Formalising and improving walking routes for all ages, to engage with local natural assets, improved through-access across private land to key points of interest	3	1.5	1.5		1.5		0.9
Equitable car-parking restructuring and reallocation	3						0.9
Creation of a Regional 'Rural Fingal' Pillar Framework						3	1.1
Create intergenerational green spaces for growing, learning and improving local biodiversity	3		1.5	1.5	1.5		1.6
Main street accessibility and green improvements	3			1.5		1.5	1.7
Using heritage as a celebratory social connector and catalyst for developing local skills and training			3	3		3	1.4
Improved facilities and amenities for bike parking, storage and hire	3					1.5	1.7
Renovation and formalisation of community assets, with extension for intergenerational initiatives	1.5	1.5		1.5			1.2
Built environment scheme for sustainable retrofit	3						0.4
Creation of a Community Communication strategy to promote and increase engagement with local initiatives, businesses and activities				3			1.5
Sustainable housing development that provides intergenerational amenity to the neighbourhood	1.5				1.5		0.3
Region-wide engagement with community groups and initiatives to foster social links and share knowledge	3			1.5	3	1.5	1.8
Activities and events to share learning on sustainability, growing, the environment and biodiversity	3	1.5		1.5	1.5		1.8
Improved safety around the school, with a new route to the school via the pitch, and community initiatives such as a traffic warden and a cycle bus	3	1.5				1.5	0.9
Renewed Tidy Towns/ Pride of Place Campaigns	3			1.5	3	1.5	1.8
Greater range of multi-use outdoor sports facilities e.g. Basketball, table tennis, boules, tennis etc..		1.5		1.5	1.5		0.9
Shop front renovation scheme	3						0.4
Establish pharmacy delivery services						3	0.3

