

Creeslough 'An Craoslach'

March 2024

# Creeslough Village Plan



Prepared by:

**ARUP**

On behalf of:

 **Comhairle Contae  
Dhún na nGall**  
Donegal County Council

 **DONEGAL**  
IRELAND'S DNA

*Muckish Mountain, Creeslough © HannahSheridanPhotography*

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# ARUP

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Prepared by Arup in partnership with Donegal County Council (DCC), the Creeslough Working Group (CWG), and the Creeslough Community Association (CCA)

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PREFACE

# Hello!

## Welcome to the Creeslough Village Plan

It takes a Village.....

Rooted in this old proverb is the sense of community that is needed to allow our children grow and thrive in a safe and healthy environment.

The tragic event that visited the village of Creeslough in October 2022 touched everyone across Ireland and further afield, the devastating impact of which would test the resolve of even the strongest of communities. On behalf of Arup, I would like to offer our sincerest condolences to the families who lost loved ones, and everyone who has been impacted by the accident. With members of the Arup family overlapping with Creeslough's, we were humbled to offer and be afforded the opportunity to work with Donegal County Council in supporting the Creeslough Community Association channel their unwavering energy and determination into the preparation of a Village Renewal and Regeneration Plan (the Village Plan). This plan will hopefully, over time, act as a roadmap contributing to the healing process and for people to look forward again.

Having grown up in rural Donegal, I understand the unique role that the local village played in my childhood, and villages can do so again, through that sense of belonging and how people rallying round to help one another was simply our way of life. A new blueprint for rural living is needed in Ireland, one that is based on more sustainable, economically vibrant villages, intergenerational living, and stronger connections with their wider rural hinterland. It is abundantly clear from our work with the community in Creeslough that 'meitheal' courses through the veins.

This is Creeslough's plan, it will be the people of Creeslough that will make it happen, and in doing so the village can become an exemplar for others to follow.

*Ní heart go cur le chéile*



Donal McDaid

Arup Director | Transport and Resources - Ireland Leader  
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In 2023, Donegal County Council, in co-operation with the Creeslough Working Group, began to identify development and regeneration opportunities to support the local community on their journey of healing and renewal in the aftermath of the tragedy on 7th October 2022.

Arup offered its services pro bono to prepare a Village Plan. All Stakeholders acknowledged that this process would require trust, open communication, and inclusive consultation to succeed, and that this could, given the circumstances, be particularly challenging for many members of the community. I am grateful to all stakeholders for their commitment, engagement, and community participation throughout the year. Planning permission has now been granted for the Creeslough Community Regeneration Project and the Creeslough Village Plan has now been published.

I pay testament to all of those who contributed to this important work and ensured that this project is an exemplar of community led co-design and a best practice. This model demonstrates the empowerment of local community in shaping their own inclusive, sustainable, and shared future. This is even more remarkable for a community impacted by such a tragedy to have worked collectively and delivered a new beginning for Creeslough.

I wish to assure the Creeslough Community that the Council is committed to supporting the people of Creeslough and to the continued development of these projects. The next phase will see the Creeslough Community Regeneration Project proceed to business planning and capital funding stage across Q3 of 2023 to Q1 2024. A new Town Team will be established in 2024 to oversee the implementation of the Creeslough Village Plan. I look forward to seeing these projects progress.

I wish to acknowledge the work of the local community and Creeslough Community Association, the generous contribution of Arup and the staff of the Council who worked respectfully with the community. I pay a particular acknowledgement to our Regeneration Team and Mr. Liam Ward, Director of Service for his commitment and hard work.



**John G. McLaughlin**  
Donegal County Council | Chief Executive

I am delighted to see the publication of the Creeslough Village Plan. This Plan has been realised following consultations with the local community and reflects their hopes, needs and vision for future of the Village. This Plan recognises the unique potential of Creeslough and sets out ambitious priorities for the Village as a vibrant, well serviced, socially inclusive, and sustainable community. The Creeslough Community is its greatest asset, and I would like to thank everyone who accepted the difficult challenge and played their part in ensuring that the plan was community led and shaped by community needs. The hard work of course starts now, but I am confident that together we can empower the local community to be custodians of their village and public life in a way that always remembers & respects but is also supported in bravely looking to the future.



**Councillor Martin Harley**  
Donegal County Council | Cathaoirleach

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# 01

SETTING THE SCENE

## Introduction



INTRODUCTION

# Overview

## *Setting the scene*

Donegal County Council (DCC), together with the Creeslough Working Group and the Creeslough Community Association, are committed to delivering sustainable and positive change for the village of Creeslough. To assist them in achieving this aspiration, Arup was delighted to offer its support to a community engagement process, the outcome of which facilitated the local community to meaningfully input to the creation of a Village Renewal and Regeneration Plan (the 'Village Plan'). This is Creeslough's plan, a plan which will be owned locally and one which can ultimately be delivered through the drive and determination that exists within the community.

In order to realise and capitalise on the future regeneration opportunities identified through the Village Plan, Creeslough needs a clear and coordinated roadmap to tackle existing issues and bring new investment to the village. The Village Plan will serve as a blueprint for the village of Creeslough in achieving this.

This Village Plan sets out the key areas for change and the priority projects to achieve the community's vision and objectives for Creeslough. It builds upon extensive baseline analysis and the development of an understanding of context, a series of consultation events and stakeholder discussions, all of which have influenced the direction of travel in the preparation of the Village Plan and the detail contained therein.

It is important from the outset to emphasise that without the community and their continued input, the Village Plan would be of little to no value. As such, we would like to thank the local community, schools, and businesses for their valuable input throughout, ensuring that all voices were heard, and key issues brought to the fore.

This section summarises the background to, and the purpose of the Village Plan. It provides an outline of the key stages in the preparation of the Village Plan and explains how the early engagement and assessment stages have created the basis for identifying common themes, and subsequently lead to proposed projects.





## INTRODUCTION

# Purpose

## *Purpose of the village plan*

### Creeslough ('An Craoslach')

Nestled within the embrace of natural beauty and with a rich cultural heritage, Creeslough ('An Craoslach' in Irish) has an enviable character. Its picturesque rural setting, history and built heritage, natural assets and community provide the key ingredients towards becoming an even more welcoming, vibrant, and attractive village. The village has incredible promise and is a place that the people of Creeslough are, and should be, immensely proud of.

It is also recognised that the village faces several challenges, both at a local and broader national level. At a local level, a constrained movement network is layered with a busy regional road routed along the main street of the village. The result is a poor public realm environment. Vacant and derelict buildings, symptoms of low-level economic activity, further emphasise the challenges the village faces going forward.

Set against a backdrop of broader challenges such as the climate emergency, post-Covid recovery, demographic shifts, health and wellbeing, and sustainable tourism and recreation, it is recognised that the village must adapt and evolve. A sensitive, coordinated and considered approach to this change will ensure the village is regenerated in an inclusive, locally-resilient, and sustainable manner.

This plan provides a framework and guidance for how the village can grow and develop, while preserving the unique character and natural beauty of the area. The objectives of this village plan are to:

- Improve the quality of life for residents of all ages.
- Increase economic development and job opportunities.
- Enhance the natural environment and green spaces.
- Ensure better accessibility.
- Build on the strong sense of community and identity.

### Status of the Village Plan

This Village Plan is a non-statutory document; however, it has been developed in compliance with the policy context of the County Donegal Development Plan and therefore offers strategic guidance for future development. It will provide an outline to potential developers, investors and landowners of the community's aspirations and collective sense of purpose with which the village and surrounding environs should develop.

INTRODUCTION

# Why now?

## Background

On 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022, an unthinkable tragedy struck Creeslough. As a result, ten people sadly lost their lives, others suffered serious injuries, trauma, loss of property and livelihood. Acknowledging the tragedy and the impact on the families of those involved, the local community and everyone affected by those tragic events, Donegal County Council (DCC), the Creeslough Work Group (CWG) and the Creeslough Community Association (CCA), supported by Arup, began a process to prepare a Village Plan to outline a means to renew, regenerate and ultimately heal in the aftermath of the tragedy.

### Creeslough Community Regeneration Project (CCRP)

Following the tragedy, Donegal County Council has achieved 'Part 8' planning permission for a Community Regeneration Project (CRP) within Creeslough village. Located on lands generally to the rear (southwest) of St. Michael's Parish Church, the proposed development will include the construction of the following elements:

- A new 'Community Hub' building with flexible multi-user spaces and accommodation. Components at ground floor level include: a community and sports hall, gymnasium, changing rooms, showers, toilets, spectator terrace, comms room and storage. Components at first floor level will include: office and reception space, public foyer, public toilets and changing places facility, a multi-purpose community room with kitchen facilities, storage, and a community consultation room.
- A new multi-purpose community field, a 'multi use games area' (MUGA) and recreational track with replacement/upgraded flood lighting and with capacity for civic, cultural, sporting, recreational social gatherings, and events.
- A one-way entry and exit traffic management and car parking facility including construction of 53 car parking spaces and 2 bus parking spaces.

- A community garden and landscaped public realm consisting of a community play park, allotments, potting shed, landscaping, seating, walks, coffee pavilion and outdoor seating area, bandstand/ performance area, pop-up market space(s), universal access, and permeability intervention in addition to 8 parent and toddler, age friendly and disabled parking spaces.
- Associated ancillary works including plant room and maintenance building, renewable technologies and EV charging points, nature-based rainwater management, site drainage, connection to public water supply and services, enhancements to public lighting, landscaping signage and public art, as well as connection and discharge to the public sewerage network.

### Coherent and Coordinated Regeneration

Recognising the significant social, economic, and environmental benefits the Community Regeneration Project will bring, the Village Plan seeks to maximise this proposed capital investment by attracting and leveraging further inward investment as a catalyst to village wide regeneration. Through a careful, coordinated approach the Village Plan focuses on coordinating proposals for public realms, a movement network, tackling vacancy and development sites within a robust and logical framework for the phased delivery of aspirational, yet deliverable projects and initiatives.



# AN CRAOSLAGH



INTRODUCTION

# Key Stages

## *Preparation and structure of the plan*

Sections 2 & 3 of the Plan

A three-stage approach was developed for the preparation of the Village Plan to ensure early community involvement, sound research, testing of ideas, and shaping of interventions.

The information gathered at the early engagement and research stage was used to identify common themes and aspirations. These themes were then used to develop projects and possible interventions. Throughout the entire Plan preparation process, reflection on what was heard at the community engagement ensured meaningful outcomes.

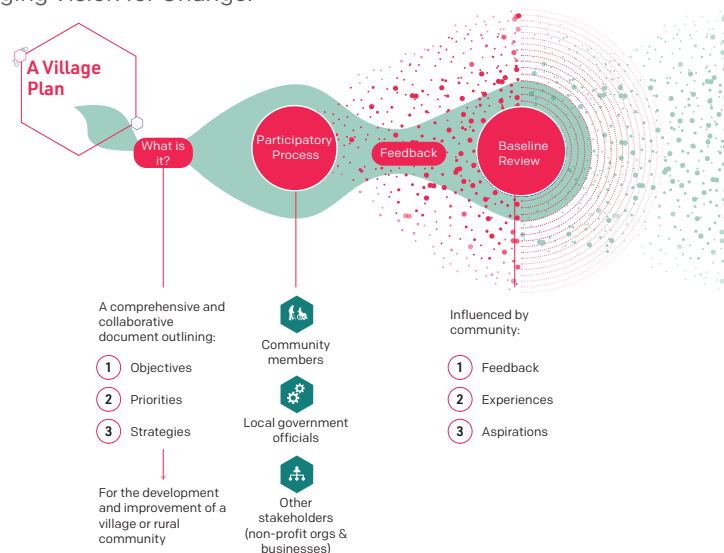
### Stage 1: Engagement & Baseline

Stage 1 asked the question **'where are we now?'**

It focused on the existing context, which was crucial to understanding the DNA of Creeslough, its spatial and non-spatial issues and the needs of the community. Importantly, this involved gathering local knowledge and appreciating the aspirations of both the local community and government stakeholders.

Under the umbrella of 'your village, your plan', the engagement helped build the basis for the Village Plan with the community, not for the community. The participatory process involved gathering local feedback through a series of workshops, site visits, meetings, and a public event.

A baseline study was also undertaken to establish the position of the village in terms of its historical, cultural and geographical context, and how this has shaped the land use, movement and the socio-economic and demographic evolution and profile of the village. This approach provided a deeper understanding of the issues and challenges. It also evoked a clear set of opportunities specific to Creeslough and its context for Stage 2: Emerging Vision for Change.



Sections 4 of the Plan

Sections 5 & 6 of the Plan

### Stage 2: Emerging Vision for Change

Stage 2 asked the question **'where are we going?'**

Exploring the key messages from Stage 1, this second stage focused on crafting a vision for Creeslough, which builds upon its strengths and identifies a series of strategic themes and actions to deliver change. A set of eight mutually supported placemaking themes were developed to underpin the overarching Vision for Creeslough.

The participatory process involved engaging with stakeholders to explore the emerging vision, themes, and potential projects, as well as gaining additional local knowledge and information.

Stage 2 delivered a collective agreement on the vision and direction of travel for Creeslough.

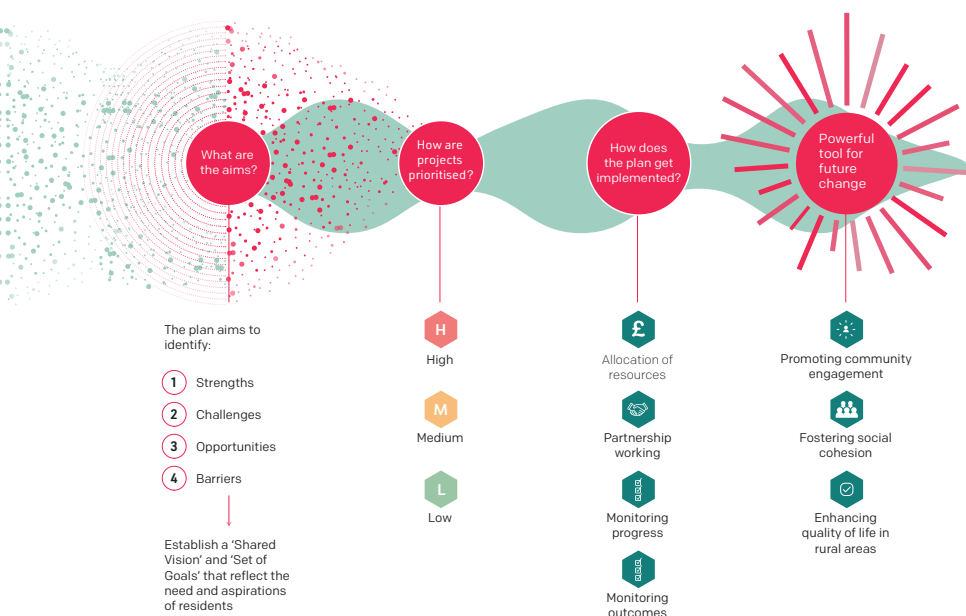
### Stage 3: Refining Projects & Delivery

Stage 3 asked the question **'how do we get there?'**

A range of "Priority Projects" had evolved throughout the engagement and visioning stages, which were further refined and tested. This stage focused on creating initiatives, interventions and mechanisms that will shape the future of the village.

The participatory process involved identifying 'areas of change', developing potential projects, and outlining a roadmap to delivery in the form of a 'Delivery Plan'.

The benefits of stage 3 included establishing what the community's priority projects were, and identifying what resources will be required to deliver these such as stakeholders, funding and governance.



INTRODUCTION

# Study Area

## *Area of focus*

The study area primarily focuses on but is not defined by the settlement boundary of Creeslough. Instead, given the nature of its rural context, the scope of the study area includes adjacent lands and the rural hinterland where a significant proportion of the population of Creeslough reside. Recognising that our rural areas, villages, and towns are interconnected and interdependent has been important to ensuring those who see themselves as part of the social fabric and daily life of Creeslough are included within and part of the plan.





Ards Forest Park

Doe Castle

Creeslough Village

Duntally Wood

N56

Owencarrow Bridge





# 02

BASELINING

## Where are we now?



WHERE ARE WE NOW?

# Overview

## *Setting the scene*

This section explores the factors that have shaped Creelough as a village, highlighting its historical, cultural, and geographical influences. Nestled within the remote, wild, and stunning landscape of north Donegal, Creelough's physical setting has been both a defining characteristic and a source of opportunity. The village's isolated yet breath-taking setting, surrounded by rolling hills, tranquil lakes, and verdant forests, has not only endowed it with distinctive natural beauty but has also played a role in shaping the local way of life.

From its origins as a market town to its current expanding role as a tourism hub, Creelough's evolution sets the stage for the strategic proposals in this plan. While the village maintains a strong sense of community and shared values, changing demographics, migration, and urbanisation have introduced diversity and altered social structures.

Understanding these demographic shifts is crucial for tailoring a plan to meet the communities' needs and aspirations while at all times preserving and protecting Creelough's essence.



WHERE ARE WE NOW?

# History

## *Entrenched in History*

Creeslough boasts a rich historical fabric that spans from prehistoric times to the present day. Its evolution has been influenced by its coastal location, access to resources, and connections to neighbouring settlements.

Archaeological findings reveal ancient habitation, evidenced by megalithic tombs and standing stones on the nearby Horn Head Peninsula, underscoring its significance as a prehistoric centre. The village prospered during the 17th century as an agricultural and fishing hub, a growth trajectory amplified in the 19th century by the introduction of a railway line linking Creeslough with adjacent towns such as Letterkenny and Falcarragh.

Creeslough also offers a wealth of arts and cultural heritage, enriched by notable figures such as the famed songwriter Percy French and defiant poet Niall Mac Giolla Bhrighde.



*Creeslough Main Street © Creeslough.com*



*Creeslough Main Street © WeloveDonegal*



*Owencarrow Railway Viaduct © Arup*

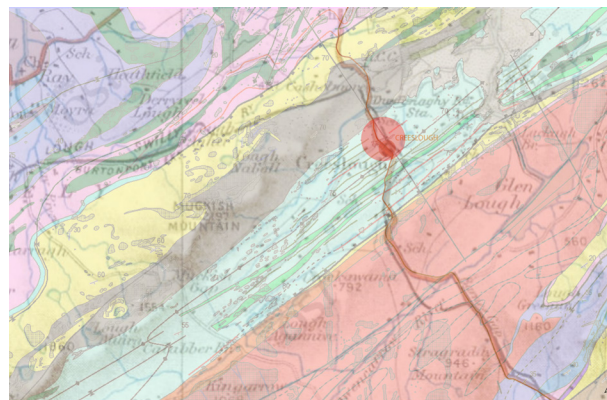
WHERE ARE WE NOW?

# Landscape

## *Gem among Stones*

Perhaps somewhat unknown to itself, the landscape and village structure of Creeslough have been significantly influenced by its geomorphology and geology. Located in a glacial valley at the base of the Derryveagh Mountains and near the coast, Creeslough's terrain was shaped by glaciers during the last ice age, resulting in U-shaped valleys and steep hills. Nearby mountains, like Donegal's majestic natural skyscrapers, Mount Errigal and Muckish, exhibit features like cirques and ridges due to glaciation. The region's dominant geology consists of the Dalradian Supergroup's metamorphic rocks, which underwent folding and faulting in the Caledonian orogeny. These rocks resist erosion, contributing to the area's ruggedness. Due to the steep and rough terrain, Creeslough's development has mainly been ribboned along the main road through the village where the ground is flatter and more conducive to construction.

Creeslough offers the community and its visitors an awe-inspiring landscape featuring rugged mountains, lush valleys and rolling hills. The village is surrounded by unique bogland ecosystems and a captivating coastline with beaches and rocky shores, a thriving habitat for various plants and marine life. Noteworthy natural attractions include Derryveagh Mountains, Ards Forest Park, Glenveagh National Park, and Sheephaven Bay. The region also boasts several lakes such as Lough More, Glen Lough, Glen Lake, Roosky Lake and Crees Lough.



*A diverse geology consisting of Dalradian Supergroup's metamorphic rocks*



*A majestic natural green and blue landscape surrounding Creeslough*



*Muckish Mountain, Co. Donegal © Arup*

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

# Tourism

## *Gateway to Donegal*

Blanketed by rolling hills, serene lakes, and dense forests, Creeslough attracts tourists globally. Prominent among the village's many attractions is Doe Castle, a magnificent 16th-century medieval fortress open to the public, with guided tours regularly offered. Equally appealing is the expansive Ards Forest Park, a nature reserve including walking trails, secluded beaches, and awe-inspiring Atlantic Ocean views. This park, brimming with diverse wildlife, is a sanctuary for nature enthusiasts.

Creeslough's location serves as a gateway to north Donegal, offering convenient access to places like Glenveagh National Park and coastal towns such as Dunfanaghy. Increasingly, Creeslough is becoming a destination stop on the Wild Atlantic Way, a 2,500 km coastal route celebrating Ireland's natural beauty.



*Doe Castle, Creeslough © Arup*



*Wild Atlantic Way, Marble Hill © Arup*



*Lady Isabellas Beach, Ards Friary © Arup*

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

# Education

## *Developing Future Generations*

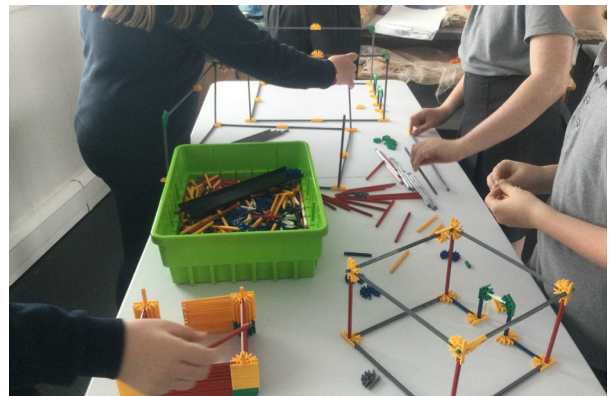
Creeslough has two primary schools, Scoil Mhuire (founded in 1894) and Creeslough National School (founded in 1926). Both schools have enrolment numbers of about 150 and 80 students, respectively. The village is also home to Creeslough Community Childcare, a community-driven crèche for children aged 6 months-4 years, and also offers after-school care. The presence of such quality educational institutions enhances Creeslough's allure for families.



*Scoil Mhuire, Creeslough © Arup*



*Creeslough National School © Arup*



*Engagement workshop for schools run by Arup © Arup*

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

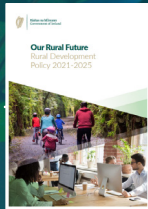
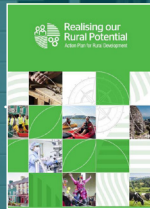
# Emerging Direction

## Policy Overview

### Broader Policy Framework

The regeneration of Creeslough is part of and supported by a broader policy framework. This section outlines key policies and their alignment with the Village Plan to ensure that Creeslough's regeneration can be supported by regional, national, and international objectives, setting the stage for a sustainable and prosperous future.

#### National Level



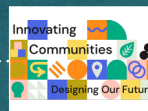
#### Regional Level



#### County Level



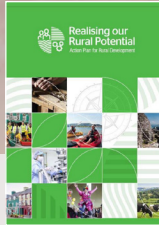
#### Local Level



WHERE ARE WE NOW?

# Emerging Direction

## Policy Overview



### Action Plan for Rural Development 2018

Realising Our Rural Potential - Action Plan for Rural Development (2018) sets out Governments objectives and actions for rural communities in Ireland. Five key thematic pillars set out development policy at the national level which influenced the County Donegal Development Plan 2018-2024 (as varied).

The five pillars are:

- Supporting Sustainable Communities.
- Supporting Enterprise and Employment.
- Maximising our Rural Tourism and Recreation Potential.
- Fostering Culture and Creativity in Rural Communities.
- Improving Rural Infrastructure and Connectivity.

Pillar 1 is particularly relevant to Creeslough, where rural towns and villages are recognised as the heart of rural communities and enable communities to thrive. Government policy recognises that supporting this approach to ensure rural towns and villages are vibrant places requires an integrated approach at a national, regional, and local level.



### Our Rural Future: Rural Development Policy 2021-2025

Our Rural Future provides a framework for the development of rural Ireland over the next five years. The Government's vision is for a rural Ireland that is thriving, which is an integral part of national economic, social, cultural, and environmental wellbeing and development. Vibrant and lived-in rural places are critical to the national fabric where there is potential to further lift up communities across the country, create quality jobs in rural areas, and sustain the environment. The policy sets out a new place-based approach to rural development in Ireland where rural communities will be supported and encouraged to develop long-term plans for their own area. Two thematic objectives with relevance for Creeslough are that the policy supports the regeneration and development of rural towns and villages and investment into them as hubs of economic and social activity.





### County Donegal Development Plan 2018-2024 (as varied)

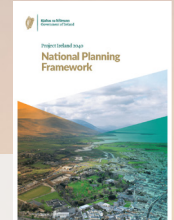
The County Donegal Development Plan 2018-2024 (as varied) envisions that by 2038, County Donegal will be a thriving, connected region, catering for a projected population over 200,000 and aiming for the highest quality of life in Ireland. It seeks to play a pivotal role in the Northwest City Region and the Northern and Western Regional Assembly.

The plan has several strategic objectives relevant to the Village Plan, including:

- Population growth support.
- Infrastructure investment to improve connectivity.
- Prioritising regeneration and renewal of the County's towns, villages and rural areas.
- Supporting vibrant and strengthened communities as drivers of economic growth.
- Generating economic benefits across all urban forms.
- Environmental protection and biodiversity enhancement.
- Supporting innovative enterprises.
- Prioritising sustainability for the future.

Creeslough, in this strategy, is categorised as "Layer 3," emphasising its significance in providing a unique lifestyle, natural resources, tourism, and economic opportunities tied to rural areas.

The County Donegal Development Plan 2018-2024 (as varied) recognises the value of such communities, emphasising the need for their revitalisation, given their central role in service delivery, cultural expression, and community support.



### National Planning Framework 2040

The National Planning Framework 2040 details plans for the Northwest Region. It places a major focus on rural areas in relation to:

- Strengthening Ireland's rural fabric and supporting the communities who live there.
- Planning for the future growth and development of rural areas, with a focus on activating renewal potential and development of smaller towns and villages.
- Putting in place planning and investment policies to support job creation in the rural economy.
- Addressing connectivity gaps.
- Better co-ordination of existing investment programmes dealing with social inclusion, rural development and town and village renewal.

Facing a projected population increase of over one million in Ireland by 2040, the challenge is balancing urban and rural development. The National Planning framework concentrates on key aspects like infrastructure, accessibility, and controlled growth. It aims to protect rural culture and landscape while revitalising declining towns and villages through reuse and regeneration. Built heritage and sustainable tourism, such as the Wild Atlantic Way, are valued.

The National Planning Framework encourages greenways and blueways to diversify rural economy and supports renewable energy for economic and climate gains. It prioritises inclusive, age-friendly planning to meet the needs of both the elderly and young families.



### National Development Plan 2021-2030

The National Development Plan encompasses nine strategic objectives. Of those, NSO3 - Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities, aims to support the sustainable development of rural economies and communities in Ireland. This objective includes a range of measures to achieve this goal, including:

- Investment in infrastructure, such as broadband, roads, and water and wastewater services.
- Support for enterprise and job creation, such as through the LEADER programme and the Rural Enterprise Development Fund.
- Funding for community development and regeneration projects, such as the Town and Village Renewal Scheme and the Rural Social Scheme.
- Support for the development of the agri-food sector, tourism, and other rural industries.
- Promotion of sustainable rural living and environmental protection like the Rural and Urban Regeneration Fund, National Broadband Plan, the creation of remote working hubs, and the 'Connecting Ireland' bus program, all designed to enhance rural community living and economic access.

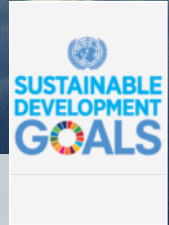
NSO 3 is relevant in the context of the Creeslough Village Plan as it provides a framework for investment in key areas that are essential for sustainable rural development, setting out funding opportunities that will improve the quality of life for residents, attract visitors, and support businesses.



### Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) 2020-2032

The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, prepared by the Northern and Western Regional Assembly, serves to support the implementation of Project Ireland 2040 by linking planning and investment through the National Planning Framework and the National Development Plan and provides a long-term economic and planning framework for the Northern and Western Region. It provides the roadmap for effective regional development, delivering a combination of response, design, and innovation; in how we do business, deliver homes, build communities and value land-use. In doing so it aims to create healthy places and promote sustainable communities.

The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy provides policy that supports the regeneration and renewal of small towns and villages in rural areas, specifically recommending the identification of suitable development opportunities for regeneration and development that are supported by a quality site selection process that also addresses environmental constraints. In direct reference to Creeslough, the Strategy notes the area as having 'Amenity attraction growth potential' in Doe Castle.



### Integration of Other Schemes

In formulating this plan, consideration has also been given to other various policies, strategic directions, and community initiatives from adjacent areas. These include the Ards Friary Renewal Project - A New Spring, the Carrigart to Downings Greenway, the Burtonport to Letterkenny Greenway, the Dunfanaghy Innovating Communities Project, and the emerging settlement framework objectives of the Draft Donegal County Council 2024-2030. As each project advances, ongoing and current policy and development analysis will be essential at every stage.



### UN Sustainable Development Goals

Adopted by all 193 United Nations Member States in September 2015, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets provide an interconnected blueprint for global development to 2030. The SDGs are high-level and compel long-term consideration to drive positive change. All countries and all stakeholders are required to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development within the key critical areas of importance: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership.

17

#### Total SDGs





# 03

FEEDBACK

## What the Community Said!



WELCOME TO THE CREESLOUGH PUBLIC CONSULTATION

WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAID!

# Overview

## Setting the scene

A robust engagement process was developed, providing multiple opportunities for residents, business owners, and other stakeholders to share their ideas and provide feedback as the plan progressed, both in-person and online.

Explored within this section are the voices of those who live, work, and play in Creeslough, with their lived experiences, key aspirations and main desires brought to the fore. We understood the importance of enabling all voices of Creeslough to develop a meaningful foundation for the Village Plan. It was our goal to prepare a plan with the community, not for the community.



WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAID!

# Who and How?

## Our approach to engagement

### Who

As well as the public, the following key stakeholder groups were actively engaged in discussions, workshops, and feedback sessions:

- Trustees of Lands to the rear of St. Michael's Church.
- Creeslough Community Association.
- Creeslough Working Group.
- Local Primary Schools and Secondary School Students.
- Creeslough Community Childcare.
- Senior Citizens of Creeslough Day Centre.
- Local Businesses/Property and Land Owners.

### How

Engagement events were distributed across three phases. Each phase incorporated various activities to ensure the highest quality of interaction and feedback.



Welcome board at Creeslough Engagement Session © Arup



April - May 2023

June - July 2023

February - March 2024

WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAID!

# What was Asked?

*A collaborative journey*

## First Phase of Engagement

The focus for the first phase of engagement was education, sharing of information and meaningful dialogue. All engagement platforms (online, public event, workshops, etc.) presented the Village Plan project and asked for input. To solicit feedback, the following questions were asked:

- Strengths - What do you love about Creeslough?
- Challenges - What do you feel needs to be improved in Creeslough?
- Opportunities - What would you love to see in Creeslough?
- Barriers - What holds Creeslough back in realising its potential?

Feedback was captured in various ways - on display boards with sticky notes, a “share your idea” wall, a large table map of Creeslough, feedback forms, general conversation, and an online survey. All comments were collated and categorised by emerging themes and recurring suggestions.

## Second Phase of Engagement

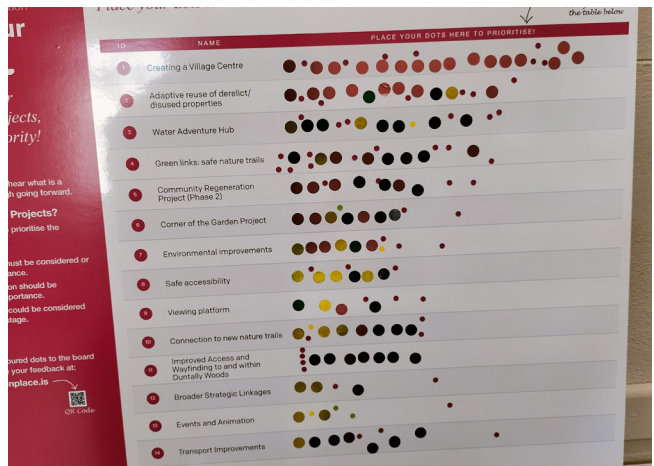
**You said. You were heard!** There was a significant response to the first phase of consultation, with **202 surveys** completed, over **1200 collated comments** and **66 themed suggestions** in relation to what the community would and would not like to see in their Village.

All suggestions put forward by the community were appraised and integrated with the emerging vision for Creeslough. Several potential proposals were identified, which were then brought back to the community and stakeholders for review and prioritisation.

Continued participation was encouraged through workshops, a public event, and various meetings to refine the priority projects. Focused feedback was gathered on display boards, where participants were asked to score the projects on a scale of High Priority to Low Priority. An online survey was also conducted to gather this feedback. The final list of prioritised projects, as selected by the community, are presented in Section 5 of this Plan.



Feedback Board at Engagement Session © Arup

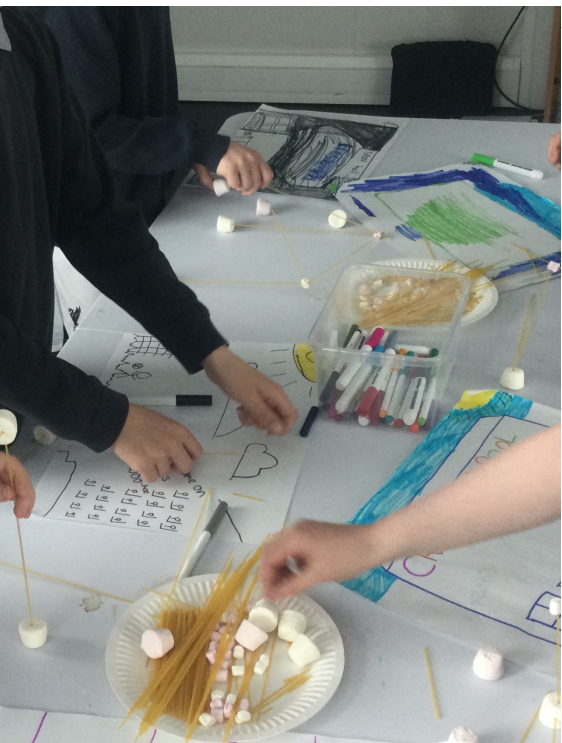


Prioritisation Board at Engagement Session © Arup





# Your Village. Your Say.



WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAID!

# In Numbers

## Engagement Figures

247

people attended in-person events

300

children from 9 different primary and secondary schools

70

people engaged via multiple and recurring stakeholder briefings

202

Survey responses in the first phase of engagement

110

Responses to the second phase of engagement

1400

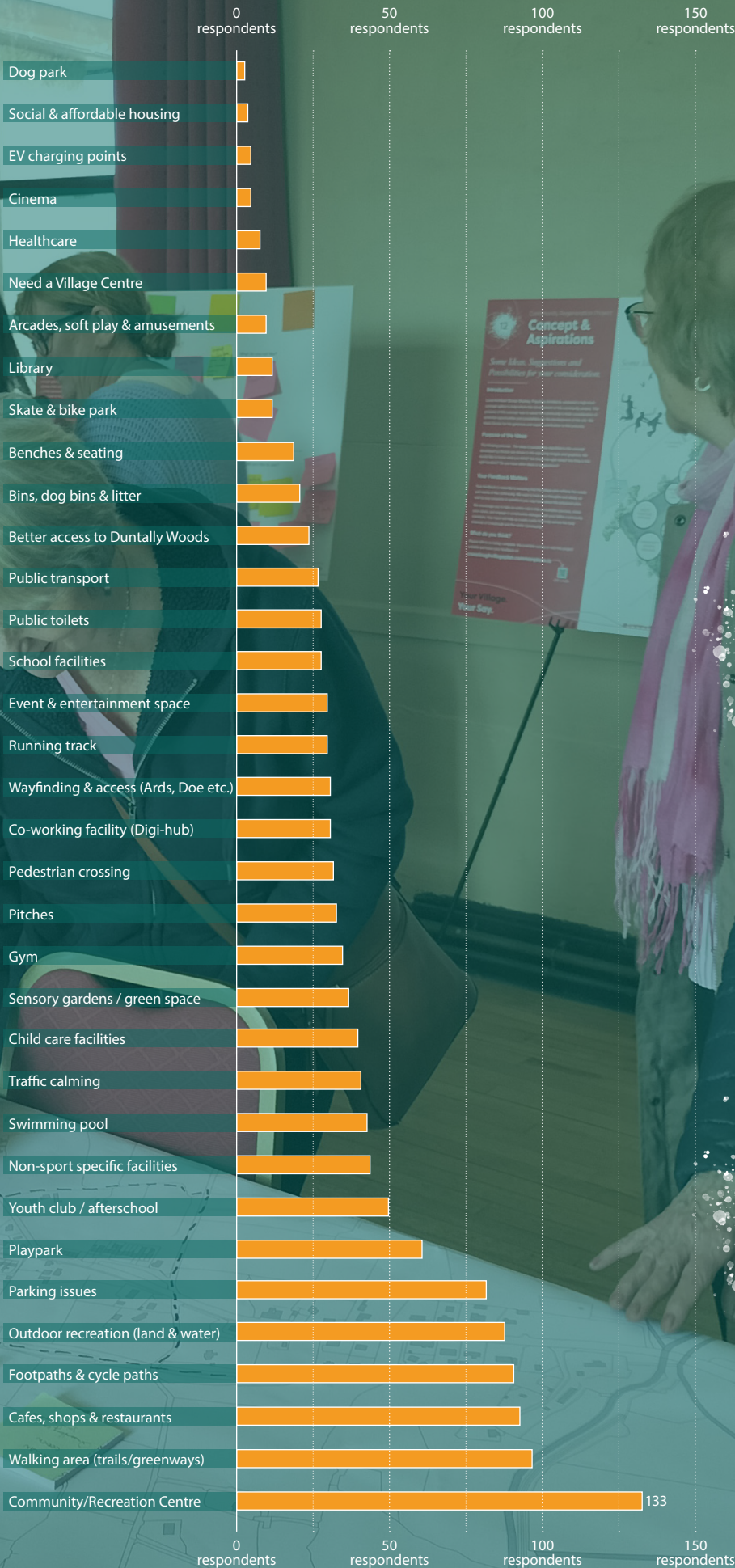
individual comments



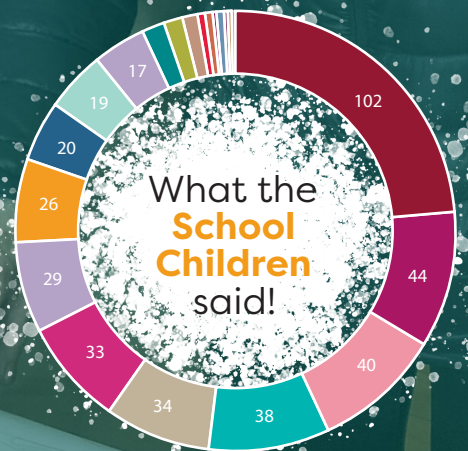
destination Traffic calming  
 Pitches welcoming  
 Linkages accessible Sustainable  
 Co-working Seating  
 Digi-hub attractive Public Toilet  
 markets Play park green  
 Greenways Shops Views  
 safe Restaurants  
 growth Recreation USP  
 Outdoor exercise dereliction Cycle paths  
 Transport Tourism Quiet spaces  
 connected nature-led skills  
 resilient Community support  
 Regenerated exemplar Hub  
 incubator inclusive Gym  
 childcare something for everyone facilities  
 Water activities Parking  
 self-sufficient user-focused  
 inspiring greenspaces Pedestrian crossing  
 Youth club training  
 job creation Walking trails  
 Community Drama & music Skate Park  
 Centre entertainment space inviting

COMBINED PUBLIC / SURVEY / SCHOOLS RESULTS  
(STAGE 1 ENGAGEMENT)

PUBLIC EVENT & SURVEY V SCHOOL RESULTS  
(STAGE 1 ENGAGEMENT)



- Exercise facilities
- Inclusive facilities
- Accessible infrastructure
- Transport facilities
- Social event spaces
- Facilities for young children
- Village centre improvements
- Facilities for teens
- Activity / community facilities
- Business & jobs
- Views & nature
- Retail & commercial shops
- Development potential
- Tackle dereliction
- Family support
- Seating areas & gardens
- Well-being support
- Amenities for tourists
- Facilities for special needs
- Facilities for seniors
- Housing
- Facilities for adults



WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAID! - STAGE 1 ENGAGEMENT

# What was Heard?

## Area of focus



### Strengths

- Clean air.
- Nature all around.
- Beautiful scenery and views.
- The people of Creeslough.
- Community spirit and community support.
- Amenities that we have - health, chemist, post office, credit union, good schools.
- The woods.
- The hills.
- The water.
- Remoteness.
- Wildlife.
- Culture and History.

### Challenges

- Not enough footpaths.
- No room for schools to expand.
- Derelict unused buildings.
- No playground.
- Nothing for teens to do or places to go.
- Nowhere to walk or meet people.
- Cars parked everywhere – children forced to walk on road.
- Childcare spaces.
- Lack of housing for older and younger people.
- Litter / lack of bins.
- Traffic too fast through the village.
- Not enough extra activities for after school.
- Lack of event space.
- Lack of public transport.
- No toilets.
- Access to greener modes of transport (e.g., provision of public EV charging points).
- Lack of other services (e.g. banks and shops).



### Opportunities

- Community centre.
- Access to Duntally woods, Muckish Mtn, Ards, Doe castle etc.
- Outdoor exercise and recreation.
- Re-use of the old railway line, more natural walking trails.
- Improvements to the village centre, create a square and remove cars from high street.
- A playground.
- Music, games, arts facilities.
- Youth club / afterschool facilities.
- Things to attract tourists.
- Introduction of traffic calming measures.
- Development of a 'co-working' facility / Digi-hub / small business start-up space.
- Improved footpaths and crossing.
- Water sports and walks at lakes.
- Green spaces / gardens.
- Benches in Duntally woods.
- Community centre behind the church.
- Opening up the views behind the tub-hub building.
- Regeneration of old or derelict buildings for businesses / cafes / tourist attractions such as ice cream.



### Barriers

- Lack of footpaths and pinch points in specific locations (too narrow to safely walk with cars).
- No pedestrian crossing.
- Lack of public transport (access to bus services).
- Dereliction.
- Lack of parking.
- Large kerbs impeding accessibility to the day centre.
- The presence of a national road routed through the village (i.e.; the Village's main street).
- Derelict buildings.
- No cycle paths.
- Narrow roads.
- General accessibility issues for elderly, those with specific mobility needs, cognitive needs and young families.
- Extremely limited spaces for childcare as existing facility at full capacity.
- Political interference.
- No public toilets.
- No shops.
- Lack of housing availability.

WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAID! - STAGE 1 ENGAGEMENT

# What was Heard!

## Key comments



“  
 The village lacks a ‘centre’ and the main street doesn’t utilise the views of the sea, can be a bottleneck and doesn’t encourage those commuting through to stop (or slow down)  
**Public Realm**  
 ”



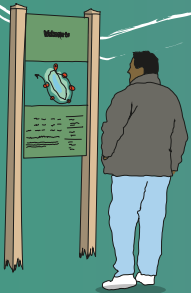
“  
 Town regeneration. Using derelict buildings grants to help follow a clear plan for empty buildings. Creation of village centre area. Needs colour - paint buildings vibrant colours  
**Social Interaction**  
 ”

More looped walks similar to Duntally Woods walk  
**Nature & Trails**



## What the Adults said!

“  
 New community centre for meetings, parties, and indoor/outdoor sporting events.  
**Social Interaction**  
 ”



“  
 Although it’s relatively easy to walk through the village or walk on the side roads (can be a risk with fast traffic), there is a lack of interesting circular walkways or trails i.e., 3 k walks, 5k walks, etc.  
**Mobility & Recreation**  
 ”

The development of a Greenway through the village on the old Letterkenny to Burtonport railway line that would be a huge asset in term of tourism, business, employment and attracting visitors to the area and county in general  
**Active Travel, Tourism, Business & Employment**



“

Indoor Youth Hub for 13+ with pool, music, youth advice and information

**Social Spaces & Interaction**

”



Down at the lake at Lough Na Tooy, there could be a big slip and slide, kayaking, paddle boarding, aqua-park, man-made beach but it could be open during the summer. A big carpark too beside it

**Sports, Play & Education**

Places for boats and recreation  
**Recreation & Leisure**



“

Play area  
**Play & Interaction**

”



“

Talent show with a theatre  
**Arts, Culture and Education**

”

# What the Children said!

“

Somewhere to meet friends  
**Social Spaces & Interaction**

”

“

Picnic area with nature walk  
**Restorative spaces**

”



“

Park connected to creche with sensory garden, pond, changing area, bike rental, carpark cycle area around the park  
**Restorative spaces & facilities**

”

“

More excursions – group activities, like fishing and kayaking in lakes and Doe Castle  
**Sports, Play and Recreation**

”



WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAID! STAGE 2 ENGAGEMENT

# What was Heard!

## Recurring Themes



“Community hub is very impressive. Love the idea of children's playground and allotments. We need to ensure walking and nature loops are linked.”

Community hub



“Improved walking routes for children and elderly is very important. Age friendly and safe routes to schools should be a priority.”

Active travel

“Developing unused buildings would be great. A building for artists or local small businesses would provide a living breathing village centre hub.”

Adaptive reuse



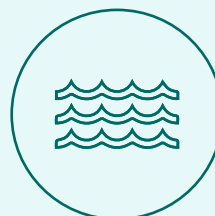
“The viewing area behind the post office / TubHub building would be lovely as the view there is beautiful. If it was covered then it could be used rain or shine!”

Nature



“Access to the water as an amenity is important. A community pool outdoors would be great to have access to swimming. This would also help provide vital lifesaving lessons!”

Infrastructure & development



“We need to ensure we create a sports centre which caters for a wide range of sports for all ages and preferences. A sports centre offering facilities for soccer, Gaelic, tennis, badminton and squash would provide the local community with unique facilities. This would be a major boost for Creeslough.”

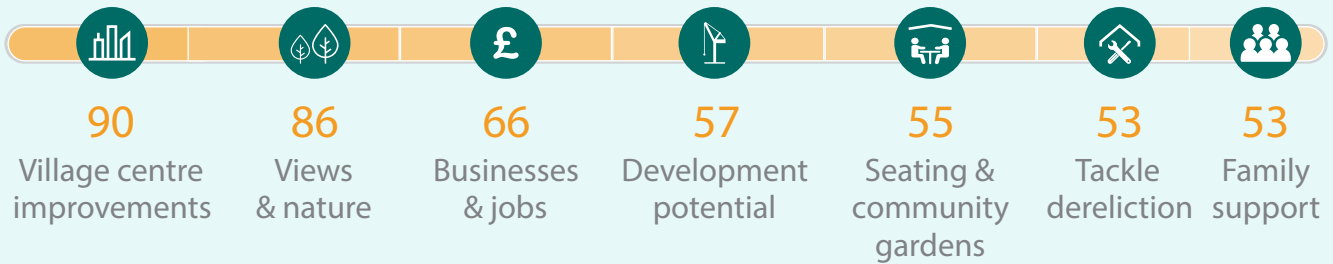
Facilities & activities



“Building on the great content, I think a monthly event would draw people from throughout the community and encourage social interaction with visitors to the area!”

Events & Animation





“We need to ensure day-to-day necessities are delivered such as safe bus stops in both directions, business opportunities, shops, benches/seating nooks, small library, storage area for community association equipment.”

**Services & accessibility**



“My top priority would be the safe travel links for the children to walk to school and the development of a community centre.”

**Safe routes to school**



“There is a huge need for childcare in the area. We also need facilities for those not involved in sports like youth clubs and spaces for the elderly.”

**Facilities & amenities**



“We need to ensure we have wheelchair accessible toilets at key points within the village including the proposed community hub.”

**Facilities & amenities**



“Walking tracks and loop around the town is welcomed.”

**Active travel**



“We need a better parking plan for the village so that parking is allocated but not taking over the village. This will allow pedestrian access up and down the village without obstruction.”

**Parking**



“Love the lake idea and wild spaces for play. More allotments and active space outdoors for children to play is needed!”

**Traffic calming**





# 04

LOOKING FORWARD

## Where are we going?



WHERE ARE WE GOING?

# The Vision

*Looking to the future*

***Creelough will be a thriving and resilient community that embraces its unique heritage, celebrates its natural beauty and fosters economic prosperity. It will be recognised as a village that is vibrant and inclusive, age-friendly, child-friendly, and where people of all generations can live, work, and play in a sustainable and harmonious environment.***

## **What does this mean?**

Harnessing Creelough's strong sense of community, where residents are actively engaged and support one another, will be at the heart of the village regeneration, and signal to the external world that it is a village that is inclusive, nurturing, and supportive of both current and future generations.

Creelough will become a destination of choice for visitors, offering a warm and welcoming atmosphere, rich cultural experiences, and a wide range of recreational opportunities. The village will showcase its heritage and history, inviting visitors to explore the historic sites, immerse themselves in the culture, and indulge in the local hospitality.

Economic prosperity is at the heart of this vision. Facilities to support local independent and start-up businesses will capture the creative and entrepreneurial spirit of Creelough, creating the conditions for local enterprises to thrive. Creelough will support and empower the business community, aiding in the search for funding to provide the necessary infrastructure, training, and support to drive the local economy and create sustainable jobs into the future.

Creelough will be underpinned by aspirations of sustainability and environmental stewardship, embracing green practices, promoting renewable energy, and protecting natural assets. The village will be walkable, with accessible green spaces and active transportation options, fostering a healthy and vibrant lifestyle. Most importantly of all, the residents will be happy and proud to call Creelough home.

**This is the community's vision for Creelough!**

**Community's Vision  
Future Creelough**

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

# Emerging Themes

## Eight Themes



### *Community*

Empower the community to ensure their voice is heard and future regeneration creates value for society.



### *Age-friendly*

Integrate multiple generations into the village by adopting an age-friendly neighbourhood model.



### *Schools*

Safely connect schools to the village centre, ensuring all school children can access the facilities and activities on offer.



### *Sports, Leisure, and Recreation*

Develop community focused facilities, both on land and in water, for the enjoyment of all ages and interests.



### *Daily Basics*

Ensure essential provision and services for fulfilling the community's everyday needs.



### *Tourism, Culture and Heritage*

Capitalise on the rich cultural and historical heritage to achieve Creeslough's tourism potential.



### *Sustainability and Resilience*

Minimise environmental impact, promote resource efficiency, and protect our natural assets.



### *Prosperity*

Unlock opportunities for entrepreneurs, and small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).



WHERE ARE WE GOING?