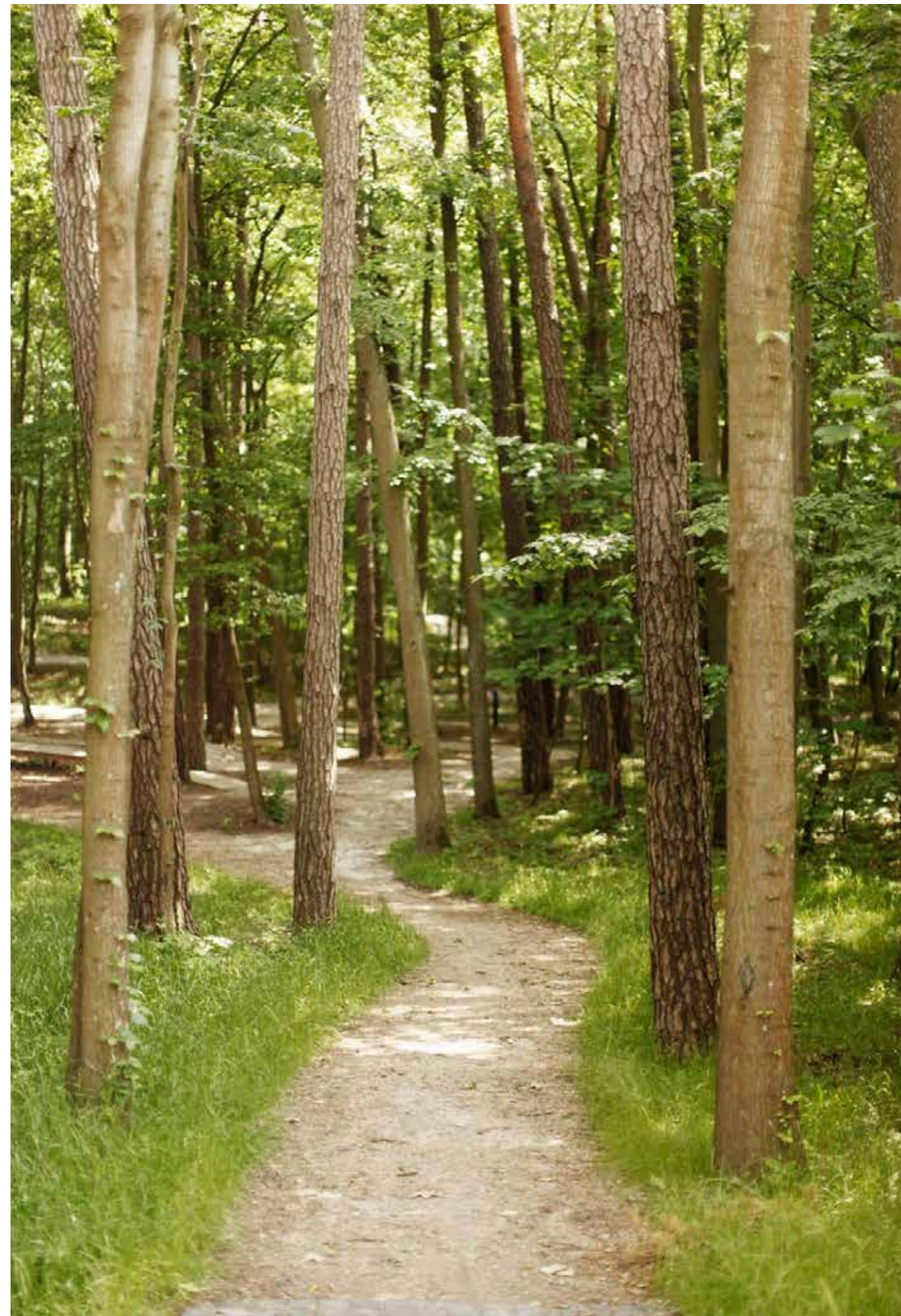
(I) Exemplar Precedent Projects

Lusk Community Cultural Centre Cummins + Voortmans

The Lusk Community Cultural Centre project involved renovating a derelict cottage for use as a new community facility, tourism centre and exhibition space. This project included the construction of a single storey extension and the provision of parking. This remarkable transformation from a derelict cottage to a vibrant civic hub to meet the needs of a growing community. Recently granted planning permission, Phase Two of the Cultural Centre is proposed to facilitate a theatre space along with additional community facilities. The project was funded by Dublin Rural LEADER.

Relevance for Garristown

Existing vacant and derelict structures in Garristown could benefit greatly from funding for their regeneration and use by the wider community.



Denis Law Trail, Aberdeen

The Printfield 10: Denis Law Legacy Trail is a ten-point walking route through the Printfield neighbourhood of Aberdeen – the childhood community of football legend Denis Law. The trail employs a sequence of sculptures, interpretive plaques, way-finding totems and large-scale murals (produced by street-art studio Blank Walls) to tell the story of Denis Law’s origins, career and community legacy. The initiative was community-driven, developed in partnership with the local Printfield community, the Denis Law Legacy Trust, the family of Denis Law, Robert Gordon University’s Gray’s School of Art and Aberdeen City Council. The project blends public-realm placemaking, art and heritage interpretation, creating a route that invites both residents and visitors to engage with place, memory and local identity

Relevance for Garristown
Demonstrating how a simple pedestrian route can be transformed into a rich cultural and social experience. Rather than functioning solely as infrastructure, the trail becomes a storytelling device, connecting landmarks, memory, and local pride through interpretive points, art, and small public realm interventions.



Newark Creative Place Commission

Strategy to underpin the activation of the town centre of Newark-on-Trent through cultural and creative interventions. The work comprised five core strands: a strategy for activating cultural and creative spaces; development of a place-brand identity (including a colour-palette) through local workshops; design and engineering options for market stalls in the Royal Market; way-finding and signage improvements; and lighting/illumination recommendations for key public spaces.

Relevance for Garristown
Example for creative activation to strengthen town and wider communities. The focus on way-finding, lighting, signage and brand identity resonates with the ambition to improve legibility and accessibility. The emphasis on short- and medium-term interventions offers a practical route to incrementally improve streets and public space. By positioning culture and creativity as engines of place regeneration, the Commission aligns with Garristown’s outcomes of fostering local identity, activating community-owned spaces, and enhancing visitor appeal.



Kinning Park Complex

Redevelopment of an Edwardian red-sandstone former school building (~1916) that has been transformed into a vibrant, community-owned, multi-use hub. The design emphasises adaptive reuse, retaining the building’s heritage while introducing flexible, accessible and future-ready facilities. Key interventions include opening up the original double-helix staircase to enhance visibility and light, adding a new passenger lift and ramp to deliver full accessibility, and internal reorganisation to support spaces that can accommodate everything from café and events to breakout quiet rooms for neurodiverse users. The project was preceded by extensive community engagement to establish the brief, prior to securing significant grant funding.

Relevance for Garristown
Direct parallels with the long-term ambitions for community-owned and community-operated facilities. Demonstrating building rehabilitation and adaptive reuse, with a model for capacity building, community governance and long-term stewardship. KPC supports social, cultural, and economic resilience goals and aligns with proposed Community Centre upgrades, civic campus masterplanning, and regional hub development.