# Key Themes

*Moving forward*

To facilitate the realisation of the vision set out in this Village Plan, a set of “Themes” emerged from the community engagement process to serve as a creative link for ideas, projects, and interventions to be implemented over time. These themes presented an opportunity to reassess issues that were often perceived as problems, or where deficiencies currently exist within the fabric of the village, with the aim of identifying gaps that require attention or assets that can be appreciated and developed.

**Objectives have been developed within each Theme, which then guided the refinement of proposed projects and physical interventions presented later in Section 5 of the plan.**

While many of the objectives emerging from the Themes are overlapping and complementary, all share a common characteristic: they embody a sense of opportunity that arises from comprehending the strengths, capabilities, gaps, and interconnections between them.

THEME A

## Community

Actively engaged community, enhanced community facilities and services, community hub, empowered residents

THEME H

## Economic Prosperity

Local business development, co-working spaces, enhancing broadband infrastructure, targeted skills training, streetscape improvements



THEME G  
**Sustainability & Resilience**

Enhancing green and blue infrastructure, harnessing renewable energy, local food production, building upon community resilience

THEME F

## Tourism, Culture & Heritage

Revitalising key assets, connecting heritage and cultural sites, services for visitors, marketing Creeslough within a Village-Wide Tourism Trail, providing visitor parking, reducing traffic congestion

THEME B  
**Age-Friendly**

An age-friendly town, creating a pedestrian-friendly area, supportive retail and shopping services, facilities for older people, suitable housing options for older people



THEME C  
**Schools**

Identifying and establishing safe routes to school, connecting the schools to the community hub through physical linkages and relevant activities



THEME D  
**Sports, Leisure & Recreation**

Recreational facilities for younger population, enhancing access to nature, transforming the lands behind the chapel into an appealing and well-integrated public space



THEME E  
**Daily Basics**

Facilitating shopping provisions, ensuring convenient access to suitable parking spaces, supporting the everyday needs of local residents



THEME A



# Community

*Every aspect of this Village Plan acknowledges and values the strengths, capabilities, and resilience of the community in Creeslough.*

The primary objective of this Village Plan is to ensure that the local community, through collectively working towards a common purpose and vision, reaps the greatest possible benefits from what can be achieved. It is important that the community is flexible and dynamic, and continues to build upon the opportunities which can be realised from the Plan.

Creeslough’s community is made up of various social networks and generations, each bringing their own strengths and needs. This diverse blend is an asset for the village which can be nurtured and allowed to flourish.



## Key Objectives



### Continued Engagement

This includes proactive involvement and collaboration with all sections of the community, recognising them as a vital stakeholder in shaping the direction of Creeslough. By continuing the conversation, seeking input, ensuring the unheard are heard, and valuing all perspectives, decisions and initiatives will align with the aspirations and needs of all residents. The development of a governance structure to continue this engagement and ensure delivery of initiatives is essential.



### The Community Hub

This involves the improvement and expansion of existing community facilities and services by providing a dedicated space to act as a focal point for various activities, gatherings, and events. The multi-purpose facility could further provide a platform for sports, inclusive social interactions, cultural exchange, and the delivery of essential services to meet the diverse needs of Creeslough's residents.



### The Pathway Forward

This aims to empower the community, enabling them to actively take the lead in shaping the future of Creeslough. By providing resources, support, and opportunities for community-led initiatives, the Village Plan seeks to foster a sense of ownership, pride, and collective responsibility among residents, ensuring that the village’s development reflects their shared vision and values.





THEME B



## Age-Friendly

*Creeslough offers a rural setting that promotes close interaction and mutual support among people of all generations, leading to a more integrated community.*

By defining Creeslough as an Age-Friendly village and ensuring the availability of various village activities and services within a short walking distance, we can strengthen its sense of integration and sociability.

The engagement of multiple generations, the provision of helpful services and facilities, and the establishment of a pedestrian-friendly environment that warmly welcomes all ages, are all tremendous assets to the community, representing a significant opportunity for the area.



### Key Objectives



#### An Age Friendly Village

This involves raising awareness and actively promoting the concept of Creeslough as a town that values and supports both its oldest and youngest residents. By implementing age-friendly and age-appropriate initiatives, the goal is to create an inclusive environment that caters to the needs and preferences of all individuals. The United Nations Principles for Older Persons should be adopted to inform the future development of the village and guide the implementation of age-friendly Creeslough.



#### A Pedestrian-friendly Environment

Improving the quality of footpaths and walking areas is crucial to establish a more pedestrian-friendly environment in Creeslough. This aims to ensure that the village is accessible, safe, and comfortable for people of all ages, promoting active lifestyles and social connectivity.



#### Shop Local

To better cater to the needs of the community, this recommendation focuses on facilitating and encouraging retail and shopping services that are specifically designed to support older individuals. The aim is to create an environment that is convenient, accessible, and accommodating for their requirements.



#### Entertainment for All

Encouraging, curating and supporting entertainment activities, venues, and societies that cater to the interests of all residents, including older, younger and in-betweeners is essential. This objective seeks to promote a vibrant social life for all individuals, providing opportunities for leisure, recreation, and engagement within the community.



#### Housing Needs

Addressing the housing needs of older and younger people is vital for the well-being of Creeslough. This objective emphasises the importance of providing age-appropriate community housing options that cater to the specific requirements of older individuals, while enhancing opportunities for young individuals or families to set-up on their own. Various projects and interventions can improve access to suitable housing by unlocking available options, facilitating adaptive re-use, and creating opportunities that encourages a comfortable and fulfilling living environment within the village for all residents in Creeslough.



THEME C



**Schools**

*Schools play a vital role in the fabric of any town or village, acting as miniature ecosystems of activity that seamlessly integrate with the entire community.*

In the case of Creeslough, over 200 children and students attend its schools, establishing a dynamic presence that contributes to the generation of support services, organisation of cultural events, evaluation of recreational needs, and support of sporting activities.

The Village Plan presents an opportunity for service providers and community organisations to explore how they can better integrate with the school population, and whether additional facilities and activities can be offered. The plan aims to make Creeslough’s streets safe and friendly so that children and their families feel comfortable using them and interacting with the rest of the Community.



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**Key Objectives**

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**Safe Routes to School**

This involves identifying and implementing secure pathways that ensure the safety of students during their journey to and from school. By creating designated routes that minimise potential hazards and provide appropriate infrastructure, the aim is to promote safe, attractive and convenient travel for students.



**From School to Play**

This objective focuses on promoting connections between the schools and the community hub. By establishing new and improving existing physical linkages and facilitating joint activities, such as events, workshops, nature based learning, or collaborative projects, the goal is to strengthen the bonds between the school population and the wider community. This integration promotes shared experiences, mutual support, and a sense of belonging among students, their families, and the residents of Creeslough.



THEME D



## Sports, Leisure & Recreation

*By leveraging the presence of its wild and natural surroundings the area has the potential to benefit from activities such as nature trails / forest walks and increased water recreation in the nearby lakes.*

The proposed community regeneration site holds significant promise for the development of community focused facilities, including playing pitches, community gardens, and spaces to gather.

Existing local assets offer potential for enhanced recreation in nature, such as utilising the former railway line to create a looped walk around the village. This could be extended further (a greenway) to enhance the connectivity of Creeslough to surrounding villages and existing trails, providing additional pathways for exploration and enjoyment.

By leveraging the proposed Community Hub as a central anchor point and taking advantage of the nearby natural assets and amenities, Creeslough has the potential to become a captivating centre for sports, leisure, and recreation for all ages and interests within the community.



### Key Objectives



#### Inclusive Recreation

This objective focuses on the creation and provision of a diverse range of recreational facilities designed to cater for the wider needs and interests of Creeslough’s youth, including those with additional needs or unique interests. By fostering the development of age-appropriate spaces and inclusive activities, the aim is to enhance every child’s engagement and enjoyment of recreational pursuits, and ensure safe, convenient, and equal opportunities to actively participate.



#### Embracing Nature

Recognising the value of the natural environment surrounding Creeslough, this objective seeks to improve access to nature for residents and visitors alike. By improving trails, paths, and other means of connectivity, people can enjoy and benefit from local natural assets such as forests, lakes, and the open countryside.



#### The Community Space

This objective promotes the transformation of the community site into an attractive and seamlessly integrated public space. The proposed enhancements include the provision of a versatile natural grass or hybrid playing pitch capable of accommodating various sports such as soccer, GAA, rugby, and athletics. Additionally, a linear edge park and a children’s playground will be established, further boosting the appeal and functionality of the community site. Future expansion of nature-based recreation facilities on adjacent lands should also be considered.



THEME E



## Daily Basics

*Every thriving and sustainable village recognises the importance of providing essential provisions and services for its community. Daily activities not only contribute to increased social interaction but also support local businesses, small enterprises, and cater to the needs of residents.*

The Village Plan aims to assist local service providers and retailers by implementing measures that facilitate easy access to their premises. Additionally, the Plan seeks to enhance the overall street environment, making commercial units more appealing and user-friendly.

Where feasible, incentives will be proposed to further support these initiatives, such as shop front improvements and adaptive reuse of vacant properties. The Plan identifies significant potential in offering a range of services to individuals who visit Creeslough on a daily basis, thereby fulfilling their everyday needs and fostering the village's development as a vibrant hub.



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### Key Objectives

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#### Daily Essentials

This objective seeks to create an environment which will encourage the establishment and availability of a wider range of retail offerings in Creeslough to meet the daily needs of the community. By supporting local shops and small enterprises, the goal is to ensure convenient access to essential items and promote the sustainability of local businesses.



#### The Provision of Managed Car Parking

This objective focuses on providing adequate and accessible parking options within Creeslough in a managed way to support the daily activities of local residents and visitors to the village. By ensuring convenient and appropriate parking facilities where needed, with additional support services such as local shuttles, individuals can access the services, amenities, and businesses in the area, improving their overall experience while also enhancing safe active movement around the Village.





THEME F



**Tourism, Culture & Heritage**

*Creelough’s geographical location, natural beauty and rich heritage can be maximised to support increased tourism and economic activity locally.*

Located amidst scenic landscapes, it attracts those seeking an authentic, rural experience. Visitors can explore ancient landmarks and immerse themselves in local traditions, making the area a diverse and compelling destination. Creelough also serves as a gateway to attractions such as Muckish Mountain and Ards Forest Park, presenting itself as a prime location base for hiking, cycling and outdoor adventuring.



**Key Objectives**



**Celebrating our Heritage**

This objective would embrace a wide variety of proposals, such as the adaptive reuse of derelict properties that provide Creelough with a unique character, to breathe new life into the village as a visitor destination and not just a thoroughfare. By enhancing the village’s appeal and promoting its unique character, the goal is to position it as a place where passers-by feel compelled to stop, explore and spend time.



**Accessibility for Tourists**

By improving ‘green’ accessibility infrastructure and offering interpretive experiences along the way, visitors can fully appreciate and engage with the natural, historical and cultural significance of the area.



**Creelough as a Destination**

This objective focuses on fostering collaboration between the public, local businesses, and the tourism sector to enhance the overall visitor experience. By involving the community in providing services and amenities tailored to the needs of visitors, Creelough can create a welcoming and enriching environment for tourists.



**Rambling beyond Creelough**

The aim of this objective is to improve the integration of Creelough within the broader tourism landscape by developing a regional trail network and leveraging existing assets and attractions in the village and wider area. Visitors could be guided through a cohesive and immersive experience that highlights the unique offerings of Creelough and encourages exploration of the local area.



**Recapturing the Main Street**

This objective seeks to address the need for suitable visitor parking facilities while reducing traffic congestion within Creelough. By possibly enhancing access to intercept parking areas and implementing effective traffic management measures, the goal is to provide a seamless and enjoyable experience for visitors while minimising disruptions to local residents and businesses.



THE  
CORNER  
BREW

THEME G



## Sustainability & Resilience

*Sustainability and resilience are vital aspects of the vision for Creeslough, as the community recognises the need to balance present needs with the ability to meet the needs of future generations.*

By embracing sustainability, Creeslough aims to minimise its impact on the environment, promote resource efficiency, and protect its natural assets. This involves adopting practices that reduce energy consumption, promote renewable energy sources waste reduction and recycling.

Furthermore, the community acknowledges the importance of resilience in the face of various challenges, including climate change, and socio-economic shifts. By prioritising resilience, Creeslough seeks to enhance its ability to withstand and recover from disruptions, ensuring the well-being and safety of its residents. Through embracing the need for a more sustainable future, Creeslough will become a more vibrant and thriving community that can adapt and thrive in a changing world.



### Key Objectives



#### A Sustainable Community

This objective offers multifaceted benefits, including resource conservation, economic savings, and enhanced tourism appeal. Initiatives could include educational workshops on topics such as composting and water conservation, community clean-ups of the village, parks and waterways, business incentives for implementing eco-friendly operations, and school competitions with environmental themes to engage children and families in sustainable practices.



#### Green Spaces and Biodiversity

This focuses on the preservation of existing and the addition of new of green spaces and biodiversity within Creeslough. It includes initiatives such as creating community gardens, planting native trees and flowers, and maintaining wildlife habitats. By nurturing the natural environment, Creeslough can improve its air quality, provide recreational spaces, and support local ecosystems, a community at one with nature.



#### Renewable Energy Infrastructure

This objective explores the implementation of renewable energy infrastructure projects in Creeslough such as solar panel installations and other renewable energy sources. By harnessing clean energy, Creeslough can reduce its dependence on fossil fuels, lower carbon emissions, and contribute to a more sustainable and resilient energy system.



#### Home Grown

Initiatives could include supporting community gardens, establishing farmers' markets, and facilitating partnerships between local growers and local businesses. By developing local food systems and reducing the reliance on imported goods, Creeslough can enhance food security, support the local economy, and promote sustainable farming practices.



THEME H



## Economic Prosperity

*Creeslough is home to valuable local businesses and employers which need to be nurtured and supported. Collectively, Creeslough can further capitalise on its well-established network of business communities and support systems.*

There is significant potential to generate additional economic activity locally through the hospitality and recreation sectors. By improving the street environment, prospects can be unlocked for local tradespeople such as butchers, delis, beauty salons, and other small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Residents and visitors will be encouraged to shop and spend locally, thereby supporting the sustainability and expansion of existing businesses.

The Village Plan seeks to showcase the untapped potential of Creeslough to new investors, encouraging them to recognise the outstanding opportunities available in the area.



### Key Objectives



#### Business in the Community

By fostering partnerships and providing support to local businesses, Creeslough can create an environment conducive to entrepreneurship and growth, enabling businesses to flourish and contribute to the economic prosperity of the community.



#### Connected Hubs

By providing remote working (co-working) spaces, Creeslough can attract remote workers who seek a conducive and professional environment to carry out their work. This initiative can help diversify the local economy and create new opportunities for businesses and individuals.



#### Digitally Enabled

National Broadband Ireland is in the process of delivering new future-proofed, high-speed Fibre-to-the-Home network to properties in its Creeslough deployment area under the National Broadband Plan on behalf of the Irish Government. Recognising the importance of reliable and high-speed internet connectivity, this upgrade will enable businesses and residents to access online resources, expand their market reach, and engage in digital innovation.



#### Training Support

By providing tailored training programs, Creeslough can address the specific skill requirements of the local workforce. This objective aims to equip individuals with the necessary knowledge and expertise to meet the demands of emerging industries, supporting economic growth and job creation.



#### Streetscape Improvements

To attract more visitors and enhance the vibrancy of the town, improvements may include creating attractive public spaces, improving signage, and enhancing pedestrian infrastructure, all of which contribute to a welcoming and inviting atmosphere that encourages increased footfall and economic activity.







# 05

MOVING FORWARD

## How do we get there?



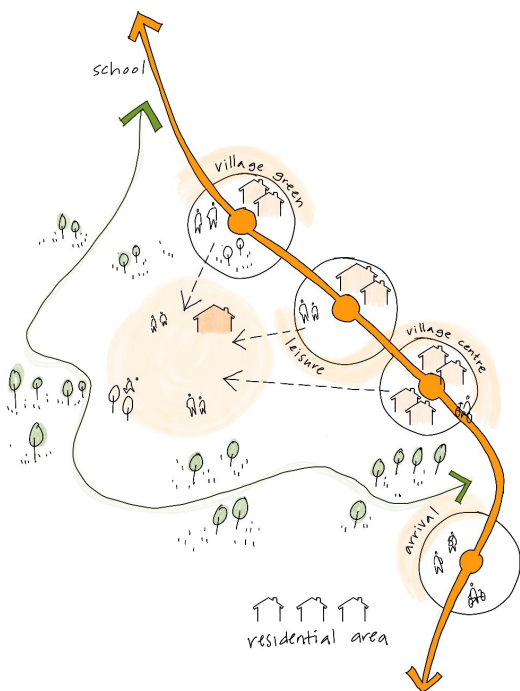
HOW DO WE GET THERE?

# Areas of change

## *Unlocking regeneration*

Up to this point, the Village Plan has looked at Creeslough's setting and character, presented the feedback from the community and stakeholders, and used this information to develop a series of themes and subsequent objectives. To unlock redevelopment and regeneration, these objectives have been used to create an inventory of possible "projects", which have been further tested for prioritisation through additional public engagement.

The following section sets out these projects in detail along with key interventions and showcases examples of best practice. Furthermore, a Delivery Roadmap lays out the essentials for execution: project priority, avenues for funding, principal stakeholders for implementation, and prospective timelines. This comprehensive guide serves as a delivery roadmap, steering Creeslough in the right direction for the successful realisation of our shared community vision.



The map overleaf shows a series of spatially based projects that are described in the following sections.

### Core Projects

- 1 Strengthening the Village Core
- 2 Adaptive Reuse
- 3 Water Recreation
- 4 Green Links
- 5 Community Regeneration Project (CRP Phase 1)
- 6 Creeslough Village Park (CRP Phase 2)
- 7 Safe Movement & Accessibility
- 8 Environmental Improvements
- 9 Gateways

### Supporting Projects

- 10 The Chapel and Village Centre
- 11 Corncutter Monument
- 12 Garden Project
- 13 Viewing Platform
- 14 Transport Improvements
- 15 Parking Study
- 16 Events and Animation
- 17 Exploring a Sustainable Energy Project
- 18 Creeslough Village Design Toolkit



Crockatee

St Mary's National School

St Michael's Church

Maghera Lough

Crees Lough

Lough More

Duntally Wood

Disused rail line

CORE PROJECT 1



## Strengthening the Village Core

### Revitalising community spaces: a vision for the future village centre

A Strengthened Village Core will act as the key catalyst for regeneration. With the potential to bring the community together and also attract visitors to enjoy the village, this project holds the promise of creating a hive of activity where people gather to experience Creelough’s warmth and hospitality. Where anyone can stop-in, enjoy the local offerings, catch-up with friends, and enjoy spending time in the village.

The following interventions have been separated into short- and medium to long- term categories. These are aspirational timeframes, not deadlines, that serve to be a catalyst for encouraging future regeneration.



### Short Term Interventions (0-5yrs)

- 1 Retain and repurpose the TubHub building to serve as a versatile community and local business space.
- 2 Preserve and transform the Cope Yard into an indoor market space, promoting local businesses and artisans, and allowing for community events or ‘pop-up’ trade.
- 3 Planting native and biodiversity rich flowers and trees. Temporary planters with colourful flowers or small trees can brighten up spaces and add natural beauty, particularly in front of the Cope Yard and on the ‘High Street’.
- 4 Explore opportunities for ‘tactical urbanism’. Adding street / place furniture such as benches, water refill stations and bike racks can make the village centre more user-friendly.
- 5 Adding clear and attractive signs to guide pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers can enhance navigation and safety. Interpretive signage can also be introduced to educate and engage the public about the local environment, history and culture.
- 6 Creelough Community Association and Community Links Manager to explore the potential of a working group comprising landowners/property owners within the village centre to encourage short term interventions such as environmental improvements, parklets and public events.
- 7 Introduce traffic calming measures, reduced speeds, pedestrian crossings and carry out a comprehensive parking study for the village to enhance pedestrian activity and ease access challenges for motorised and non-motorised traffic.



### Med- Long Term Interventions (5+ yrs)

- 1 **Redevelop the TubHub building into a modern community business and retail facility**, catering to various activities and services, such as establishing a digi-hub to foster digital innovation and technology.
- 2 **Introduce an adjacent outdoor public square to become a gathering space or market**, with views opened up over Lough More and to the coast. This could provide an additional area for pocket parks, street vendors and cultural events, and could provide opportunities for cafes or retailers to “spill-out” onto a pedestrian space.
- 3 **New development to the rear of the TubHub** could accommodate flexible studio spaces, supporting artists and creative endeavours, and offering facilities for health and wellbeing such as a yoga lounge.
- 4 **Further transformation of the Cope Yard into a 'Craft and Design' Courtyard** featuring units for local businesses and artisans to showcase their crafts, and residential spaces above to encourage a vibrant live-work community.
- 5 **Pedestrianise some areas in front of the Cope Yard and 'High Street'**, maximising space for people and utilising the exceptional views from the raised vantage point.



Existing Cope Yard, Creeslough © Arup



Existing TubHub Building, Creeslough © 2024 Google



Artist illustration - for illustrative purposes only © Arup

NAUL VILLAGE, CO.DUBLIN, ROI

## Seamus Ennis Art Centre

The Séamus Ennis Arts Centre opened in 2001. The centre has undergone extensive refurbishment to become a unique venue to showcase performances from local, regional, national and international artists across a wide range of arts including Music Concerts and Festivals, Traditional Arts, Art Exhibitions, Music School, Theatre, Comedy & Cinema and Creative Workshops.

A recent development of a covered outdoor performance area has provided additional space for large scale concerts as well as Craft and Food Fairs and Community events. The Cottage Café provides a warm and welcoming atmosphere for visitors and locals alike.

### *Potential Benefits*

- The improved village centre will serve as a central gathering point for the community and visitors to the village, enriching the village experience for all.
- It will offer opportunities for social events and recreational activities, strengthening the community bond.
- With its vibrant atmosphere and diverse offerings, the revitalised village centre will draw visitors from nearby areas and beyond, and will catch the eye of those passing through to stop, and stay for a while.
- Increased local and non-local visitors to the village centre will provide opportunities for businesses to thrive. Regenerated spaces within the village centre will offer prime locations for new businesses to set up and benefit from increased footfall and exposure.
- Public spaces and art installations will reflect the village's identity and culture whilst respecting its historic character and promoting a sense of pride among residents and visitors alike.
- Enhanced landscaping and green spaces will add beauty to the village, adding to its existing charm and making it visually appealing. It can promote social interaction, environmental health, and economic growth, and transform the area into a welcoming space that embraces community well-being and cultural identity.
- Implementing increased safety and accessibility measures throughout the village centre will make the village more pedestrian-friendly, cater to people of all ages and abilities – ensuring inclusivity within the community and making it enjoyable for all.





Yardhouse Affordable Workspace, Stratford © Assemble



Ridgewood © Ridgewood Community Centre



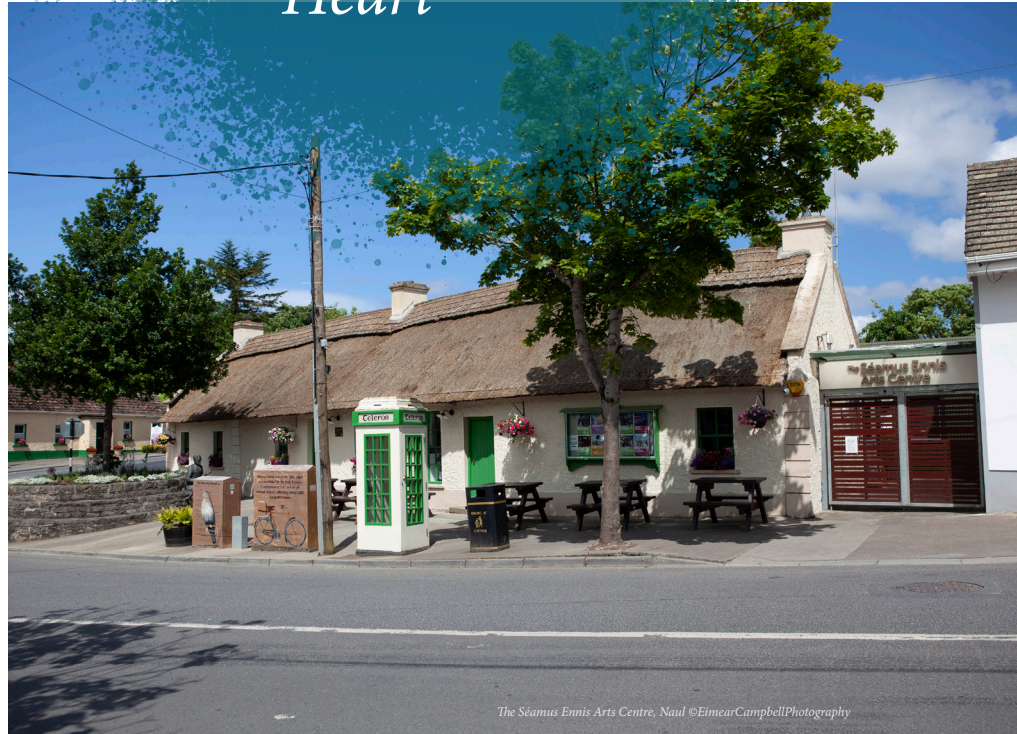
Clenchbury Village Plan 2024

Westport © Getty Images

# Vibrant Heart



Hello Wood's Pop-Up Park, Budapest © Petra Gaspar



The Séamus Ennis Arts Centre, Naul ©EimearCampbellPhotography



The Séamus Ennis Arts Centre, Naul ©EimearCampbellPhotography



The Buttermarket, Enniskillen © Fermanagh Enterprise

CORE PROJECT 2



Adaptive Reuse



Unlocking potential: Revitalising vacant spaces for a sustainable future

In recent years, Creeslough has faced the challenge of derelict and disused properties, leading to a prevailing sense of lost opportunity. However, within this challenge lies immense potential for revitalisation and transformation. By introducing much-needed uses to these buildings, we have the opportunity to breathe new life into the village, creating an attractive and vibrant streetscape and stimulating economic growth. Despite previous facelifts, the true catalyst for change lies in the revitalisation of the remaining derelict and disused properties, as it holds the key to reshaping the streetscape and cultivating an overall appealing and pedestrian-friendly space for all to enjoy, while providing essential space for a mix of uses such as ground floor commerce and upper floor residential.



Derelict building and court along Main Street, Creeslough © Arup



Derelict building along Main Street, Creeslough © Arup





## WOOD GREEN, HARINGEY, UK

**Blue House Yard**

Redevelopment and re-imagining of an empty and underused site for local creatives, entrepreneurs and residents for a meanwhile use period of 5 years.

The redevelopment has been running since 2017 and has become a public space for meeting friends, discovering events and interacting with local designer / makers within the community.

A friendly, inclusive, multi-disciplinary and experimental collection of workspaces for local people, it provides both private space for rent and a new public space for workshops for the community.

The space comprises 9 two storey timber work sheds, a new café, space for cultural events, pitches for markets, open access ceramic workshop and studio/ office spaces for rent.

**Interventions**

- 1 **Creating a business incubator and co-working hub.** This could include cost-effective shared facilities such as meeting rooms, digital connectivity, IT facilities and technical support.
- 2 **Potential to provide a community hub** to develop crafts, core skills and personal development. Examples include a Men's Shed (similar to that at Ards Friary), Women's Shed, the Network Shed and Youth Pathway.
- 3 **Potential to utilise vacant buildings in a 'meanwhile use' capacity** through temporary exhibitions, creative interventions and space for artisanal commerce. Pop-up exhibitions or commerce can demonstrate the potential of a space, build community interest, and attract longer-term investment.
- 4 **Potential to adapt vacant buildings to encourage village centre living',** enabling a diverse environment that combines residential, business and commercial spaces. This integration stimulates an active live/work community, invigorating the village with a vibrant blend of daily activities and interactions.
- 5 **Potential to broaden the range and types of short-term accommodation** in the village centre to capitalise on the visitor economy.
- 6 **Organisation of community design workshops** where residents and stakeholders can come together to brainstorm ideas and collaborate on repurposing vacant buildings. This involvement will ensure the aesthetics of the village align with the desires and needs of the community.
- 7 **Design public gathering spaces around the revitalised buildings,** such as parks, plazas, or seating areas. These spaces will encourage social gatherings and interactions, fostering a stronger sense of community among inhabitants.
- 8 **Establish Adaptive Reuse Design Guidelines that prioritise adaptive reuse and sustainable building practices.** These guidelines will ensure that revitalised buildings maintain the village's historic character while aligning with sustainability goals.
- 9 **Encourage local artists to create public art installations and murals on the revitalised buildings.** This fosters a sense of pride and ownership as community members witness positive changes in their surroundings and take part in the transformation.



SKIBBEREEN, ROI

## Ludgate Hub

55

Full-time members

319

Direct jobs created

4m+

Euro contribution to local economy

The Ludgate Hub, based in Skibbereen, on the periphery of Cork in the South West of Ireland is an exemplar in the adaptive reuse of underutilised buildings.

Once a cinema (1941-1981), then a bakery (1941-1980), the building was left unoccupied in the mid-90s. A board of eleven local people, operating on a pro-bono basis, set about creating a local state of the art digital hub in a sustainable manner. Local businessman John Field kindly donated the building which has now become the Ludgate Hub - a beacon of local innovation and an ecosystem for local creativity.



### Potential Benefits

- Repurposing vacant buildings improves the overall aesthetics of the village, making it more attractive to residents and visitors, promoting a sense of pride and ownership among community members, as they witness positive changes in their surroundings.
- Revitalising vacant buildings can attract new and existing businesses and creating the environment to allow them to flourish, leading to both local economic growth and job opportunities. The buildings can host new services, or community facilities, providing residents with better access to essential amenities.
- Reuse of vacant properties in a village centre can offer local residents more housing options, improving affordability and convenience while advancing a more vibrant and walkable community core.
- The reuse of existing structures aligns with sustainability goals, reducing the need for new construction and preserves the village's historic character.
- Preserving historic buildings is preserving the village's heritage, celebrating its unique identity and history for future generations.
- The improvement of vacant buildings can positively impact property values in the area, benefiting homeowners and investors.
- Repurposed buildings can contribute to improved safety and security in the village, reducing any risks associated with vacant structures.



Blue House Yard © Jan Katteir Architects



© The Ludgate Hub

# Re-energised Spaces



Creative Artist © Jonathan Borba on Unsplash



Blue House Yard © Jan Katteir Architects



Photography Creative Exhibition © EimearCampbellPhotography



Events Space © Ormeau Baths Belfast

CORE PROJECT 3



Water Recreation



Embracing the Waters: Unleashing adventure

Creeslough’s lakes are an underutilised asset with significant potential. The project proposes a high-quality facility in proximity to the proposed Community Regeneration Project that develops a contemporary visitor attraction and facilitates public access to the water. The project could harness this potential to deliver an attraction unique to Creeslough whilst still encouraging people to visit the village centre. The provision of dedicated water recreation could be a powerful catalyst in supporting the growth of the tourism sector.



A lake in Creeslough ©Arup



Artist illustration - For Illustration purposes only ©Arup



## TRALEE BAY, CO. KERRY, ROI

**Eco-Activity Park**

An innovative and sustainable visitor attraction, Tralee Bay Wetlands Project attracts up to 50,000 tourists per annum. Costing €4.5m to develop, the project was jointly funded by Tralee Town Council and Fáilte Ireland under the National Development Plan (2007-2013).

Utilising the rich natural heritage of the Tralee Bay area, which is a nature reserve of international importance, the project greatly enhances the visitor product offering in Tralee and expands the eco-tourism market in Kerry.

Officially opened to the public in May 2013, the Wetlands Centre and its facilities sit under the Slieve Mish Mountain Range. The project consists of an activity park, nature walks, restorative wetlands, biodiversity enhancement projects and eco-tours alongside an Environmental Education programme.

**Interventions**

- 1 **Water Recreation Facility** to introduce an innovative and captivating attraction with interactive exhibits and educational components to engage visitors.
- 2 **Education and Training courses** to organise events, workshops, and training sessions related to water sports, water safety and environmental awareness to engage the local community and visitors.
- 3 **Equipment storage** to provide secure adjacent outdoor storage facility for water sports equipment, ensuring easy access for rental or personal use.
- 4 **Showers, Changing and Toilet facilities** to provide convenience and comfort to visitors engaging in water activities.
- 5 **Signage and Information boards** displaying clear signage and information boards detailing available hours, activities, safety guidelines and environmental conservation tips.
- 6 **Links with people and nature through** integrated nature trails to and around the lake, encouraging active travel to the facility from various parts of the village, as well as wider connectivity with other possible 'green links'.



GARTAN, CO. DONEGAL, ROI

## Gartan Activity Centre

Gartan Outdoor Education and Training Centre, set on the shores of Lough Gartan in County Donegal, is an outdoor learning adventure facility providing adventure activities and outdoor education courses within woodland and on Gartan Lough.

Utilising the nearby Derryveagh Mountains and Donegal coastline, the centre offers sea kayaking, sailing, surfing and 'Coastabout' Courses with Environmental Education Courses suitable for primary schools, secondary schools, youth groups/clubs and Adventure Sports Training.

### *Potential Benefits*

- Encourages public access to the water, offering recreational opportunities for local residents and visitors.
- Connects people to nature, strengthening the appreciation of natural environments, fostering environmental awareness and conservation efforts.
- Encourages/promotes a healthier and active lifestyle.
- Draws tourists and visitors to the area, boosting local tourism and supporting the economy.
- Provides a dedicated home for various water-based activities and clubs, promoting outdoor leisure, and acting as a social hub.
- Creates job opportunities and stimulates the local economy.



Kayaking © Gartan Outdoor Education & Training Centre



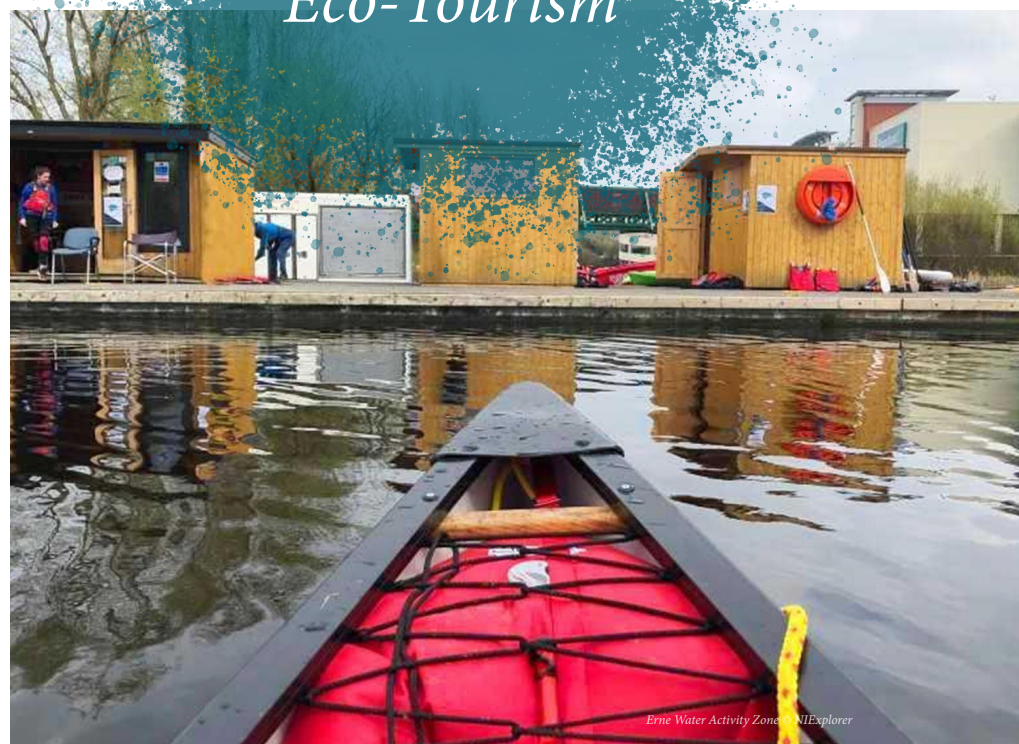
Creeslough Village Plan 2024

Seaham Centre © Napper Architects

# Sustainable Eco-Tourism



Erne Water Activity Zone © NIExplorer



Erne Water Activity Zone © NIExplorer



Water Swimming © Linn's Golf & Spa Resort

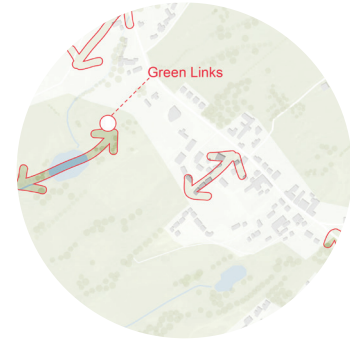


Water Safety Courses © Gartatole Outdoor Centre

CORE PROJECT 4



Green Links



Connecting Communities: Establishing a network of village walkways and nature trails

This project seeks to create a vibrant, attractive, safe, and accessible network of walkways and trails linking the proposed Community Regeneration Hub to the village centre, with onwards links to Doe Castle, Duntally Woods, Owencarrow Viaduct, Ards Forest Park, and beyond to regional greenways. The development of a secondary movement network around the village was a priority for many of those who took part in consultation for the Plan. The Green Links would enhance connectivity between the village core, residential areas, education and wider area of recreation, and would become a much sought after provision for exercise, commuting, tourism, and daily movement.



Potential linkage near Scoil Mhuire, Creeslough ©Arup





BELFAST, NI

## Connswater Community Greenway

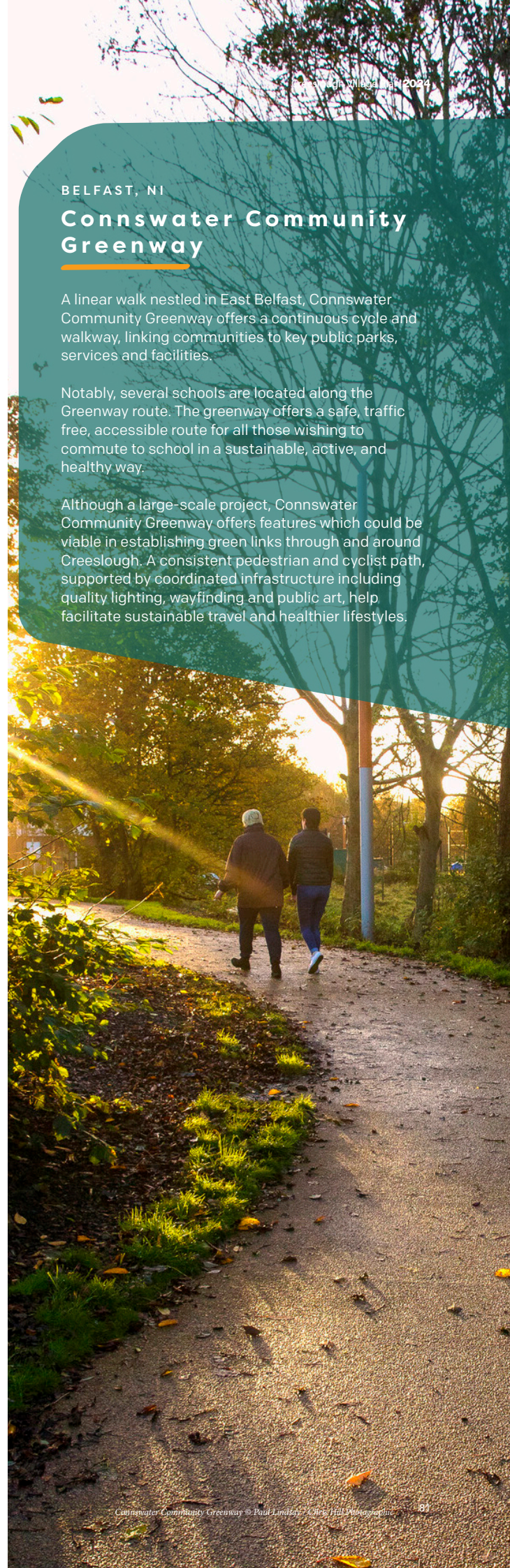
A linear walk nestled in East Belfast, Connswater Community Greenway offers a continuous cycle and walkway, linking communities to key public parks, services and facilities.

Notably, several schools are located along the Greenway route. The greenway offers a safe, traffic free, accessible route for all those wishing to commute to school in a sustainable, active, and healthy way.

Although a large-scale project, Connswater Community Greenway offers features which could be viable in establishing green links through and around Creeslough. A consistent pedestrian and cyclist path, supported by coordinated infrastructure including quality lighting, wayfinding and public art, help facilitate sustainable travel and healthier lifestyles.

### Interventions

- 1 **Formalise and expand the Birch Hill Path** which became a vital link for Creeslough residents in 2022. The path offers a safe and enjoyable off-road connection for residential areas to schools, the shop, and the chapel. Further expansion of this path could open opportunities to link it with formal trail heads at either end of the Village, linking into the proposed Community Regeneration Project, the proposed Water Hub, future nature trails and any possible future residential development.
- 2 **Historic Greenway** by transforming the historic disused railway track into a new greenway, offering a scenic and ecologically friendly path for walking, running and wheeling in a circular route around Creeslough.
- 3 **Wayfinding and Inclusive Mobility Infrastructure** through improving signage and pedestrian facilities such as benches to and along the green links, including additional improvements for Duntally Woods. Wayfinding could be interactive and informative, providing insights on local nature and history.
- 4 **Trail heads and entrances** through Distinct arrival points incorporating landscaping elements (e.g. planting, trees) would provide visible and attractive destinations.
- 5 **Integrated Recreational facilities** through pathways and linkages that connect the various parts of the village with nearby facilities, encouraging easy access. By providing routes of different experiences (e.g. sensory, educational, sports) and infrastructure (play, exercise points etc.), the trails will offer attractive spaces for all users to enjoy
- 6 **Public spaces** through introducing and linking public gathering spaces (e.g. squares, pocket parks) where locals and visitors can relax, socialise and enjoy the surroundings.
- 7 **Safer Routes to Schools** by introducing the planned 'Safer Routes to School' project for the village.
- 8 **Implement Wider Connections** through further reaching regional links to allow residents and visitors to actively travel to nearby destinations. Off-road connections to Ards Forest, Doe Castle, Muckish Trail, Duntally Woods, and Owencarrow Viaduct are all proposed. The integration with proposed regional trails such as the Letterkenny to Burtonport Greenway are also proposed.



RODEN STREET, LIMERICK, ROI

## Safe Routes to School

The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Programme was developed in partnership with the National Transport Authority (NTA) and Green Schools in 2020 as a response to the need to support schools to increase walking and cycling to school.

The aims of the SRTS Programme include improving safety at the school gate, improving access routes to school, and increasing the number of students who cycle to school.

An example of its application is Roden Street, Limerick. The street has officially become a 'School Street', meaning between the hours of 8am and 9am and 1.15pm and 2.45pm, vehicles are requested not to enter the street (except for crèche buses, residents, and staff), allowing a safer space for children.

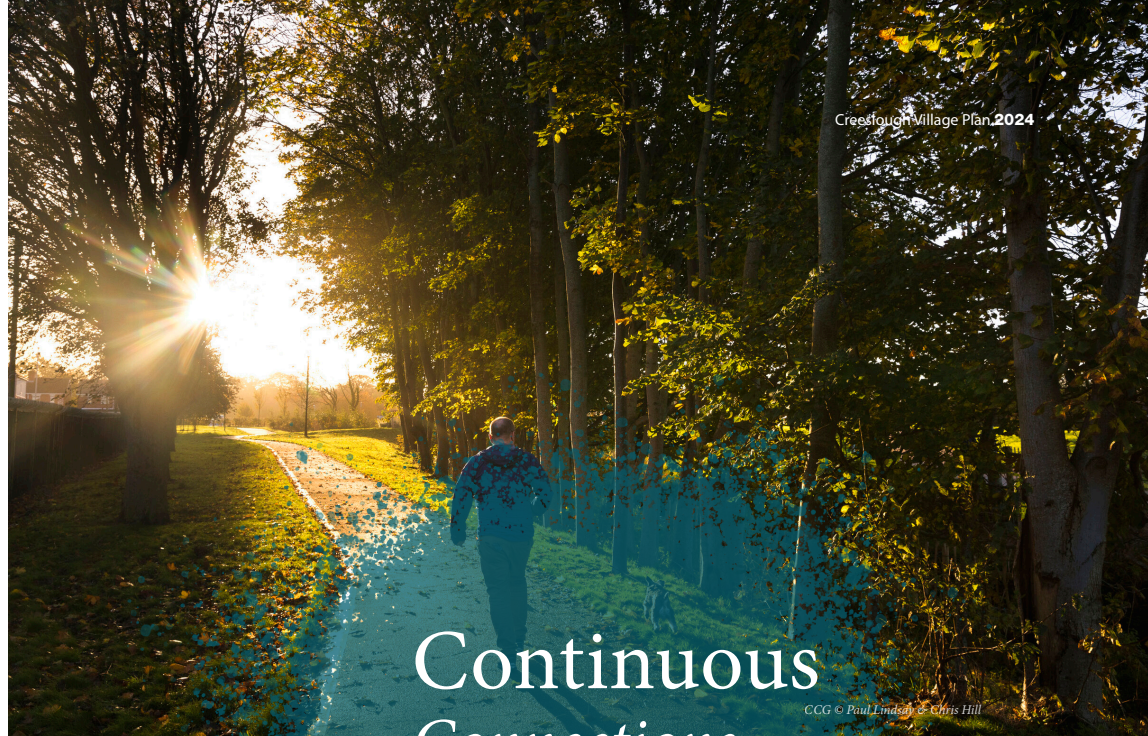
Interventions include differential surfacing, new education-inspired bollards, and cycle infrastructure.

### *Potential Benefits*

- The creation of a more attractive environment for residents and visitors to move around the village and its environs, with opportunities for safe active travel routes as an alternative to motorised travel.
- Encouraging improved physical and mental health through recreation and connection with nature, providing a range of short, long and, cyclical routes for running, walking and wheeling.
- Creates a deeper connection with nature, allowing people to experience local flora and fauna, and instilling a greater sense of environmental stewardship within the community.
- Enhancing arrival points and linkages between key spaces that play an important role in the movement network.
- Aiding seamless off-road movement between the village centre and recreational facilities to address issues of fragmentation.
- Preservation of cultural heritage by connecting and showcasing historical or cultural locations within the village and its environs.
- Connecting Creeslough on a regional scale to wider destinations.



Connswater Community Greenway (CCG) © Sustrans

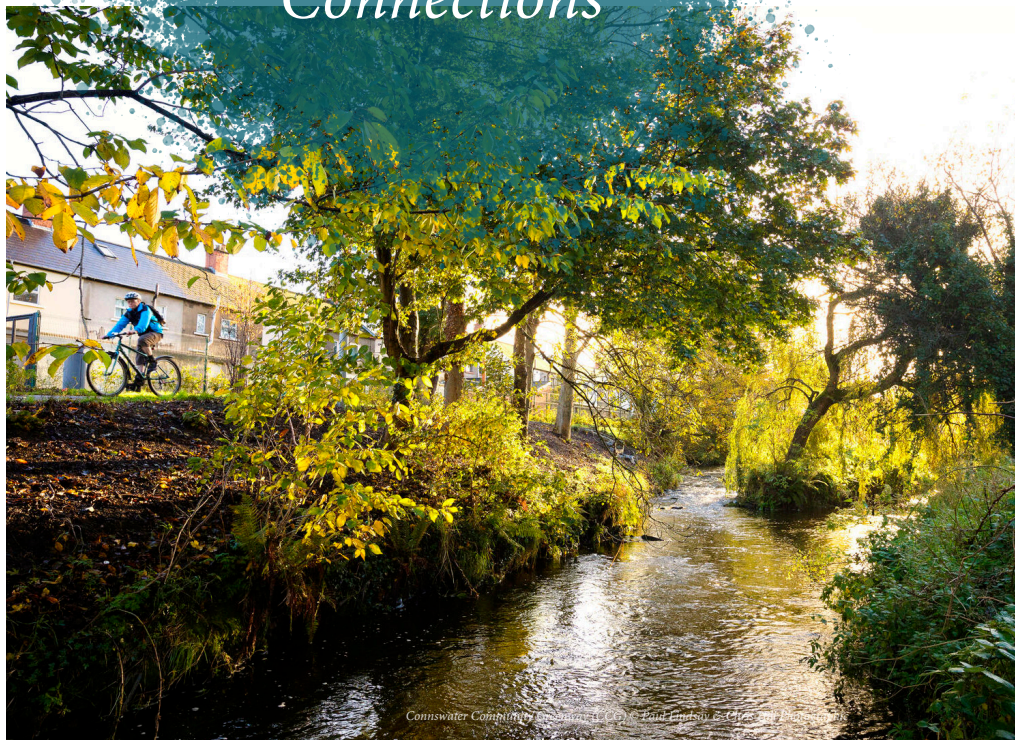


CCG © Paul Lindsay & Chris Hill

# Continuous Connections



Connswater Community Greenway (CCG) © Paul Lindsay & Chris Hill



Connswater Community Greenway (CCG) © Paul Lindsay & Chris Hill



Linear Park, Leytonstone © Artist Lucy Harrison / Matter Architecture



Connswater Community Greenway (CCG) © Paul Lindsay & Chris Hill

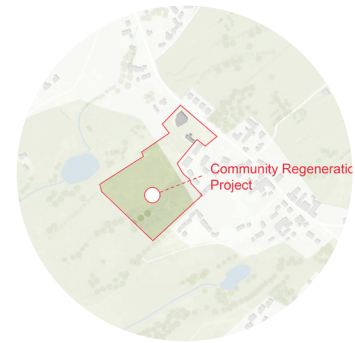


Connswater Community Greenway (CCG) © Paul Lindsay & Chris Hill

CORE PROJECT 5

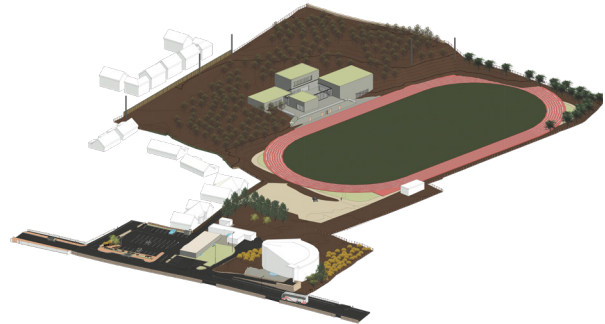


# Community Regeneration Project (CRP Phase 1)

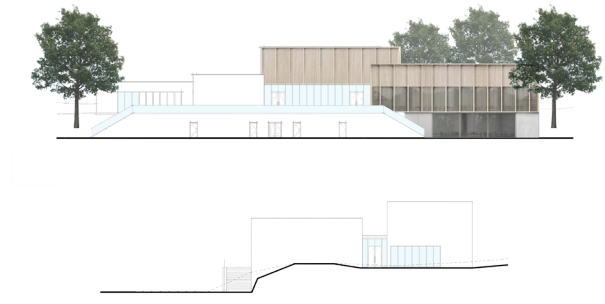


## Empowering the Local Community & Transformational Place Making: Community Regeneration at The Field

By using an existing key asset in the Village, the Creeslough Community Regeneration Project Phase 1 offers a major opportunity to transform underutilised land into a Community Hub, while acting as a catalyst for regeneration of adjacent lands through the creation of public spaces and interconnected pathways. The proposed development, informed by community consultation and evidenced by community need, plans to deliver vital community infrastructure and facilities. It is expected to provide a new place for community life that will support Creeslough on a journey towards a vibrant, healthy, well serviced, socially inclusive and sustainable community.