Walk up Avenue for City of Edinburgh Council

Walk Up Avenue is a neighbourhood-scale public realm project that transformed a vacant brownfield site into a thriving community asset and market square. Developed through community engagement, it introduces nature-based solutions to create a landscape which is playful, enjoyable and simple for community maintenance and management. With a stage, community “shop unit”, market square and play space as well as the sculptural ‘Beacon’ entrance, this project shifts a hole in the high street into some of value for the surrounding residents and visitors.

Relevance for Garristown
Emphasis on active travel and the creation of inclusive public realm, demonstrating how high street and residential areas can be reimaged for community-focus. Modest interventions led by landscape and planting, supported by artwork can encourage social interaction and strengthen local identity. Aligns with goals to develop loop walks, improve access between amenities, prioritise pedestrian safety, and activate streets as shared community spaces that support wellbeing and everyday social life



Learning Pavilion, Skerries, Co. Dublin, Robert Bourke Architects

This 20sqm outdoor classroom and supporting landscape was constructed in 2014 on the grounds of the Skerries Educate Together primary school following a design competition. The sustainable timber structure utilises Irish douglas fir and larch. The design purposely has a low roof to provide a child-friendly scale and to strike a balance between openness to the surroundings and protective enclosure. The surrounding sloped landscape creates an outdoor amphitheatre for play and performances. This Learning Pavilion provides a sensory environment where students can learn about natural materials and the surrounding biodiversity in an informal setting.



KinShip EcoLab / Den Talamh, Tramore Valley Park Cork Fuinneamh Workshop

The 40sqm KinShip EcoLab also known as Den Talamh pavilion was commissioned by arts initiative KinShip, Cork City Council and Creative Ireland as a meeting point in Tramore Valley Park for local community groups for discussions on the environment and biodiversity. It was designed to frame views of the surrounding landscape, which was a former landfill site that has been transformed into a biodiversity park and wetland area..

The simple design, with rammed earth walls and columns, an open timber-framed roof with reed thatch provides shelter for local groups. The project was awarded via a two-stage competition. The structure was built by volunteers from the local Cork Centre for Architectural Education, Munster Technological University, local residents and the architects.

Relevance for Garristown

Pavilions like the two mentioned above, could be implemented in Garristown and utilised by multiple groups of all ages and interests, if located on a shared site such as the proposed Woodland regeneration area. For example: weekday use by St. Mary’s School as an outdoor classroom, evening use by local teens, and weekend use by the tidy towns or biodiversity groups at weekends. The KinShip Eco Lab proves that with volunteer support projects can be realised for local groups.



Nature-based Solutions



Safe routes: Belgooly National School, Cork



Riparian flowers along river bank, County Kerry



Wet Swale. City West, Dublin



Wet Swale. Monksfield, Dungarvan County Waterford

Relevance for Garristown

Minor updates and landscape-led solutions to public spaces and streets can significantly change their use, focus and value to residents and visitors. From “school streets” to street trees, these are impactful and relatively low-cost solutions which can also include meanwhile options for more flexibility and allow for testing different solutions.

A pilot project working across three neighbourhoods in central Glasgow which are split by the motorway (M8) and the A804. The interventions included street planters made from hempcrete and reclaimed timber, repainting railings, underpass mural by a local art student, colour and pattern applied to a footbridge across the motorway.

Relevance for Garristown

A place-based and public space focussed series of outcomes which are each small, but together create a new sense of place and identity. The incremental and small scale nature of the project is a realistic way to approach community projects. Connections locally and the dimension of sustainability through hempcrete resonates with the needs of Garristown.

A suite of temporary installations and active travel facilities, introduced in Spring 2021 to encourage walking, scooting, cycling and wheeling. It identified key sites, including the rail station, a primary school and a secondary school, and added features such as bold thermoplastic floor surface coverings, multicoloured crossings for improved visibility, improved cycle lanes, cycle-scooter storage and repair stations

Relevance for Garristown

Aligns with ambitions to create safe, accessible and appealing active travel infrastructure. By prioritising everyday routes (to school, station, neighbourhood links) and embedding playful, visible design interventions, it illustrates how modest, incremental works can support health, accessibility, social inclusion and movement networks. It offers a tangible template for transforming streets and neighbourhood links toward the walking-loop and community-movement goals.



With thanks
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COMMONS UPPER

252 36

DOLES ROAD

MADDENS ROAD

R.R. 327-2

R.R. 327-3

R.R. 327-8

GARRISTOWN 4 ROADS - CO

Garristown

Gallagher to Garristown
fieldstown (Adcath)

GALLAGH ROAD

PLUCKY LANE

R.R. 342

PRIESTS 2

HARROW LANE

1270

Windmill
(On Ruins)

WINDMILL ROAD

HILL ROAD

HEAD