Indicative Layout © Donegal County Council



Indicative Elevation © Donegal County Council

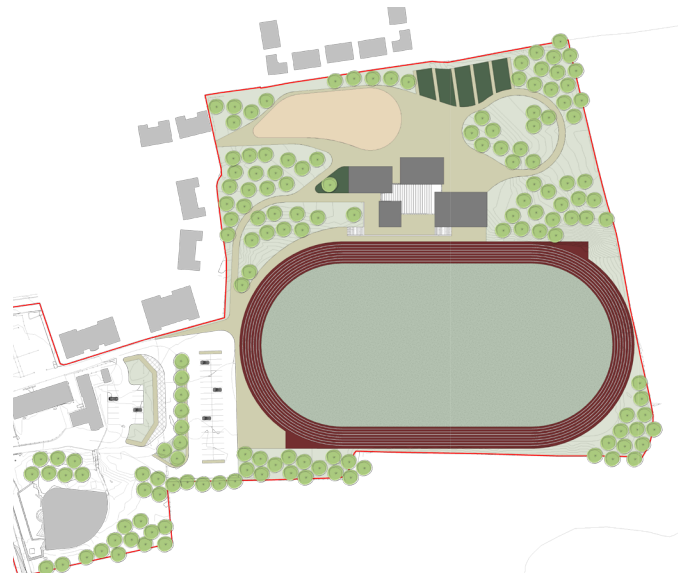
### PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

This Project was developed to Stage 1 Statutory Approval Stage by the Regeneration & Development Team of Donegal County Council in consultation with the Creeslough Community. Part 8 planning consent for the project was secured at a plenary meeting of Donegal County Council on Monday 25th September 2023. The project has now proceeded to business planning stage and is being prepared as a highly developed shovel ready capital project towards the fifth call of the Rural Regeneration & Development Fund for Category 1 projects, which is expected to open before year end 2023.



## Interventions

- 1 **Community Hub Building** to empower the community to be custodians of new community, civic, sporting and recreational infrastructure to facilitate public life within their village and wider community.
- 2 **Multi-purpose Field and Track** through a new flexible multifunctional outdoor area including field, Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) and recreational track to support various community needs and capacity to facilitate civic, cultural, sporting, recreational, and social events.
- 3 **Community Garden** through the development of community gardens and landscaped public realm, enhanced by allotments and a potting shed, walks, landscaping, nature-based solutions such as rain gardens, rest areas, shelters and a flexible outdoor performance space for smaller events of a musical, theatre or film screening nature.
- 4 **Bespoke Play Park** themed on local nature & wildlife as informed by consultation with the local school children, with further bespoke play features based on local heritage. The playpark will have age-appropriate zones and supported by public conveniences, a changing places facility, disabled, age friendly and parent & toddler parking together with a coffee pavilion.
- 5 **Landscaped Walkways** encouraging future opportunities to further enhance linkages with the surrounding context and provide attractive pedestrian and cycle routes within nature on adjacent lands, along with improved wayfinding provision to key destinations.



Indicative Site Plan © Donegal County Council



ST THOMAS ESTATE, DUBLIN, ROI

## DSD Multisport Campus

A international standard multisport campus that sets the bar for future sports facilities throughout Ireland.

The DSD Multisport Campus, set on 25 acres on Tibbradden Road, provides a bespoke facility that is the new home to Dundrum South Dublin Athletics Club and other minority sports.

Phase 1 consisted of a World Athletics standard 8-lane, 400-metre Mondo outdoor track, athletics field for jumps and throws, and a 2km hilly trails feature.

Phase 2 includes a sports hall with changing rooms, offices, indoor sprint track and associated facilities installed.



### *Potential Benefits*

- Implementing transformational place making through the integration of civic space, natural environment and community infrastructure at the heart of the Creeslough Community thereby strengthening community cohesion, citizenship and well being.
- Strengthening the village through architecture, planning and co-designed interventions, so as to enable the regeneration of under-utilised community lands and the village environment as a cohesive and high-quality area which is attractive and safe for residents, visitors and investors as a place where public life can thrive.
- Opportunities for young individuals to explore, discover, and learn, thereby promoting educational and recreational activities, and overall well-being.
- Improved facilities for the community, encouraging participation in recreation activities to improve physical and mental wellbeing.
- Safe and attractive environment for all age groups and abilities, allowing for growth, play and inclusion.
- A hub for the community to learn about and participate in food production and sustainable practices.
- Enhancing the community's creative potential through dedicated artistic and cultural spaces.
- Improving tourism offer in the shoulder season, increasing dwell-time within the village as a means to encourage activity and provide opportunity to support the local economy.
- Improved flood mitigation measures through nature-based solutions such as rain gardens.



Stone Clubhouse © GRAS Arquitectos / Archidaily



© Future Architecture Thinking

# Maximising Potential



Dundrum South Dublin Athletics Club © DSDAthleticsClub



Orestad Sports Facility © NORD Architects / Deezen



Dundrum South Dublin Athletics Club © DSDAthleticsClub



Dundrum South Dublin Athletics Club © DSDAthleticsClub

CORE PROJECT 6

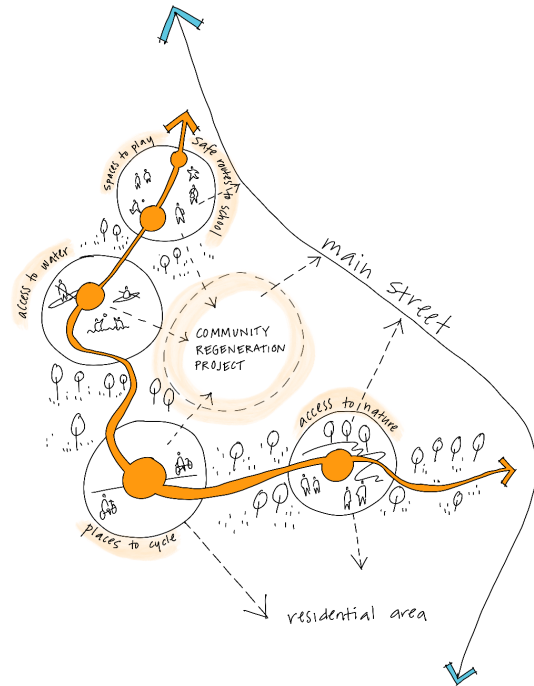


### Creeslough Village Park (CRP Phase 2)

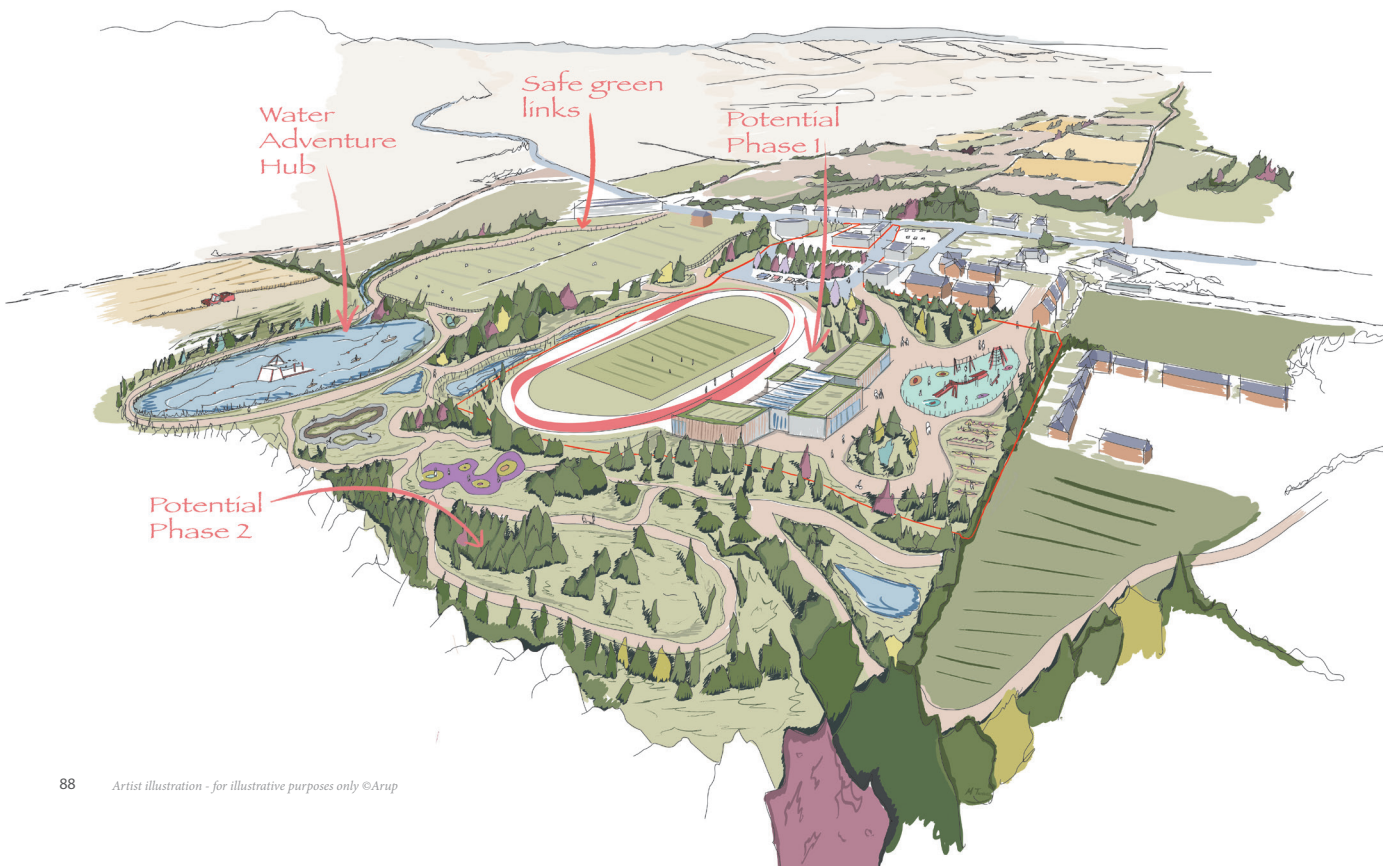


*Unleashing Nature:, Exploring, Playing, Embracing the Green Life in Creeslough*

Despite its proximity to such natural beauty, Creeslough’s busy main street (the N56 route) gives a sense of disconnect from its surroundings, with limited direct connections to nature through play or respite. The Community Regeneration Project Phase 1 (see Priority Project 5) offers additional opportunity to expand through the transformation of adjacent lands and the creation of green public spaces and interconnected pathways.



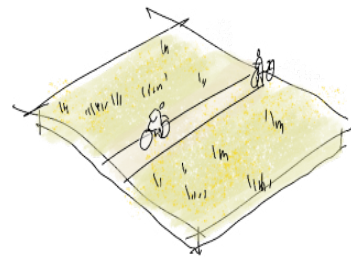
Concept illustration - for illustrative purposes only ©Arup



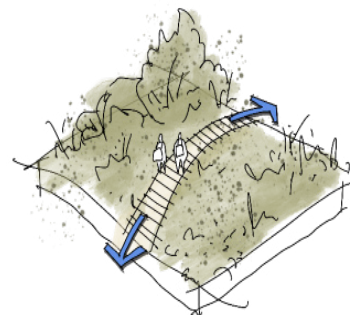


**Interventions**

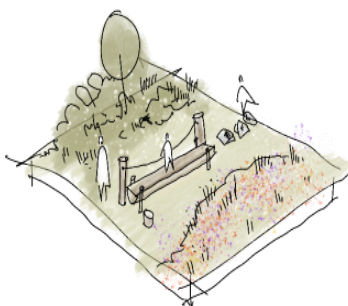
- 1 **Linear Park** around the Community Regeneration Project, with areas for passive and active recreation linking to pocket parks and green corridors within the village.
- 2 **Multiple Natural Playgrounds** nestled near local schools, providing safer environment and promoting a stronger connection between children and nature.
- 3 **Woodland and Wetland Trails** by revamping existing challenging terrains (e.g. woodlands, wetlands) with innovative walking trails, such as raised walkways, to offer fresh and exciting experiences. These trails will be thoughtfully designed to ease navigation through difficult landscapes, along with the inclusion of information boards covering subjects like local flora and fauna.
- 4 **Nature Based Solutions and Sustainable Design** such as Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SuDS) to enrich areas by boosting biodiversity and environmental quality while increasing climate resilience. SuDS reduce flood risks and protect the environment, offering functional, attractive community spaces that benefit both nature and residents, while promoting creativity and recreation through play and sensory features. These can be enhanced with other sustainable design principles, such as rainwater harvesting, native planting, and eco-conscious waste management.
- 5 **Sensory Gardens and Educational Points / Outdoor School Activities** through implementing sensory installations (e.g. art installations, interactive exhibits, sensory gardens) that will offer new experiences and sensation to enhance the village's charm (e.g. Scoil Mhuire and Creeslough National School to lakes) and incorporate educational features to raise awareness about the village's natural environment. Collaboration with existing organisations such as Glenveagh National Park Education Centre would be beneficial.



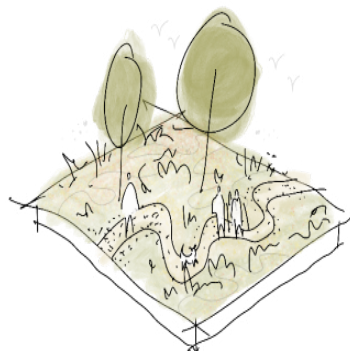
*places to cycle*



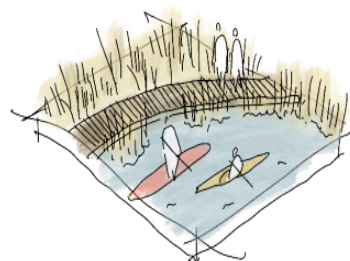
*safe routes to school*



*spaces to play*



*access to nature*



*access to water*

SOWERBY, YORKSHIRE, UK.

## Park and Sports Village

Sowerby Park and Sports Village, located in Sowerby village immediately south of the market town of Thirsk, provides a new 'Sports Village' offering much wider social benefits for the whole community than just a standard park. It is now a vital social infrastructure for local people.

The community defined the brief for the park, through workshops and close communication. As a result an inclusive, multi-layered park that people use at different times of the day and in different ways has evolved and reinforces that everyone is welcome.

The park includes a running track, bike trails, over 300 new trees, sustainable drainage systems and three high-quality sports pitches. Habitat corridors are provided with biodiversity interlaced across the entire site.

### *Potential Benefits*

- Establishing functional spaces to connect people with nature.
- Creating outdoor areas for ecological education, catering to local and visiting schools.
- The opportunity to host cultural and recreational events.
- Providing alternative green routes for walking and cycling around the village, diverting away from the main street.
- Providing a natural playground for children would encourage their connection to nature, whilst increasing exploration and creativity.
- The opportunity to stimulate children's overall sensory development through the diversity of nature's sights, smells, sounds, and textures.
- The introduction of additional routes and designated areas for dog walking, promoting a pet-friendly environment.
- Enhance the lifestyle and quality of life for both residents and visitors of Creeslough, encouraging a healthier and more active lifestyle.



CCG © Paul Lindsay & Chris Hill



Creeslough Village Plan 2024

Community Garden © Urbact / Medium

# Enjoyable Spaces



Log Jam © earthscapes



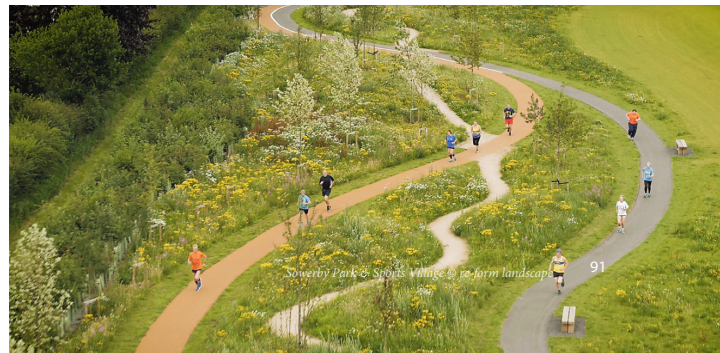
Lanhydrock, Cornwall © National Trust



Walthamstow Wetlands © Kinneir Landscape



Connswater Community Greenway (CCG) © Paul Lindsay & Chris Hill



Sowerby Park & Sports Village © re-form landscape

CORE PROJECT 7



## Safe Movement & Accessibility

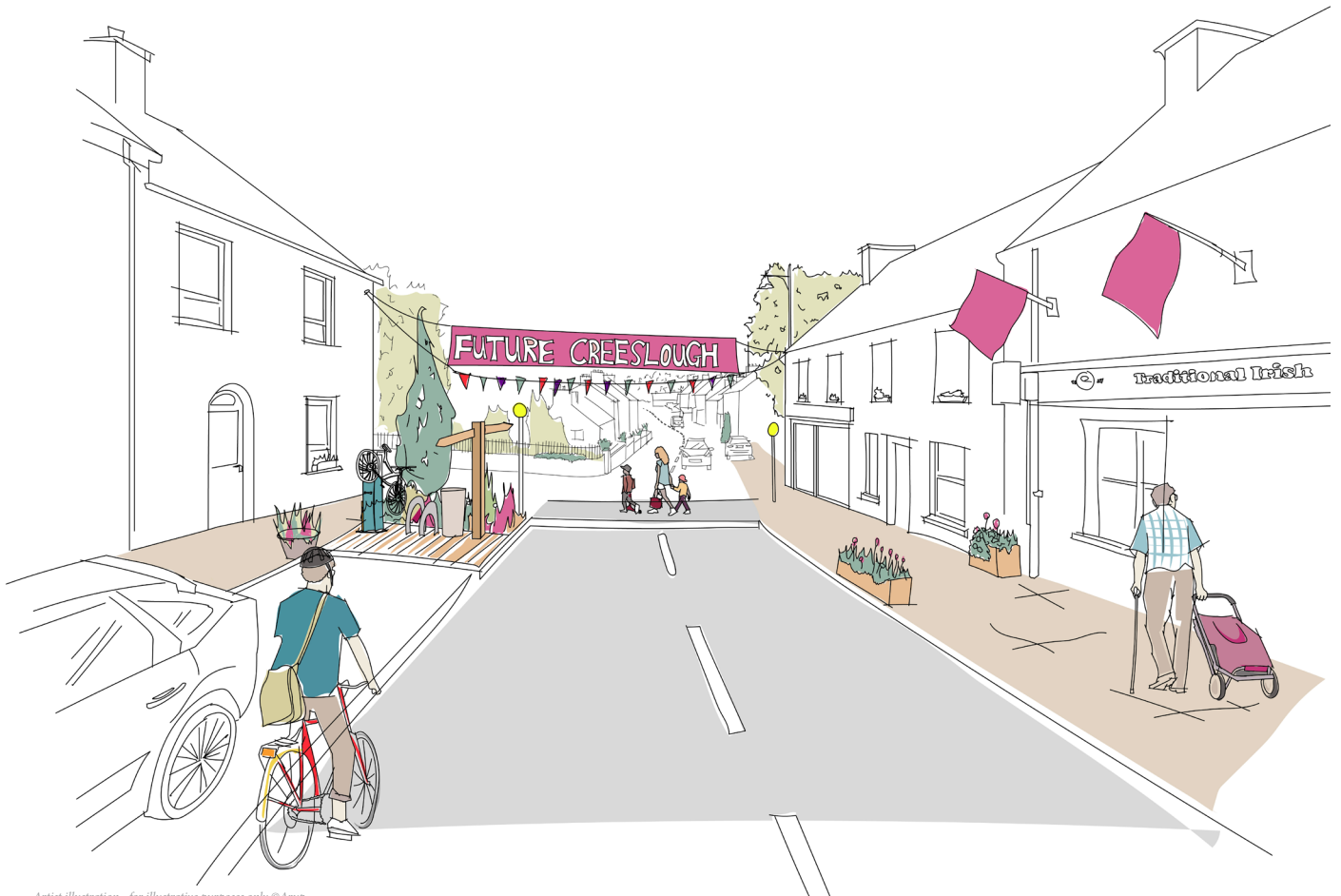


*Revitalise Creeslough: Creating a safe, attractive and accessible village*

The presence of the N56 route through the village often results in large volumes of high-speed traffic and an overwhelming dominance of the car. With a lack of parking facilities, footpaths are frequently used and blocked by parked cars. The lack of proper cycle facilities furthermore limits the village's accessibility and safety. These "challenges" present great opportunities for the village to transform into a more inviting and safer village for all those walking and wheeling.



N56 - Main Street, Creeslough ©Arup



ALTRINCHAM, TRAFFORD, UK

**Public Realm**

Altrincham Market Town has undergone a remarkable transformation from 'ghost town' to 2018 Best British High Street with a 27% increase in footfall and 22% decrease in vacancy rates.

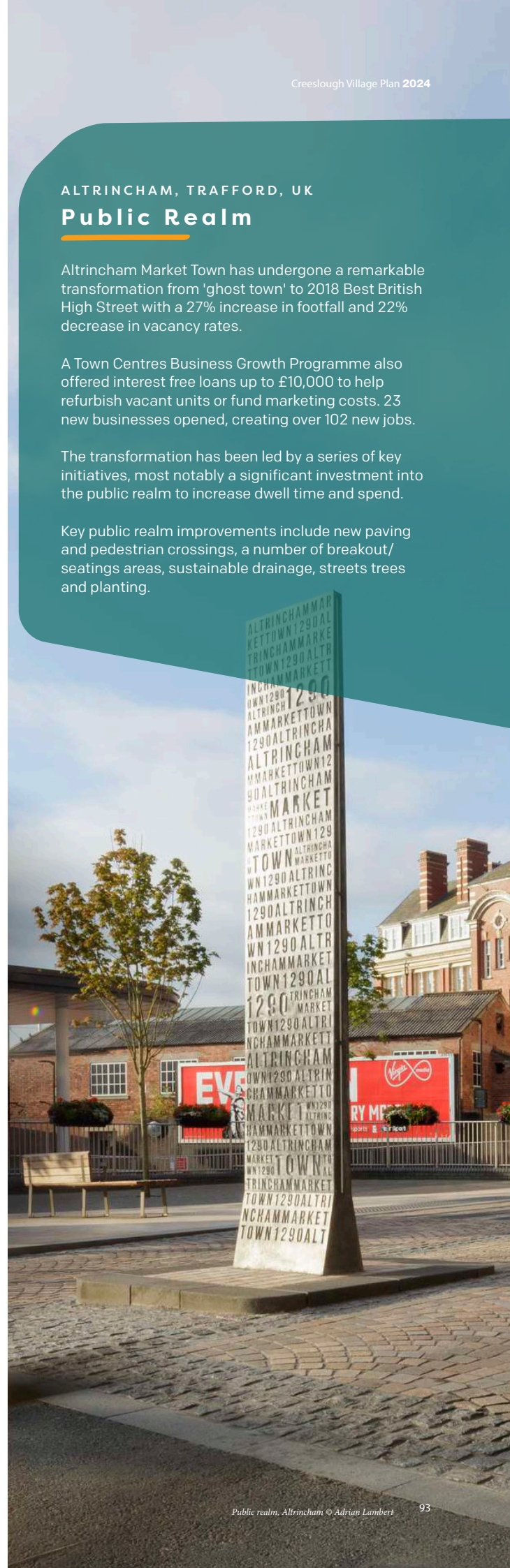
A Town Centres Business Growth Programme also offered interest free loans up to £10,000 to help refurbish vacant units or fund marketing costs. 23 new businesses opened, creating over 102 new jobs.

The transformation has been led by a series of key initiatives, most notably a significant investment into the public realm to increase dwell time and spend.

Key public realm improvements include new paving and pedestrian crossings, a number of breakout/ seating areas, sustainable drainage, streets trees and planting.

**Interventions**

- 1 **30kph Speed Limit** along the N56 within the urban centre of Creeslough, changing the character in terms of priority of functionality of the route as a street through the village. The introduction of the speed limit is supported by the recently published Speed Limit Review (Dept. of Transport, 2023).
- 2 **Footpath improvements**, including widening where possible, enhanced with street furniture, landscaping and improved lighting.
- 3 **Improved wayfinding signage** for pedestrian movement, offering enhanced navigation around the village and beyond to neighbouring destinations.
- 4 **Installation of high-visibility zebra crossings and raised platforms** to facilitate seamless movement between key spaces and enhance pedestrian safety.
- 5 **Introduce countdown timers** at pedestrian crossing lights to indicate remaining time to cross safely, ensuring design interventions are inclusive for all ages and abilities.
- 6 **Use kerb extensions** at intersections to reduce the crossing distance for pedestrians.
- 7 **Install protective barriers or bollards** near schools and other areas with a high concentration of children. Tactical design such as colourful installations can draw attention to the zone and encourage slower speeds.
- 8 **Continue detailed design on Safer Routes to School Initiative** to improve infrastructure outside and on the routes to school with the aim of increasing the number of children who walk, cycle or scoot to school.
- 9 **Implement tactile paving** such as textured surfaces to assist visually impaired individuals near public transport stops.
- 10 **Improved public transport provision**, both regionally and locally. Offerings such as shuttle services to local attractions could also reduce car reliance.
- 11 **Pedestrianise some areas in front of the Cope Yard and 'High Street'**, maximising space for people and utilising the exceptional views from the raised vantage point.
- 12 **Install clear and well-placed road signage** to alert vehicle traffic to pedestrian zones.
- 13 **Introduce traffic calming measures** such as speed ramps, particularly in residential areas and school zones.
- 14 **Implement staggered chicanes, parklets or street trees** to beautify the Village, while slowing traffic.
- 15 **Additional study required to fully understand parking constraints** for the village and develop design concepts for improvements such as intercept parking, enhanced accessibility parking, and available land options.



ENNISKILLEN, CO.FERMANAGH, NI

## Public Realm

Enniskillen Public Realm Project is a £5.24m (6m euro) scheme comprising high quality paving, kerbing, surface water drainage, signage, planting/landscape design, street furniture, lighting (including festive lighting), and consideration of event space and installations of public art and bespoke structure.

Additional improvements included upgrades to shop fronts, build-outs, and new public toilets developed to accessibility standards.

The public realm improvements have improved the visual and physical appearance of the town, making Enniskillen an attractive, safe, and accessible town enabling locals to go about their everyday business and visitors to continue to explore its attractions.

### *Potential Benefits*

- Reducing traffic speeds and alleviating congestions will enhance pedestrian safety in the area, improving overall health and wellbeing by promoting walking and cycling, and making it easier to navigate for all ages and abilities.
- Reducing traffic and car access will create a more environmentally friendly village, reducing greenhouse emissions and improving air quality.
- Reduced noise pollution.
- Reconnecting the street to its historical roots, transforming it into a pedestrian-friendly space rather than car-dominated will encourage social bonds and create spaces for markets, events, arts and gatherings.
- Enriched overall village centre experience, improving the aesthetic and feel of the area on foot, encouraging people to stay rather than pass through.
- Improved pedestrian spaces with reduced traffic are evidenced to increase footfall and boost local economy.
- Increased footfall also discourages criminal activity.



Bath Wayfinding Signage © Pearson Lloyd



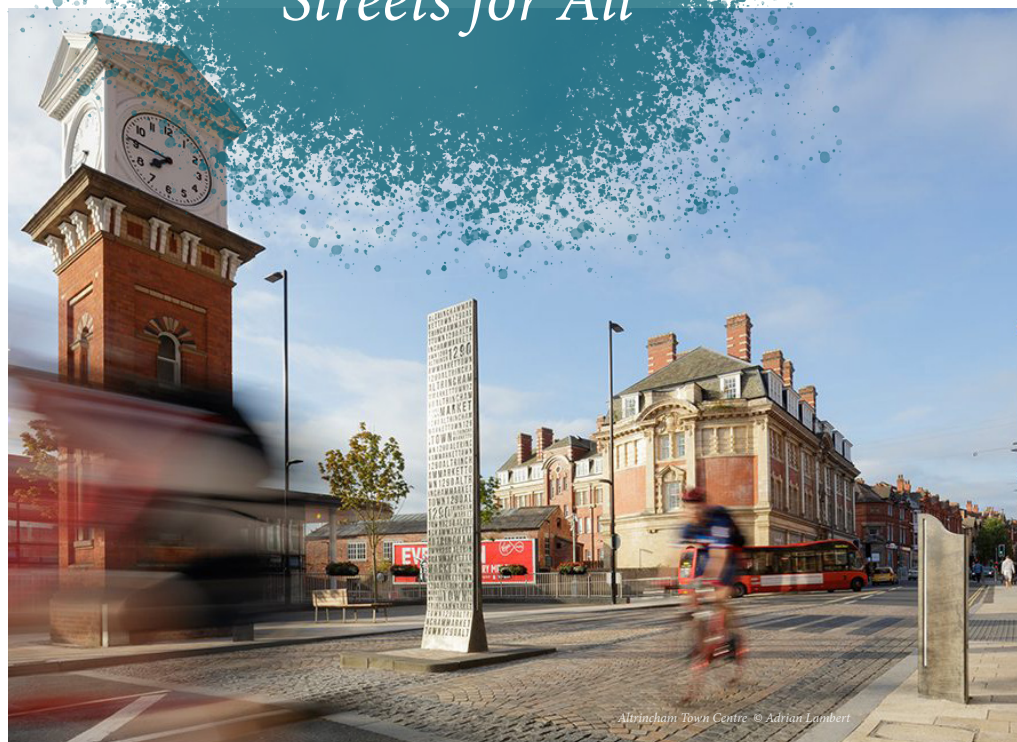
Creeslough Village Plan 2024

Enniskillen © FODC

# Safer Streets for All



Newcastle Public Realm © FK Lowry



Altrincham Town Centre © Adrian Lambert



© 2018 Bopis Altrincham © Altrincham Today



Foam Public Realm © Studio MANA

CORE PROJECT 8



## Environmental Improvements



### *Revitalising Streets, Transforming Spaces*

An environmental improvement scheme geared towards improving the visual appearance of individual properties or features of Creeslough could transform the streetscape and help bring underutilised buildings and spaces back into positive use. Phase 1 of the incentive scheme could be focused on initiatives to repair, improve, upgrade or restore the front of shops, businesses, or commercial premises.



Existing TUBHUB Building, Creeslough © 2024 Google





CARRICK-ON-SHANNON, ROI

## Heritage-led Art Initiative

Carrick-on-Shannon has recently embarked on a heritage-led initiative aimed at transforming the aesthetics of the town by celebrating local art, heritage and culture.

Local and established artists have been commissioned by the Carrick-on-Shannon Heritage group and Town and Village Scheme with the help of Leitrim Arts and Leitrim County Council to produce inspiring murals that provoke local pride whilst also letting visitors delve into the history of the cobbled streets and important local figures as they pass through the town.

Works include the literary greats, Leitrim GAA Heritage and a piece celebrating the volunteer efforts of CarrickTidyTowns.

### Interventions

- 1 **Introducing moveable street furniture** offers the ability to create diverse public spaces, depending on current needs.
- 2 **Implementing permeable green parklets** to establish welcoming public spaces, effectively addressing drainage concerns and softening the hardscape of the Village.
- 3 **Encourage and engage local artists to create vibrant installations** reflecting the village's identity and culture. Local schools are also encouraged to partake in this activity. Potential interventions could include the creative feature lighting of buildings, wall art and bespoke branding to improve street frontages on Main Street.
- 4 **Introduction of improved landscaping and green spaces** are proposed to improve the atmosphere and biodiversity of the Village. These include movable planters to add greenery and charm, planting trees to provide shade and a pleasant atmosphere, adding seating areas for relaxation and social gatherings, using landscaping measures to provide traffic calming measures, and integration of biodiversity features (e.g., insect hotels, tidy towns, bird boxes).
- 5 **The integration of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)** alongside streetscape – raingardens, attenuating tree pits - improves water management and enhances biodiversity connections, while also creating softer and more attractive streets.
- 6 **Develop a cohesive Village branding strategy** with logos and colours to establish a memorable image of Creeslough, additionally helping with wayfinding for visitors.



NATIONAL, ROI

## Croí Cónaithe Scheme

A new fund called 'Croí Cónaithe' has been introduced to support bringing vacant and underused buildings back into residential use.

The Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant (Croí Cónaithe Towns Fund), available to towns with a population of over 400 people and some smaller village, will provide a grant of up to €50k including VAT or €70k including VAT for properties with 'structural defects'.

This scheme is part of the Government's Our Rural Future policy and the recently published Town Centre First policy, which aims to tackle vacancy and dereliction and breathe new life into our town centres. It also delivers on the ambition set out in Pathway 4 of Housing for All which aims to address vacancy and make efficient use of existing housing stock.

### *Potential Benefits*

- The environmental improvement scheme will lead to a positive visual transformation of vacant properties, enhancing the overall streetscape aesthetics.
- The emphasis on improving existing structures aligns with the principles of a circular economy to promote the reuse and repurposing of resources, minimising the need for new constructions and conserving resources.
- Upgrades of properties can include energy-efficient measures which will reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Creative feature lighting, wall art, and bespoke branding add vibrancy, character, and attractiveness to the village centre for residents and visitors.
- Improved frontages for shops and businesses attract customers and potential investors, supporting local economic growth and sustainability.
- An improved and visually appealing streetscape encourages pedestrian activity, promoting walkability and aligning with sustainable transportation goals.



Vacant Building Mural (after/before), Cork © Artist Shane O'Driscoll



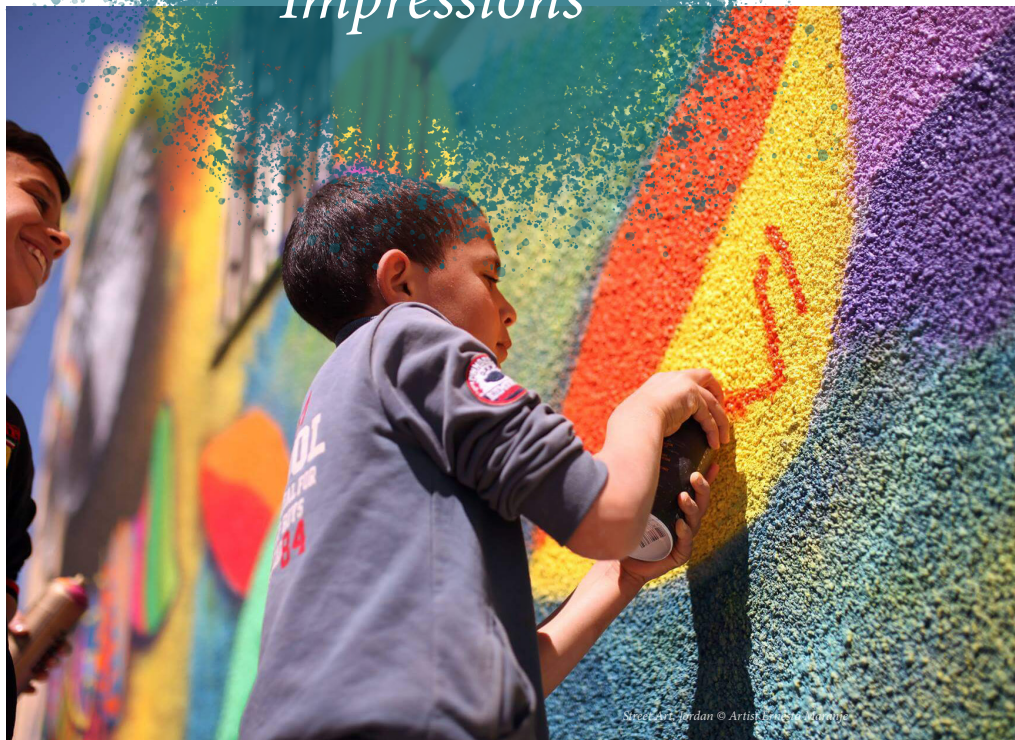
Crescslough Village Plan 2024

Falmouth Festival © The Cornish Life

# Positive Impressions



Ashford Town Centre © Maristeh, Design



Street Art, London © Artist Lisa Stanbury



XX © XXX

The Golden Enhancement - Painting Scheme 2023 (Emily, Tipperary) © Vasi Tipp

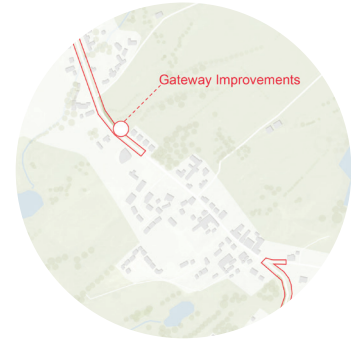


Kensington Movable Planters © Street-Design

CORE PROJECT 9



## Gateway Enhancements



### *Gateway to Progress: Creating lasting impressions for a thriving Village*

First impressions are indeed lasting impressions, and that’s why a focus on enhancing the key gateways into the village is so crucial. By investing in aesthetic and functional improvements, the aim is to create a compelling sense of arrival that immediately captures the essence of our community. More than just a facelift: it enriches the overall Creeslough experience, offering residents and visitors an inviting, memorable introduction to a village where culture, nature, and community spirit thrive together.



Existing gateway to Creeslough © 2024 Google



## CLACKMANNANSHIRE, SCOTLAND

**Andy Scott Trail**

The Andy Scott Sculpture Trail is a distinctive public art and sculpture trail that takes locals and visitors to Clackmannanshire on a journey connecting Alloa Town Centre to the surrounding quaint villages of Clackmannanshire, including Tullibody, Clackmannan, Sauchie and Alva.

Six unique works entitled 'The Journey's End, I Can See for Miles, River Spirit, Air Spirit, Fox Boy, Lifeline' form the trail nestled at key locations and gateways in the Loch Lomond, Trossachs and Forth Valley area.

A key aspect of the works was the extensive consultation the artist, Andy Scott, undertook with community groups and other key stakeholders, to ensure their emotions, feelings, stories and memories were captured within, or at the very least, inspired the sculptural pieces.

**Interventions**

- 1 **Install flowerbeds featuring native plants**, along with welcoming signs, to greet everyone entering the Village.
- 2 **Erect a walking trail or viewpoint** near the entrance that shares tales of local folklore or history.
- 3 **Place traditional-style signs** saying "Slow Down, Welcome to Creeslough" on significant bends, urging drivers to reduce their speed.
- 4 **Set up directional signs** pointing the way to local landmarks, community centres, or upcoming festivals.
- 5 **Adopt a 'Child-Friendly Approach'** by encouraging local schoolchildren to get involved with gateway projects by creating art inspired by the local culture, which can be displayed at the Village entrance.
- 6 **Create 'open gardens'** through strategically placed common green spaces.
- 7 **Position a well-designed map or signpost** near the entrance, highlighting local shops and pubs where visitors can experience traditional fare.
- 8 **Use solar-powered lights and native plants** in landscaping to set an example for sustainable practices.
- 9 **Incorporate a landmark public art piece** that reflects the local heritage, such as a statue or murals inspired by folklore.
- 10 **Organise community workdays** for tasks like tree planting or bench installations, making the gateway improvements a collective community endeavour.
- 11 **Offer seating areas with views of the countryside**, providing a tranquil spot for both locals and visitors to enjoy.
- 12 **Add ramps and tactile paving** designed to accommodate everyone, ensuring that the Village is accessible to people of all abilities.
- 13 **Intercept Parking** to be further considered at areas on adjacent lands, allowing visitors to explore the Village on foot, and reduce congestion on the Main Street.
- 14 **Completion of the successful Minor Tourism Related Works projects** at the Corncutter Monument and The Corner of the Garden.



SHEFFIELD, UK

## Grey to Green

Bringing colour to our urban environments is essential for laying the foundations for a healthy, sustainable future. The Grey to Green scheme is an exemplar project which towns and villages throughout the UK and Ireland are replicating to create a more balanced streetscape that improves the experience of all users, but most of all for the pedestrian and wildlife.

The scheme introduces more trees and planting, with additional space given over to extensive areas of rain gardens and bioswales, and a widened pavement space for pedestrians.

A multi-functional project with the aim of increasing biodiversity, protecting pedestrians, and promoting health and wellbeing, the principle of using green infrastructure and natural features to create a positive first and lasting impressions can be applied at a scale suitable to Creeslough.

### *Potential Benefits*

- Making the entrance to the village look welcoming and attractive helps people remember Creeslough. This means visitors are more likely to identify Creeslough as a destination to stay and explore and be encouraged to come back.
- A pleasing and well-maintained gateway environment contributes to the psychological well-being of its residents, instilling a sense of pride and happiness.
- Introducing clear road signage as drivers enter the village area, particularly on the large bend, can effectively reduce traffic speeds and ensure a safer environment for both residents and visitors.
- Easy-to-follow signs and navigation within the village provides tourists with effortless exploration opportunities that elevate their overall experience. This can also serve as a promotional tool for local events and attractions, encouraging more people and contributing to a vibrant and lively atmosphere.
- More visitors who are encouraged to stop and stay, means more support for local businesses such as shops and cafes.
- The gateway can serve as a model for sustainable practices, like using solar-powered lights or native biodiversity enhancing plants.



Tree Lungs © Loop.ph



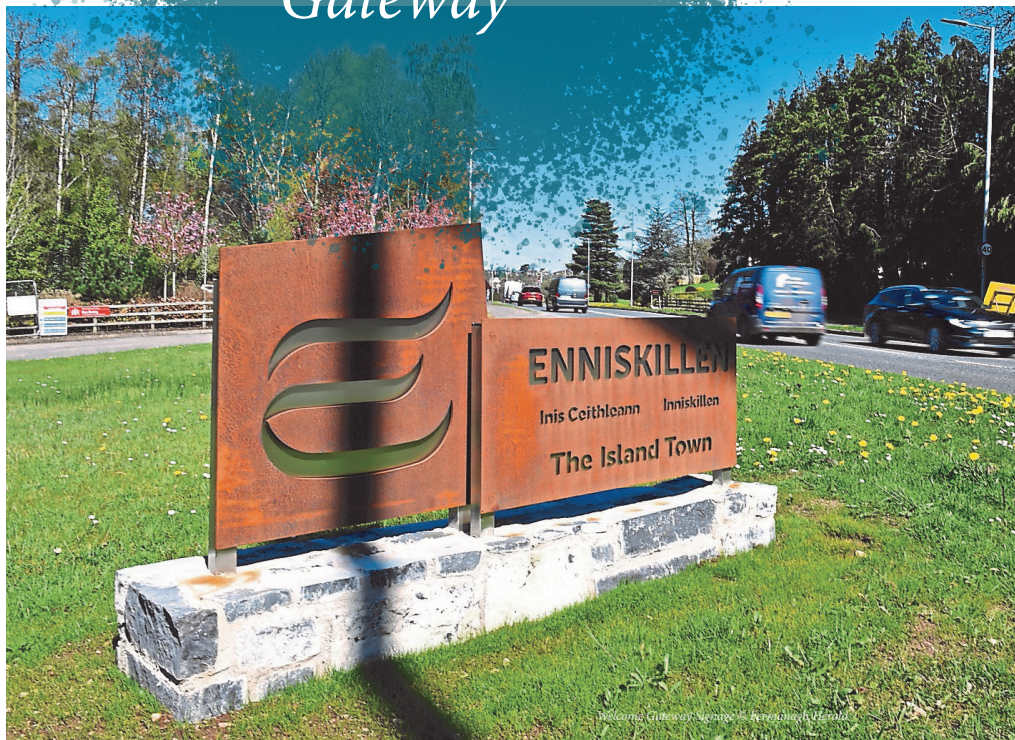
Creeslough Village Plan 2024

Enniskillen Castle © FODC

# Memorable Gateway



Ballymastocker Strand © WAW Markers



Welcome Gateway Sligo © Aerially Handed



XX © XY

STRIDE Andy Scott Sculpture Trail © Iain Thompson



Linear Park © Lucy Harrison and A Fitter Architects

SUPPORTING PROJECTS



Tourism Works

*The Chapel and Village Centre*

This project has successfully received funding from the 'Donegal County Council Minor Tourism Related Works Grant Scheme 2023'. The project focuses on upgrading an existing public amenity located on HSE-owned property in the heart of Creelough village, adjacent to the N56 and near various amenities like the chapel, school, and medical centre. The upgrade involves refurbishing existing seating, rebuilding deteriorated stone walls, and enhancing landscaping to create a more appealing and functional space. The renovated stone walls will incorporate additional seating, turning the area into a social hub that can accommodate more people and support local businesses. New and rehabilitated planting will enhance biodiversity and seasonal colour. The site will also feature extra seating, picnic tables, and informational boards about the local church history and Muckish Mountain's industrial heritage, aiming to serve as a central gathering point that complements other development projects in the village.

*Corncutter Monument*

This project has successfully received funding from the Donegal County Council Minor Tourism Related Works Grant Scheme 2023. The project aims to complete the Corncutter Monument on Council-owned land at Muckish Terrace, situated at a key entry point to the village from the Dunfanaghy/Ards Forest Park direction. The monument will serve as an accessible, contemplative space for rest, recreation, and information. Site accessibility will be improved by providing a suitable surface for pedestrians, along with enhanced safety features like kerbing and boundary treatment. The space will also feature seating at strategic rest and viewing points, picnic tables in green areas, and interpretation boards. These boards will offer information on Percy French and the history of corn cutting in Creelough, enriching the site as a destination for locals, visitors, and tourists.



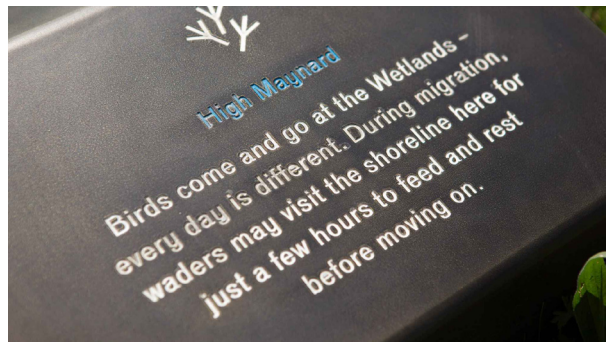
The Chapel and Village Centre Location, Creelough © 2024 Google



Corncutter Monument, Creelough © 2024 Google



An example of public amenity, Clanbrassil St. Dundalk © Carron and Walsh



An example of high-quality signage © High Maynard



### *Garden Project*

This project has successfully received funding from the Donegal County Council Minor Tourism Related Works Grant Scheme 2023. The site is known locally as 'The Garden' and was originally a part of the 'market field' and Lord Leitrim land. The project aims to upgrade a crucial gateway to Creeslough, focusing on enhancing a public amenity and information point accessed from the East. A significant component involves repairing and improving stepped access between a higher-level public area and a lower-level bus bay on Station Road, a critical route leading to Duntally Woods and a local nature reserve. The current steps are in disrepair and lack guard rails. The Plan includes installing guard rails, replacing a grass verge with high-grade paving, and adding interpretation boards to offer comprehensive information about local and regional tourist attractions, benefiting locals, visitors, and tourists alike.



*'The Garden', Creeslough © 2024 Google*



*An example of seating at Abbey Quarter Kilkenny © InvestKilkenny.ie*

### *Viewing Platform*

A strategically positioned viewing platform, integrated with the proposed regenerated Village Centre, would offer unrivalled views over Lough More and Sheephaven Bay. While becoming an attraction for visitors to the village, this would also contribute to the local economy, invigorating shops, restaurants, and other businesses in the village. For residents, this platform would become more than just a viewpoint. It would be a communal space that enhances local gatherings, special events, or quiet moments of reflection, all while enjoying the Creeslough's natural backdrop. The immediate area, to the rear of the TubHub, would be further invigorated with pedestrian links in and around the proposed revitalised Creeslough Village Centre.



*Magheracross Viewpoint, Bushmills © Charles Brand / Clonrose*



*Magheracross Viewpoint, Bushmills © Charles Brand / Clonrose*

OTHER PROJECTS



**Transport**

*Enhancing services and facilities*

Proposed improved public transport provisions for Creelough could include the establishment of a more frequent and reliable bus service connecting the village with nearby towns and key destinations. This service could feature accessible buses equipped with amenities such as ramps, designated spaces for people with disabilities, and real-time tracking systems. Additionally, introducing shuttle services connecting popular tourist sites, community centres, and local schools could further enhance accessibility. These improvements would offer residents and visitors increased mobility, reduced reliance on private vehicles, improved connectivity to essential services, employment, tourism promotion, and overall environmental benefits through reduced congestion and emissions.

*Parking Study*

Well-planned parking infrastructure can alleviate existing and potential bottlenecks, reduce traffic congestion, and enhance overall road safety. A thorough study should be carried out to identify existing parking issues, forecast future demands, and suggest efficient use of space, which could lead to a more organised, user-friendly parking system. Underutilised areas in and around the village may be identified for new parking, while existing overcrowded areas may be transformed into more pedestrian friendly environments. Improved village parking can also improve the local economy by ensuring that businesses have adequate customer parking, thereby increasing footfall. Overall, a comprehensive parking strategy would contribute to a more organised, accessible, and pedestrian-friendly environment.



Frequent services © Ant Rozetsky on Unsplash



On-street car parking (Greener Grangetown, Cardiff) © Arup



Accessible facilities © Ernst-Günther Krause on Unsplash



Electronic parking sign (Wexford, ROI) © Wexford People / Irish Independent



## Events & animation

### *A diverse calendar of branded events*

To revitalise Creeslough, a dual approach focusing on Events and Animation is proposed. The first element aims to develop a rich programme of diverse events, such as seasonal festivals, arts fairs, and outdoor recreational activities, designed to attract both locals and tourists. The second element centres on creating a unified, place-specific branding for Creeslough, integrating consistent visual themes and messages that highlight the village’s cultural, historical, and recreational assets. This comprehensive strategy aims to not only draw more visitors but also enhance community cohesion and pride, positioning Creeslough as a vibrant destination with a unique blend of offerings for residents and visitors alike.



'Garden Party' (Naul, Dublin) © Naul Community Council



Jazz Festival (Cheltenham, UK) © Cheltenham Jazz Festival



## Sustainable energy

### *Exploring a Sustainable Energy Project*

It is an aim of the Plan to transition the village of Creeslough towards a future exemplar model of sustainability through the exploration and implementation of a Village Sustainable Energy Project delivered through a pioneering, holistic, community-centred approach that sets a precedent for scalable, sustainable living in rural Ireland.

It is an objective of the Plan that the Village Sustainable Energy Project would explore short term opportunities to fit each home and commercial building with solar panels, and the medium term opportunities of implementing a district heating strategy.

The benefits of supporting sustainable energy project (s) include (i) allowing residents to enjoy energy security and a cleaner, renewable energy source; (ii) significantly reducing electricity bills and promote energy independence; (iii) reducing the carbon footprint of the village community; and (iv) delivering local job creation and educational opportunities.



Solar Panels © Andres Siimon on Unsplash



District Heating © Naine Marfurt on Unsplash

OTHER PROJECTS



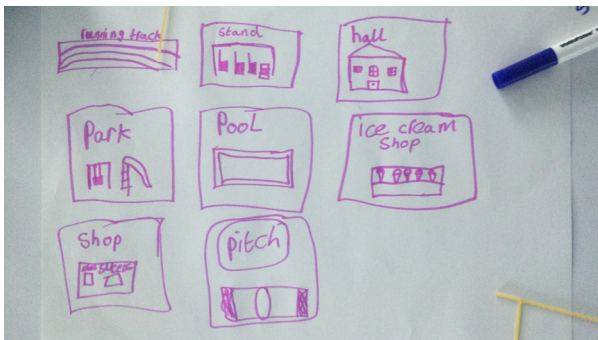
## Design toolkit

### *A Toolkit for Change*

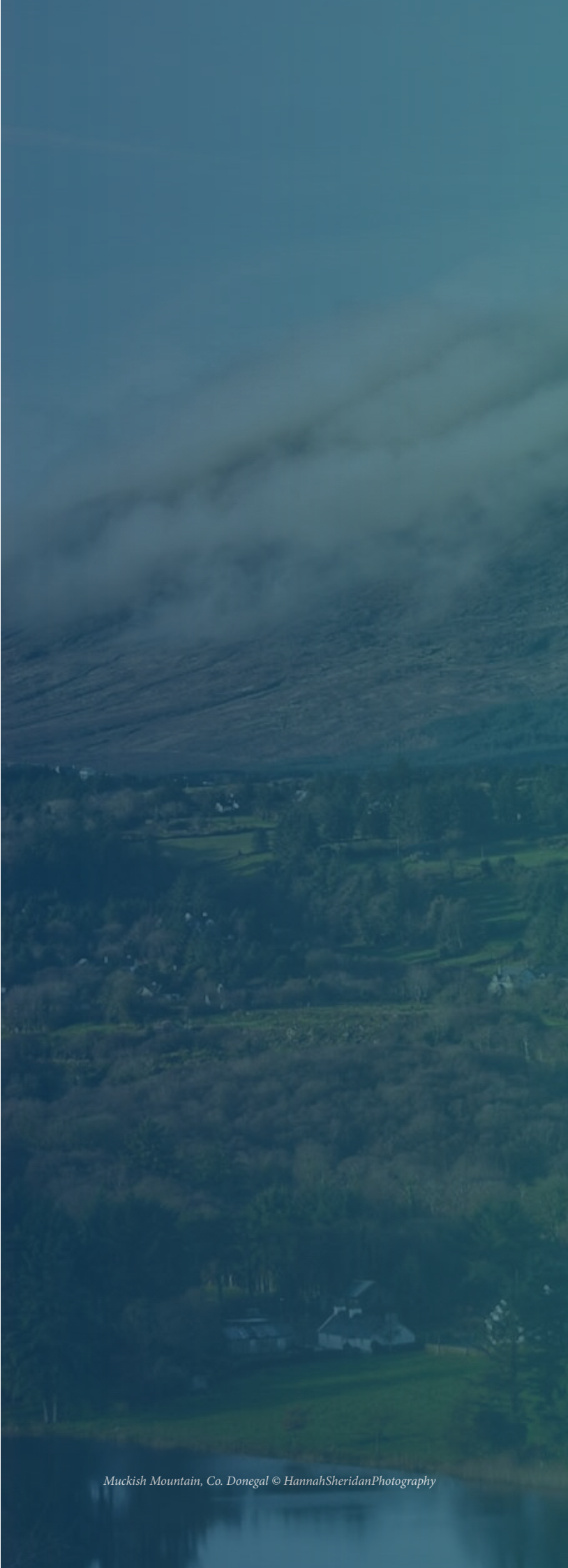
A Village Design Toolkit would serve as a key reference for guiding aesthetic and functional improvements in Creeslough, focusing on elements such as shopfronts and signage, materials, colour schemes, design details, public realm features. The toolkit would be developed specifically for Creeslough, with the primary aim of upholding the Village's unique character, blending its rich heritage with contemporary requirements. Using this toolkit, public and private developers can make decisions that both preserve traditional aesthetics and incorporate modern, sustainable practices. For an effective toolkit, it's vital to involve local experts, including historians, architects, and planners. Additionally, gathering feedback from Creeslough residents would ensure that the community's interests are reflected in the design principles. Periodic reviews and updates would be required to ensure the toolkit remains relevant, adapting to changing needs and preferences.



Community-led village design statement - Visioning exercise © Arup











































































































Community-led village design statement - Visioning exercise © Arup



HOW DO WE GET THERE?

# Building Blocks

*A whole village approach*

										
		Community	Age-Friendly	Schools	Sports, Recreation & Leisure	Daily Basics	Tourism, Heritage & Culture	Sustainability & Resilience	Economic Prosperity	
PRIORITY PROJECTS	01	Strengthening the Village Core								
	02	Adaptive Reuse								
	03	Water Recreation								
	04	Green Links								
	05	Community Regeneration Project								
	06	Creeslough Village Park								
	07	Safe Movement & Accessibility								
	08	Environmental Improvements								
	09	Gateways								
ADDITIONAL PROJECTS	10	The Chapel & Village Centre								
	11	Corncutter Monument								
	12	Garden Project								
	13	Viewing Platform								
	14	Transport Improvements								
	15	Parking Study								
	16	Events & Animation								
	17	Exploring a Sustainable Energy Project								
	18	Creeslough Village Design Toolkit								



# 06

IMPLEMENTATION

## How do we deliver?

IMPLEMENTATION

# How do we deliver?

## *Delivering the Plan*

As the transformative journey for Creeslough is envisioned through this Village Plan, it becomes paramount to address the 'how' of the process. The objectives, projects and proposed interventions outlined in this document are vital, but their realisation hinges on robust delivery mechanisms. This section presents the essential governance structure that will steer the plan's projects to fruition. Furthermore, it presents a concise Delivery Roadmap detailing all proposed projects, actions, stakeholders and funding opportunities, clarifying roles and responsibilities. Ensuring that the correct delivery frameworks that are in place is not merely an administrative step but the bedrock on which the lasting success of the Creeslough Village Plan rests.

### **Governance Structure for the Creeslough Village Plan**

The proposed governance framework for the Creeslough Village Plan aims to establish a Town Team as the principal steward of the Plan in accordance with the Government's new Policy Approach for Irish Towns: - 'Town Centre First'. This new policy approach seeks to put local communities and local businesses at the centre of the process to reimagine their town, and plan their own futures, through the vehicle of a Town Team. It is considered to be the appropriate guiding policy framework for the effective forward governance of the Plan.

The process to establish a Town Team will commence in 2024 and will be led by the Town Regeneration Officer (TRO) of Donegal County Council, supported by the multi-disciplinary teams of the Council. It is envisaged that the Creeslough Town Team will be a multi-stakeholder, collaborative model focused on effective project delivery, stakeholder involvement and alignment with broader policy objectives. It will take the form of local residents, business people, community representatives and other key stakeholders who will come together to take the lead on the development of projects that can make positive long-term changes for the village.

While this Village Plan provides the blueprint for delivering a series of regeneration projects, it is proposed that the Town Team will have responsibility for overseeing delivery, communicating with stakeholders and reviewing the Plan overtime so that they retain ownership of the process on behalf of the community.

Once established the TRO will assist in building the capacity of the Town Team Members by providing access to appropriate training, skills development and education as required.

This proposed governance structure, through the vehicle of a Town Team, serves to delineate responsibilities, offer transparency, and provide a mechanism for oversight and adaptation of the Creeslough Village Plan going forward.



## Key Stakeholders and Roles

The Town Team will serve as the main steward of the Village Plan, responsible for its successful implementation, monitoring, and adaptation. The stakeholders to be considered in the process to establish the Town Team include:



### Donegal County Council (DCC) / Town Regeneration Officer

The TRO, supported by the multi-disciplinary teams of Donegal County Council, will lead on the process to establish the Town Team and will thereafter assist in building the capacity of the Town Team Members to work effectively as a unit and to deliver positive outcomes for the Village. Donegal County Council will collaborate on implementation of the Plan and delivery of projects as required together with ensuring strategic alignment with county level policy objectives.



### Glenties Municipal District (GMD)

There will be an opportunity to consider membership from the Elected Members of Donegal County Councils Glenties Municipal District as a part of the Town Team to ensure democratic representation and effective communication between the different structures of local decision-making processes.



### Creeslough Community Association (CCA)

The CCA represent the community's voice and drives grassroots initiatives which are aligned with the aims & objectives of the Village Plan. Through representation in the Town Team, the CCA could ensure that local needs and preferences are considered.



### Community Links Manager (CLM)

A Community Links Manager has been appointed for the Creeslough area working with the Creeslough Community Association. The role is expected to be funded by the Government of Ireland for a 3 year term.

The purpose of the role is to manage, plan, design and implement community regeneration projects working with a wide variety of stakeholders. and communications.

The Village Plan outlines themes and associated projects with a roadmap for funding sources and project stakeholders. It is considered that the Community Links Manager presents a valuable community resource that could take the lead in the management and implementation over the next 3 years working as a part of the Town Team and with the relevant stakeholders and funders. The Community Links Manager could take on specific stewardship tasks under the guidance of the Town Team, such as coordination, reporting, and communications.



### Local Businesses & NGOs

Contribute to the Town Team by providing additional resources and expertise, especially for projects directly affecting them.



### Residents of Creeslough

There will be an opportunity for local residents with voluntary capacity and particular expertise or sectoral interests to come forward for consideration in the process to prepare a Town Team. Representation from Residents Associations/Groups will also be welcomed for consideration. Regular public consultations will also be necessary with the community to ensure their input, involvement and endorsement in decision-making processes.



### Other Potential Key Stakeholders

Developers, landlords, tourism groups, An Garda Síochana, HSE, charities, social enterprises, sports organisations, cultural groups, voluntary groups and educational facilities.

## Governance Process

The process to establish the Town Team will also consider, inter alia, appropriate governance processes. It is recommended this includes consideration of the following:



### Strategic Alignment

*Donegal County Council will examine the need to integrate key objectives from the Village Plan into the County Donegal Development Plan, ensuring policy alignment and support.*



### Quarterly Review Meetings

*Led by the Towns Team, these meetings will evaluate the status of projects, adapt plans, examine funding opportunities and report on progress with each stakeholder providing insights and updates. This will be facilitated by a Chairperson.*



### Communication Channels

*The Towns Team, will develop and maintain a transparent communication strategy that keeps all stakeholders and the wider community informed.*



### Budget Oversight

*The Town Team will have an active role in its own budget planning and oversight and it will be necessary to nominate a Chair, secretary and treasurer in the establishment of the Team. This will be assisted by the TRO and Donegal County Council as necessary. Specific project Budget oversight arrangements will be on a case by case basis.*



### Dispute Resolution

*The Towns Team will have a predefined mechanism for resolving disputes among stakeholders, thereby ensuring smooth implementation of the Village Plan.*



### Adaptation & Feedback Loop

*The Towns Team will gather feedback, assess the changing environment, and make necessary adjustments to the Village Plan, recommending policy or strategy changes to DCC and as needed.*

## The County Council Role

In recognition of its pivotal role in community development, rural regeneration and governance, Donegal County Council is entrusted with advancing this governance framework. It shall be the DCC's duty to establish the proposed Town Team, finalise the Terms of Reference, and thereby set the stage for the effective implementation of the Creelough Village Plan. This effort will solidify the Council's dedication to rural regeneration & development, working with and empowering our communities, stimulating the Donegal economy and paving the way for a cohesive, community-driven initiative. It is with this mandate that Donegal County Council will catalyse the necessary actions to bring this Village Plan to fruition.



IMPLEMENTATION

# Delivery Roadmap

## Next Steps

### Core Projects

#### Project 1: Strengthening the Village Core

DESCRIPTION	PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS	PROPOSED ACTIONS
<p><i>A Strengthened Village Core will act as the key catalyst for regeneration. With the potential to bring the community together and also attract visitors to enjoy the village, this project holds the promise of creating a hive of activity where people gather to experience Creeslough’s warmth and hospitality. Where anyone can stop-in, enjoy the local offerings, catch-up with friends, and enjoy spending time in the village.</i></p>	<p><b>Short Term (0-5 years)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retain and repurpose the TubHub building</li> <li>Preserve and transform the Cope Yard</li> <li>Plant native flowers and trees</li> <li>Explore 'tactical urbanism'</li> <li>Clear and attractive signs</li> <li>Explore the potential of a working group</li> <li>Introduce traffic calming measures</li> </ul> <p><b>Long Term (5+ years)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Redevelop the TubHub building into a modern community business and retail facility</li> <li>Introduce an adjacent outdoor public square</li> <li>New development to the rear of the TubHub</li> <li>Transformation of the Cope Yard into a 'Craft and Design' Courtyard</li> <li>Pedestrianise areas in front of the Cope Yard &amp; 'High Street'.</li> </ul>	<p><b>General Planning and Feasibility:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify key stakeholders i.e council, businesses, and residents.</li> <li>Create specialised working groups.</li> <li>Evaluate feasibility for individual project elements.</li> <li>Establish regulatory approvals.</li> <li>Develop public participation strategy.</li> <li>Plan/develop suitable funding routes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Short-term interventions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop in line with Project 2 and 8 for quick wins.</li> <li>Encourage local level tactical interventions such as flowers, painting, shop front tidying by landowners/ property owners within the village centre area.</li> <li>Make use of temporary permission opportunities to trial short-term/temporary interventions such as planters, seating, pedestrianised areas.</li> <li>Host launch events for TubHub uses or market day.</li> </ul> <p><b>Long-term interventions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project Initiation Assessment</li> <li>Engage with landowners on potential for future redevelopment</li> <li>Encourage policy development relating to Creeslough Plan in future LDP.</li> <li>Scheme design proposals and cost options.</li> <li>Engagement and consultation with key stakeholders.</li> <li>Develop technical design; procure and appoint a contractor.</li> </ul>

#### Project 2: Adaptive reuse of derelict/disused properties

DESCRIPTION	PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS	PROPOSED ACTIONS
<p><i>In recent years, Creeslough’s village centre has faced the challenge of derelict and disused properties, leading to a prevailing sense of lost opportunity. Within this challenge lies potential for revitalisation and transformation. By introducing much-needed uses to these buildings, we have the opportunity to breathe new life into the heart of the village, creating an attractive and vibrant streetscape and stimulating economic growth. Despite previous facelifts, the true catalyst for change lies in the revitalisation of the remaining derelict and disused properties, as it holds the key to reshaping the streetscape and cultivating an overall appealing and pedestrian-friendly space for all to enjoy, while providing essential space for a mix of uses such as ground floor commerce and upper floor residential.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business incubator or co-working hub</li> <li>Utilise vacant buildings in a meanwhile use capacity</li> <li>Adapt vacant buildings to encourage village centre living</li> <li>Broaden range and types of short-term accommodation</li> <li>Organise community design workshops</li> <li>Design public gathering spaces</li> <li>Establish Adaptive Reuse Design Guidelines</li> <li>Commission public art installations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a register of vacant derelict properties through a Village Centre Health Check.</li> <li>Commence dialogue with vacant/derelict property owners to discuss planning options for change of use/exempt development, to help reduce vacancies.</li> <li>Explore possibility of a 'guarantor vehicle' to act as a formal intermediary between landowners and potential tenants i.e. CCA.</li> <li>Explore opportunities for interest free loans to potential occupiers to support business start-ups and local test bed for entrepreneurs.</li> <li>Explore rates rebate schemes and tax incentives for renovation and occupation.</li> <li>Offer discounted/free technical support relating to architecture, funding, heritage, energy efficiency.</li> </ul>

TIMESCALE

-  Short
-  Short/Medium
-  Medium
-  Medium/Long
-  Long



TIMESCALE	POSSIBLE FUNDING STREAMS	LEAD PARTNER	KEY STAKEHOLDERS
<p><b>Short Term Interventions</b></p> 	<p><b>Short/Long Term Funding Streams</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town and Village Renewal Scheme</li> <li>• Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)</li> <li>• Croí Conaithe (Towns) Fund</li> <li>• LEADER Programme</li> <li>• European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)</li> <li>• Community-Based LEADER Approach</li> <li>• Community Led Development Programme</li> <li>• Fáilte Ireland</li> <li>• Local community fundraising</li> <li>• Public-private partnerships</li> <li>• Corporate sponsorships</li> </ul>	<p><b>Short/Long Term Lead Partner</b></p> <p>Community Links Manager / Towns Team</p>	<p><b>Short/Long Term Stakeholders</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landowners,</li> <li>• DCC Departments (Planning and Development, Community and Culture, Economic Dev etc.).</li> <li>• Local business community.</li> <li>• Local Enterprise Office/Enterprise Ireland.</li> </ul>



TIMESCALE	POSSIBLE FUNDING STREAMS	LEAD PARTNER	KEY STAKEHOLDERS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repair and Lease Scheme</li> <li>• Town and Village Renewal Scheme</li> <li>• Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)</li> <li>• Croí Conaithe (Towns) Fund</li> <li>• Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)</li> <li>• LEADER Programme</li> <li>• European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)</li> <li>• Community-Based LEADER Approach</li> <li>• Community Led Development Programme</li> <li>• Local community fundraising</li> <li>• Public-private partnerships</li> <li>• Corporate sponsorships</li> </ul>	<p>Community Links Manager / Towns Team</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landlords,</li> <li>• County Council, Relevant Departments (Housing, Economic Development, Planning).</li> <li>• Local business community.</li> <li>• Local Enterprise Office/Enterprise Ireland.</li> </ul>

### Project 3: Water Recreation

DESCRIPTION	PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS	PROPOSED ACTIONS
<p>Creeslough's lakes are an underutilised asset with significant potential. The project proposes high-quality facility in proximity to the proposed Community Regeneration Project that develops a contemporary visitor attraction and facilitates public access to the water. The project could harness this potential to deliver an attraction unique to Creeslough whilst still encouraging people to visit the village centre. The provision of dedicated water recreation could be a powerful catalyst in supporting the growth of the tourism.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water Recreation Facility</li> <li>Education and Training courses</li> <li>Equipment storage</li> <li>Showers, Changing and Toilet facilities</li> <li>Signage and Information boards</li> <li>Links with people and nature</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project Initiation Assessment.</li> <li>Land title review</li> <li>Engage with land owner on potential for future redevelopment</li> <li>Scoping and Feasibility assessment (safety, constraints etc.)</li> <li>Identify potential locations/partners/operators</li> <li>Engagement and consultation with key stakeholders</li> <li>Develop design and cost new water-related infrastructure</li> <li>Source funding opportunities to realise proposals.</li> <li>Planning Application</li> <li>Subject to resources to develop and deliver</li> </ul>

### Project 4: Green Links

DESCRIPTION	PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS	PROPOSED ACTIONS
<p>A vibrant, attractive, safe, and accessible network of walkways and trails linking the proposed community regeneration hub with the village centre, with onwards links to Doe Castle, Duntally Woods, Owencarrow Viaduct, Ards Forest Park, and beyond to regional greenways. The development of a secondary movement network around the village was a priority for many of those who took part in consultation for the Plan. The Green Links would enhance connectivity between the village core, residential areas, education and wider area of recreation, and would become a much sought after provision for exercise, commuting, tourism, and daily movement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formalise and expand the Birch Hill Path</li> <li>Historic Greenway</li> <li>Wayfinding and Inclusive Mobility Infrastructure</li> <li>Trail heads and entrances</li> <li>Recreational facilities</li> <li>Public spaces</li> <li>Safe Routes to schools</li> <li>Wider Connections</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project Initiation Assessment</li> <li>Land title review</li> <li>Engage with landowner(s) on potential land purchase/ public right of way.</li> <li>Identify purpose and goals - what will be achieved by the development? Is it for recreation, community connection, combination?</li> <li>Feasibility, developability, environmental constraints.</li> <li>Engage Stakeholders and the Community - go back to community with specific ideas/locations. Engage landowners, outdoor enthusiasts etc.</li> <li>Future community trail building and maintenance initiatives - community ownership</li> <li>Engagement with NTA and Local Authority to create safe interfaces between green network and road network</li> <li>Develop design proposals and cost for paths</li> <li>Detailed design and procurement.</li> </ul>

### Project 5: Community Regeneration Project (CRP Phase 1)

DESCRIPTION	PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS	PROPOSED ACTIONS
<p>By using an existing key asset in the Creeslough area, the Community Regeneration Project Phase 1 offers a major opportunity to transform underutilised land into an essential Community Hub, while triggering a catalyst for regeneration of adjacent land through the creation of public spaces and interconnected pathways. The proposed development, informed by community consultation and evidenced by community need, will deliver vital community infrastructure and facilities. It will provide a new central hub for community life that will support Creeslough on a journey towards a vibrant, healthy, well serviced, socially inclusive and sustainable community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Hub Building</li> <li>Multi-purpose Field and Track</li> <li>Community Garden</li> <li>Play Park</li> <li>Landscaped Walkways</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statutory Planning Consent – Secured</li> <li>Business Planning &amp; Detailed Cost Plan – Underway</li> <li>Capital Funding Application (Q4 2023 – Q1 2024)</li> <li>Tendering &amp; Detailed Design</li> <li>Tendering &amp; Construction</li> <li>Handover &amp; Governance.</li> </ul>

TIMESCALE

-  Short
-  Short/Medium
-  Medium
-  Medium/Long
-  Long




TIMESCALE	POSSIBLE FUNDING STREAMS	LEAD PARTNER	KEY STAKEHOLDERS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)</li> <li>• Sports Capital Programme</li> <li>• Fáilte Ireland</li> <li>• Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)</li> <li>• LEADER Programme</li> <li>• European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)</li> <li>• Community-Based LEADER Approach</li> <li>• Local community fundraising</li> <li>• Public-private partnerships</li> <li>• Corporate sponsorships</li> </ul>	Community Links Manager / Towns Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landowners, Donegal Tourism Board, DCC Water and Environment, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Irish Water Safety Donegal, Potential partners/operators</li> </ul>



TIMESCALE	POSSIBLE FUNDING STREAMS	LEAD PARTNER	KEY STAKEHOLDERS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sports Capital Programme</li> <li>• Transport Infrastructure Improvement Fund (TIIF)</li> <li>• Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)</li> <li>• Fáilte Ireland</li> <li>• Town and Village Renewal Scheme</li> <li>• Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)</li> <li>• LEADER Programme</li> <li>• European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)</li> <li>• Community-Based LEADER Approach</li> <li>• Community Led Development Programme</li> <li>• Croí Conaithe (Towns) Fund</li> <li>• Local community fundraising</li> <li>• Public-private partnerships</li> <li>• Corporate sponsorships</li> </ul>	Community Links Manager / Towns Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landowners, DoT, NTA, DCC Planning and Development, DCC Community, DDC Roads &amp; Transportation, National Parks and Wildlife Service.</li> </ul>



TIMESCALE	POSSIBLE FUNDING STREAMS	LEAD PARTNER	KEY STAKEHOLDERS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural Regeneration &amp; Development Fund (RRDF)</li> <li>• Shared Island Fund</li> <li>• Other National Exchequer Source</li> </ul>	Donegal County Council and Creeslough Community Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land Trustees, DCC Working Group, Department of Rural and Community Development, Creeslough Community Association, Local Schools, Senior Citizens, Local Businesses, Public.</li> </ul>



**Project 6: Creeslough Village Park (CRP Phase 2)**

DESCRIPTION	PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS	PROPOSED ACTIONS
<p><i>Despite its proximity to such natural beauty, Creeslough's busy main street (the N56 route) gives a sense of disconnect from its surroundings, with limited direct connections to nature through play or respite. The Community Regeneration Project Phase 1 (see Priority Project 5) offers additional opportunity to expand through the transformation of adjacent lands and the creation of green public spaces and interconnected pathways.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Linear Park</li> <li>• Multiple natural playgrounds</li> <li>• Woodland and wetland trails</li> <li>• Nature based solutions and sustainable design</li> <li>• Sensory gardens and educational points/ outdoor school activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Initiation Assessment</li> <li>• Carry out lands title review</li> <li>• Engage with landowner(s) on potential acquisition for future redevelopment.</li> <li>• Engage Stakeholders and the Community</li> <li>• Assessment of case studies / similar grant schemes and their success</li> <li>• Develop design proposals for redeveloped space</li> <li>• Source funding opportunities</li> <li>• Planning application</li> <li>• Subject to landowner agreement, acquisition of lands and resources to develop and deliver</li> </ul>

**Project 7: Safe Movement and Accessibility**

DESCRIPTION	PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS	PROPOSED ACTIONS
<p><i>The presence of the N56 route through the village often results in large volumes of high-speed traffic and an overwhelming dominance of the car. With a lack of parking facilities, footpaths are frequently used and blocked by parked cars. The lack of proper cycle facilities furthermore limits the village's accessibility and safety. These "challenges" present great opportunities for the village to transform into a more inviting and safer village for all those walking and wheeling.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30KPH speed limit</li> <li>• Footpath improvements</li> <li>• Improved wayfinding signage</li> <li>• Installation of high-visibility zebra crossings and raised platforms</li> <li>• Introduce countdown timers</li> <li>• Kerb extensions at intersections</li> <li>• Install protective barriers or bollards</li> <li>• Detailed design on Safer Routes to School</li> <li>• Implement tactile paving</li> <li>• Improve public transport provision</li> <li>• Pedestrianise some area in front of the Cope Yard and 'High Street'</li> <li>• Install clear and well-placed road signage</li> <li>• Introduce traffic calming measures</li> <li>• Implement staggered chicanes, parklets or street trees</li> <li>• Additional study required to fully understand parking constraints.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working Group</li> <li>• Project Initiation Assessment</li> <li>• Audit of existing conditions</li> <li>• Scoping and Feasibility assessment</li> <li>• Engage with National Transport Authority (NTA) regarding opportunities for formalised crossing points, active travel, safe routes to school and reduced speed limit zones including signage and policing.</li> <li>• Develop concept proposals indicating spatial arrangements, construction materials and appearance.</li> <li>• Prepare outline specifications and schedule of materials and maintenance.</li> <li>• Public consultation on proposed scheme with the local community and statutory authorities.</li> <li>• Develop detailed cost plan and technical design.</li> <li>• To be considered in conjunction with Project 1 (Creating a Village Centre), Project 5 (Community Regeneration Project), and Project 8 (Environmental Improvements)</li> </ul>



TIMESCALE

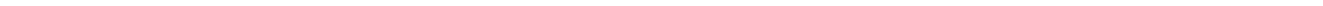
-  Short
-  Short/Medium
-  Medium
-  Medium/Long
-  Long



TIMESCALE	POSSIBLE FUNDING STREAMS	LEAD PARTNER	KEY STAKEHOLDERS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)</li> <li>• Sports Capital Programme</li> <li>• Transport Infrastructure Improvement Fund (TIIF)</li> <li>• Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)</li> <li>• Fáilte Ireland</li> <li>• Town and Village Renewal Scheme</li> <li>• Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)</li> <li>• LEADER Programme</li> <li>• European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)</li> <li>• Community-Based LEADER Approach</li> <li>• Community Led Development Programme</li> <li>• Croí Conaithe (Towns) Fund</li> <li>• Local community fundraising</li> <li>• Public-private partnerships</li> <li>• Corporate sponsorships</li> </ul>	Community Links Manager / Towns Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landowners, DCC Planning and Development, National Parks and Wildlife Service.</li> </ul>



TIMESCALE	POSSIBLE FUNDING STREAMS	LEAD PARTNER	KEY STAKEHOLDERS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport Infrastructure Improvement Fund (TIIF)</li> <li>• Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)</li> <li>• Town and Village Renewal Scheme</li> <li>• Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)</li> <li>• LEADER Programme</li> <li>• European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)</li> <li>• Community-Based LEADER Approach</li> <li>• Community Led Development Programme</li> <li>• Croí Conaithe (Towns) Fund</li> <li>• Local community fundraising</li> <li>• Public-private partnerships</li> <li>• Corporate sponsorships</li> </ul>	Community Links Manager / Towns Team / NTA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DCIL, Inclusion Ireland (other accessibility advocates), NTA, An Taisce, Landowners, DoT, DCC Planning and Development, DCC Roads &amp; Transportation.</li> </ul>



**Project 8: Environmental Improvements**

DESCRIPTION	PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS	PROPOSED ACTIONS
<p><i>An environmental improvement ‘vacant to vibrant’ scheme geared towards improving the visual appearance of individual vacant properties could transform the streetscape and help bring vacant units back into positive use. Phase 1 of the incentive scheme could be focused on initiatives to repair, improve, upgrade or restore the front of shops, businesses, or commercial premises.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add moveable street furniture.</li> <li>• Install permeable green parklets.</li> <li>• Involve artists in public art.</li> <li>• Integrate SuDS for drainage.</li> <li>• Create Village branding strategy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Initiation Assessment</li> <li>• Audit of existing conditions</li> <li>• Engage with property owners and owners of adjacent properties to discuss opportunities and garner local support for small scale interventions.</li> <li>• Liaise with local schools (National and Gaelscoil) and local art groups/creatives</li> <li>• Explore opportunities for local creatives, communities and schools to participate in the design to add community value and ownership.</li> <li>• Develop an environmental improvement plan that could include a specialist lighting plan</li> <li>• Develop incentive scheme and list of targeted properties</li> <li>• Source funding (potential tourism and art streams)</li> <li>• Planning Application</li> </ul>


**Project 9: Gateways**

DESCRIPTION	PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS	PROPOSED ACTIONS
<p><i>First impressions are indeed lasting impressions, and that’s why a focus on enhancing the key gateways into the village is so crucial. By investing in aesthetic and functional improvements, the aim is to create a compelling sense of arrival that immediately captures the essence of our community. More than just a facelift; it enriches the overall Creeslough experience, offering residents and visitors an inviting, memorable introduction to a village where culture, nature, and community spirit thrive together.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install flowerbeds</li> <li>• Erect a walking trail or viewpoint</li> <li>• Place traditional-style signs</li> <li>• Set up directional signs</li> <li>• Adopt a 'Child-Friendly Approach'</li> <li>• Create 'open gardens'</li> <li>• Position a well-designed map or signpost</li> <li>• Use solar-powered lights</li> <li>• Incorporate a landmark public art piece</li> <li>• Organise community workdays</li> <li>• Offer seating areas with views</li> <li>• Add ramps and tactile paving</li> <li>• Intercept Parking considered</li> <li>• Completion of the successful Minor Tourism Related Works projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Initiation Assessment</li> <li>• Audit of existing gateways, signage and branding</li> <li>• Partnership working and public engagement to develop a branding theme specific to qualities and vision of Creeslough</li> <li>• Prepare Village Guidelines/Strategy</li> <li>• Identify and source funding.</li> </ul>

TIMESCALE

-  Short
-  Short/Medium
-  Medium
-  Medium/Long
-  Long



TIMESCALE	POSSIBLE FUNDING STREAMS	LEAD PARTNER	KEY STAKEHOLDERS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Croí Conaithe (Towns) Fund</li> <li>• Town and Village Renewal Scheme</li> <li>• Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)</li> <li>• LEADER Programme</li> <li>• European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)</li> <li>• Community-Based LEADER Approach</li> <li>• Community Led Development Programme</li> <li>• Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)</li> <li>• Fáilte Ireland</li> <li>• Local community fundraising</li> <li>• Public-private partnerships</li> <li>• Corporate sponsorships</li> </ul>	Community Links Manager / Towns Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Schools, Local Creatives, Landowners,</li> <li>• DCC Departments (Planning and Development, Community and Culture, Economic Dev etc.), DCC Town Regeneration Officer, Local business community.</li> </ul>



TIMESCALE	POSSIBLE FUNDING STREAMS	LEAD PARTNER	KEY STAKEHOLDERS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport Infrastructure Improvement Fund (TIIF)</li> <li>• Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)</li> <li>• Croí Conaithe (Towns) Fund</li> <li>• Town and Village Renewal Scheme</li> <li>• Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)</li> <li>• LEADER Programme</li> <li>• European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)</li> <li>• Community-Based LEADER Approach</li> <li>• Community Led Development Programme</li> <li>• Fáilte Ireland</li> <li>• Local community fundraising</li> <li>• Public-private partnerships</li> <li>• Corporate sponsorships</li> </ul>	Community Links Manager / Towns Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landowners, DoT, NTA, DCC Planning and Development, DCC Town Regeneration Officer.</li> </ul>



**Supporting Projects**

**Project 10: The Chapel and Village Centre**

DESCRIPTION	PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS	PROPOSED ACTIONS
<p><i>This project has successfully received funding from the Donegal County Council Minor Tourism Related Works Grant Scheme 2023. The project focuses on upgrading an existing public amenity located on HSE-owned property in the heart of Creeslough Village, adjacent to the N56 and near various amenities like a chapel, school, and medical centre. The upgrade involves refurbishing existing seating, rebuilding deteriorated stone walls, and enhancing landscaping to create a more appealing and functional space. The renovated stone walls will incorporate additional seating, turning the area into a social hub that can accommodate more people and support local businesses. New and rehabilitated plantings will enhance biodiversity and seasonal colour. The site will also feature extra seating, picnic tables, and informational boards about the local church history and Muckish Mountain's industrial heritage, aiming to serve as a central gathering point that complements other development projects in the village.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repair of existing seating (sanding and repainting)</li> <li>• Repair and augmentation of existing landscaped bed, replant with a focus on pollination and seasonal colour</li> <li>• Repair and increase stone walling</li> <li>• Incorporate feature seating, additional seating and picnic tables</li> <li>• Interpretation panel(s) based on the history of the Church and the industrial heritage of Muckish Mountain.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding secured from Minor Tourism Related Works Grant Scheme 2023.</li> <li>• The project has been designed by the DCC Regeneration &amp; Development Team in consultation with the CCA.</li> <li>• The project will be managed by the Regeneration &amp; Development Team and the works will be carried out either by direct labour or by contractor. The R&amp;D Team will manage any required procurement.</li> <li>• As the project is not prescribed for the purposes of Part 8 and is below the cost threshold, compliance with Part 8 planning procedures is not required. The project is exempted development.</li> <li>• Project to be constructed and complete by June 2024.</li> </ul>


**Project 11: Corncutter Monument**

DESCRIPTION	PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS	PROPOSED ACTIONS
<p><i>This project has successfully received funding from the Donegal County Council Minor Tourism Related Works Grant Scheme 2023. The project aims to complete the Corncutter Monument on Council-owned land at Muckish Terrace, Creeslough, situated at a key entry point to the village from the Dunfanaghy/Ards Forest Park direction. The monument will serve as an accessible, contemplative space for rest, recreation, and information. Site accessibility will be improved by providing a suitable surface for pedestrians, along with enhanced safety features like kerbing and boundary treatment. The space will also feature seating at strategic rest and viewing points, picnic tables in green areas, and interpretation boards. These boards will offer information on Percy French and the history of corn cutting in Creeslough, enriching the site as a destination for locals, visitors, and tourists.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kerbing and surfacing of pedestrian access path and landing area</li> <li>• Kerbing of the green space and provide drop kerb access</li> <li>• Boundary treatment</li> <li>• Picnic tables and seating</li> <li>• Interpretation panel(s) based on the Percy French song about immigration &amp; history of corn cutting in Creeslough.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding secured from Minor Tourism Related Works Grant Scheme 2023.</li> <li>• The project has been designed by the DCC Regeneration &amp; Development Team in consultation with the CCA.</li> <li>• The project will be managed by the Regeneration &amp; Development Team and the works will be carried out either by direct labour or by contractor. The R&amp;D Team will manage any required procurement.</li> <li>• As the project is not prescribed for the purposes of Part 8 and is below the cost threshold, compliance with Part 8 planning procedures is not required. The project is exempted development.</li> <li>• Project to be constructed and complete by June 2024.</li> </ul>


TIMESCALE

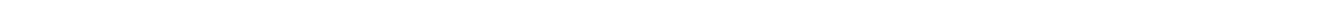
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TIMESCALE	POSSIBLE FUNDING STREAMS	LEAD PARTNER	KEY STAKEHOLDERS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DCC Minor Tourism Works</li> </ul>	Donegal County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Donegal County Council, Creeslough Community Association.</li> </ul>



TIMESCALE	POSSIBLE FUNDING STREAMS	LEAD PARTNER	KEY STAKEHOLDERS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DCC Minor Tourism Works</li> </ul>	Donegal County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Donegal County Council, Creeslough Community Association.</li> </ul>



**Other Projects**

**Project 12: Garden Project**

DESCRIPTION	PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS	PROPOSED ACTIONS
<p><i>This project has successfully received funding from the Donegal County Council Minor Tourism Related Works Grant Scheme 2023. The site is known locally as ‘The Garden’ and was originally a part of the ‘market field’ and Lord Leitrim land. The project aims to upgrade a crucial gateway to Creeslough, focusing on enhancing a public amenity and information point accessed from the East. A significant component involves repairing and improving stepped access between a higher-level public area and a lower-level bus bay on Station Road, a critical route leading to Duntally Woods and a local nature reserve. The current steps are in disrepair and lack guard rails. The plan includes installing guard rails, replacing a grass verge with high-grade paving, and adding interpretation boards to offer comprehensive information about local and regional tourist attractions, benefiting locals, visitors, and tourists alike.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repair of access steps between lower (bus parking layby) and higher levels (public amenity garden).</li> <li>• Provision of guard railing to steps.</li> <li>• Provision of landing surface at bottom of steps and at bus parking bay.</li> <li>• Interpretation panel(s).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding secured from Minor Tourism Related Works Grant Scheme 2023.</li> <li>• The project has been designed by the DCC Regeneration &amp; Development Team in consultation with the CCA.</li> <li>• The project will be managed by the Regeneration &amp; Development Team and the works will be carried out either by direct labour or by contractor. The R&amp;D Team will manage any required procurement.</li> <li>• As the project is not prescribed for the purposes of Part 8 and is below the cost threshold, compliance with Part 8 planning procedures is not required. The project is exempted development.</li> <li>• Project to be constructed and complete by June 2024.</li> </ul>


**Project 13: Viewing Platform**

DESCRIPTION	PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS	PROPOSED ACTIONS
<p><i>A strategically positioned viewing platform, integrated with the proposed regenerated Village Centre, would offer unrivalled views over Lough More and Sheephaven Bay. Attracting many visitors, this would contribute to the local economy, invigorating shops, restaurants, and other businesses in the village. For residents, this platform would become more than just a viewpoint; it would be a communal space that enhances local gatherings, special events, or quiet moments of reflection, all while enjoying Creeslough’s natural backdrop. The immediate area, to the rear of the TubHub, would be further invigorated with pedestrian links in and around the proposed revitalised Creeslough Village Centre.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Viewing platform overlooking Lough More and Sheephaven Bay</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Initiation Assessment</li> <li>• Audit of existing conditions</li> <li>• Scoping and Feasibility assessment</li> <li>• Engage with landowner(s) on potential for development</li> <li>• Develop concept proposals indicating spatial arrangements, construction materials and appearance.</li> <li>• Engage Stakeholders and the Community</li> <li>• Develop design proposals for redeveloped space</li> <li>• Source funding opportunities</li> <li>• Develop detailed cost plan and technical design.</li> <li>• Planning application</li> </ul>


TIMESCALE

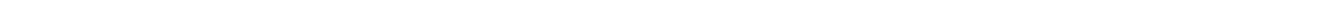
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TIMESCALE	POSSIBLE FUNDING STREAMS	LEAD PARTNER	KEY STAKEHOLDERS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DCC Minor Tourism Works</li> </ul>	Donegal County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Donegal County Council, Creeslough Community Association.</li> </ul>



TIMESCALE	POSSIBLE FUNDING STREAMS	LEAD PARTNER	KEY STAKEHOLDERS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town and Village Renewal Scheme</li> <li>• Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)</li> <li>• LEADER Programme</li> <li>• European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)</li> <li>• Community-Based LEADER Approach</li> <li>• Community Led Development Programme</li> <li>• Croí Conaithe (Towns) Fund</li> <li>• Fáilte Ireland</li> <li>• Local community fundraising</li> <li>• Public-private partnerships</li> <li>• Corporate sponsorships</li> </ul>	Community Links Manager / Towns Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landowners, DCC Planning and Development, Local business community.</li> </ul>



## Other Projects

### Project 14: Transport Improvements

DESCRIPTION	PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS	PROPOSED ACTIONS
<p><i>Proposed improved public transport provisions for Creeslough could include the establishment of a more frequent and reliable bus service connecting the village with nearby towns and key destinations. This service could feature accessible buses equipped with amenities such as ramps, designated spaces for people with disabilities, and real-time tracking systems. Additionally, introducing shuttle services connecting popular tourist sites, community centres, and local schools could further enhance accessibility. These improvements would offer residents and visitors increased mobility, reduced reliance on private vehicles, improved connectivity to essential services, employment, tourism promotion, and overall environmental benefits through reduced congestion and emissions.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More frequent and expanded bus services</li> <li>• Accessible and eco-friendly buses</li> <li>• Shuttle services to attractions</li> <li>• Intercept parking and improved bus stop facilities at edge of village</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Initiation Assessment</li> <li>• Audit of existing conditions</li> <li>• Transport assessment</li> <li>• Engage with key stakeholders and public transport users to understand key infrastructure</li> <li>• Discussions with public transport provider regarding future plans to increase services and frequency between Creeslough and surrounding key settlements to enhance rural services.</li> </ul>

### Project 15: Car Parking Study

DESCRIPTION	PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS	PROPOSED ACTIONS
<p><i>Well-planned parking infrastructure can alleviate existing and potential bottlenecks, reduce traffic congestion, and enhance overall road safety. A thorough study should be carried out to identify existing parking issues, forecast future demands, and suggest efficient use of space, which could lead to a more organised, user-friendly parking system. Underutilised areas in and around the village may be identified for new parking, while existing overcrowded areas may be transformed into more pedestrian friendly environments. Enhanced village parking can also improve the local economy by ensuring that businesses have adequate customer parking, thereby increasing footfall. Overall, a comprehensive parking strategy would contribute to a more organised, accessible, and pedestrian-friendly environment.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiation of parking study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Initiation Assessment</li> <li>• Audit of existing conditions</li> <li>• Undertake car parking assessment to develop a strategy</li> <li>• Carry out land ownership and land availability research to identify strategic sites for additional car parking, with a focus on backland sites.</li> <li>• Engage with landowners</li> <li>• Dependant on outcome, proceed with planning, design and build process.</li> </ul>



TIMESCALE

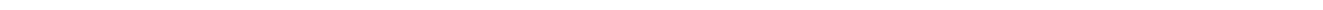
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-  Medium/Long
-  Long



TIMESCALE	POSSIBLE FUNDING STREAMS	LEAD PARTNER	KEY STAKEHOLDERS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport Infrastructure Improvement Fund (TIIF)</li> <li>• Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)</li> <li>• Town and Village Renewal Scheme</li> <li>• Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)</li> <li>• LEADER Programme</li> <li>• European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)</li> <li>• Community-Based LEADER Approach</li> <li>• Community Led Development Programme</li> <li>• Croí Conaithe (Towns) Fund</li> <li>• Fáilte Ireland</li> <li>• Local community fundraising</li> <li>• Public-private partnerships</li> <li>• Corporate sponsorships</li> </ul>	Community Links Manager / Towns Team / NTA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bus Éireann, DoT, NTA, Accessibility advocacy groups, DCC Development and Planning, DCC Roads &amp; Transportation, Donegal Tourism, Fáilte Ireland.</li> </ul>



TIMESCALE	POSSIBLE FUNDING STREAMS	LEAD PARTNER	KEY STAKEHOLDERS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport Infrastructure Improvement Fund (TIIF)</li> <li>• Town and Village Renewal Scheme</li> <li>• Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)</li> <li>• LEADER Programme</li> <li>• European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)</li> <li>• Community-Based LEADER Approach</li> <li>• Community Led Development Programme</li> <li>• Croí Conaithe (Towns) Fund</li> <li>• Local community fundraising</li> <li>• Public-private partnerships</li> <li>• Corporate sponsorships</li> </ul>	Community Links Manager / Towns Team / NTA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NTA, DoT, DCC Planning and Development, DCC Roads &amp; Transportation, Local Businesses, Landowners.</li> </ul>



## Other Projects

### Project 16: Events and Animation

DESCRIPTION	PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS	PROPOSED ACTIONS
<p>To revitalise Creeslough, a dual approach focusing on Events and Animation is proposed. The first element aims to develop a rich program of diverse events, such as seasonal festivals, arts fairs, and outdoor recreational activities, designed to attract both locals and tourists. The second element centres on creating a unified, place-specific branding for Creeslough, integrating consistent visual themes and messages that highlight the village's cultural, historical, and recreational assets. This comprehensive strategy aims to not only draw more visitors but also enhance community cohesion and pride, positioning Creeslough as a vibrant destination with a unique blend of offerings for residents and visitors alike.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme of events and festivals</li> <li>• Village branding/theme</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage events management company and identify potential locations/partners</li> <li>• Towns Team / CCA to co-ordinate a diverse programme of events and activities</li> <li>• Appropriate licensing to be acquired</li> <li>• Events programme marketed within key touch-points within the village and online via dedicated online portal and newspapers.</li> </ul>

### Project 17: Exploring a Sustainable Energy Project

DESCRIPTION	PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS	PROPOSED ACTIONS
<p>It is an aim of the Plan to transition the village of Creeslough towards a future exemplar model of sustainability through the exploration and implementation of a Village Sustainable Energy Project delivered through a pioneering, holistic, community-centred approach that sets a precedent for scalable, sustainable living in rural Ireland.</p> <p>It is an objective of the Plan that the Village Sustainable Energy Project would explore short term opportunities to fit each home and commercial building with solar panels, and the medium term opportunities of implementing a district heating strategy.</p> <p>The benefits of supporting sustainable energy project (s) include (i) allowing residents to enjoy energy security and a cleaner, renewable energy source; (ii) significantly reducing electricity bills and promote energy independence; (iii) reducing the carbon footprint of the village community; and (iv) delivering local job creation and educational opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore solar installations on homes</li> <li>• Explore district heating infrastructure</li> </ul>	<p><b>General Planning and Feasibility:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Initiation Assessment</li> <li>• Scoping and Feasibility assessment</li> <li>• Engage with residents, stakeholders, business community, government bodies etc.</li> <li>• Source funding opportunities</li> <li>• Establish required regulatory compliances.</li> </ul> <p><b>Solar Installations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procurement and Installation</li> <li>• Community engagement and training workshops.</li> </ul> <p><b>District Heating:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detailed design and planning</li> <li>• Pilot project initiation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Alternative Thermal Source Research:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate with research institutions for innovative ways to use peat and boglands sustainably.</li> </ul> <p><b>Long-Term:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop training programs for local residents to get involved with renewable energy - offering education and job creation.</li> <li>• Collect data to measure performance and refine/modernise the system</li> <li>• Explore options to up-scale.</li> </ul>

TIMESCALE

-  Short
-  Short/Medium
-  Medium
-  Medium/Long
-  Long



TIMESCALE	POSSIBLE FUNDING STREAMS	LEAD PARTNER	KEY STAKEHOLDERS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community-Based LEADER Approach</li> <li>• Croí Conaithe (Towns) Fund</li> <li>• Community Led Development Programme</li> <li>• Fáilte Ireland</li> <li>• Local community fundraising</li> <li>• Public-private partnerships</li> <li>• Corporate sponsorships</li> <li>• Town and Village Renewal Scheme</li> <li>• Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)</li> <li>• LEADER Programme</li> <li>• European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)</li> </ul>	Community Links Manager / Towns Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local business community, Local Schools, Local organisations and clubs, DCC Community and Culture, Economic Dev etc.</li> </ul>



TIMESCALE	POSSIBLE FUNDING STREAMS	LEAD PARTNER	KEY STAKEHOLDERS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)</li> <li>• Climate Action Fund</li> <li>• Town and Village Renewal Scheme</li> <li>• Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)</li> <li>• LEADER Programme</li> <li>• European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)</li> <li>• Croí Conaithe (Towns) Fund</li> <li>• Public-private partnerships</li> <li>• Corporate sponsorships</li> </ul>	Community Links Manager / Towns Team / SEAI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local residents, local businesses, DCC, ESB, Government depts (DECC, DHLGH, DRCD) ATU Letterkenny, SEAI, Coillte, Fáilte Ireland</li> </ul>

## Other Projects

### Project 18: Design Toolkit

DESCRIPTION	PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS	PROPOSED ACTIONS
<p><i>A Village Design Toolkit would serve as a key reference for guiding aesthetic and functional improvements in Creeslough, focusing on elements such as shopfronts and signage, materials, colour schemes, design details, public realm features. The toolkit would be developed specifically for Creeslough, with the primary aim of upholding the village's unique character, blending its rich heritage with contemporary requirements. Using this toolkit, public and private developers can make decisions that both preserve traditional aesthetics and incorporate modern, sustainable practices. For an effective toolkit, it's vital to involve local experts, including historians, architects, and planners. Additionally, gathering feedback from Creeslough residents would ensure that the community's interests are reflected in the design principles. Periodic reviews and updates would be required to ensure the toolkit remains relevant, adapting to changing needs and preferences.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of a Village Design Toolkit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project Initiation Assessment.</li> <li>Audit of existing conditions.</li> <li>Engagement and consultation with key stakeholders.</li> <li>Assessment of case studies/ similar grant schemes and their success.</li> <li>Commission specialist consultant to develop a Design Toolkit taking into consideration potential village-wide branding initiatives.</li> <li>Develop toolkit containing concept proposals indicating spatial arrangements, colour palette, public realm features, construction materials and appearance.</li> <li>Consult with key stakeholders, community and partners.</li> <li>Identify funding and roll out mechanisms of scheme.</li> </ul>

TIMESCALE	POSSIBLE FUNDING STREAMS	LEAD PARTNER	KEY STAKEHOLDERS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Croí Conaithe (Towns) Fund</li> <li>• Town and Village Renewal Scheme</li> <li>• Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)</li> <li>• LEADER Programme</li> <li>• European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)</li> <li>• Community-Based LEADER Approach</li> <li>• Community Led Development Programme</li> <li>• Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)</li> <li>• Fáilte Ireland</li> <li>• Heritage Council</li> </ul>	<p>Community Links Manager / Towns Team</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DCC Departments (Planning and Development, Community and Culture, Economic Dev etc.), DCC Heritage &amp; Conservation Officer, Landowners, Local business community, Local historians, creatives or interested individuals, Architects, planners and urban designers.</li> </ul>



**ARUP**

*Marble Hill, Co. Donegal ©HannahSheridanPhotography*