



## Welcome to the public consultation process for developing a Masterplan for Monasterevin Town.

These panels present a summary of findings, understandings and emerging ideas for the town of Monasterevin in County Kildare. These have been produced to demonstrate a series of proposed objectives for the future growth of the town: a draft strategy for its continued successes, for its growth, and for social, economic and environmental sustainability. These proposals aim to put the needs, wants and ideas of the local community at the centre.

### We value your input to this process!

Please use this opportunity to leave your thoughts and feedback through the available comment portal: we welcome the responses and input of the community, and look forward to hearing from you through this process.

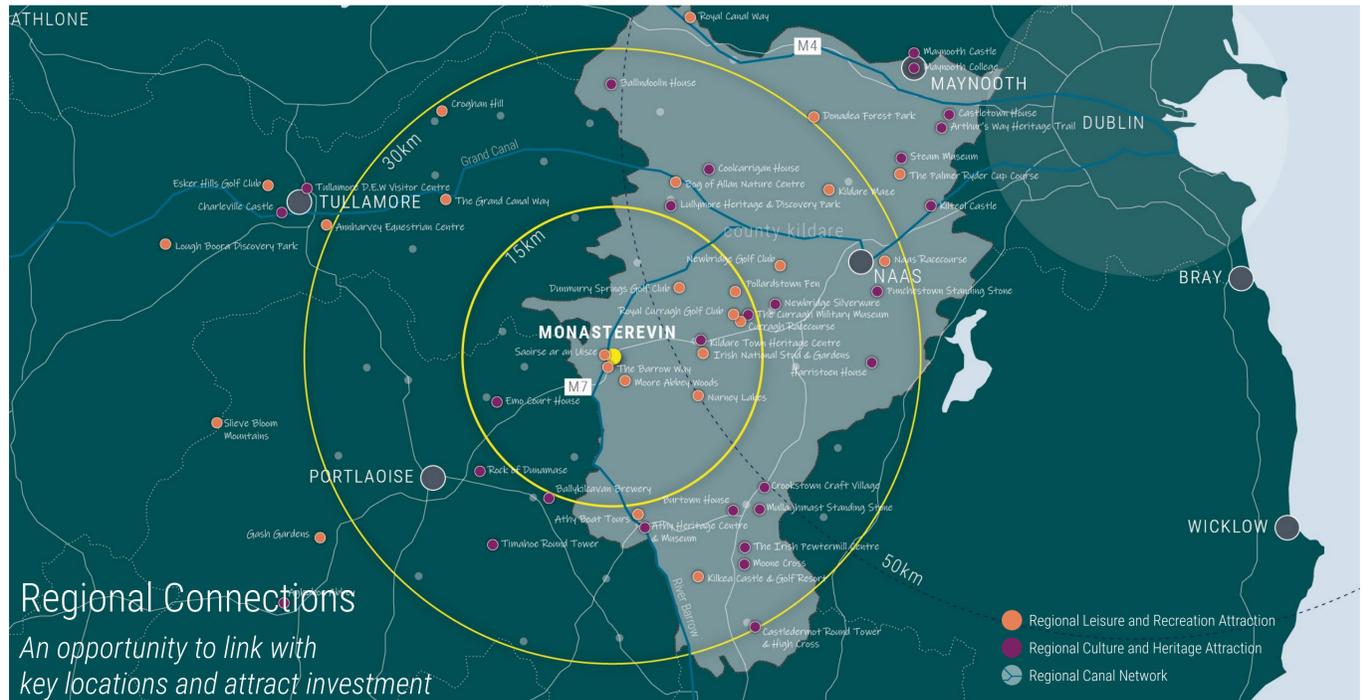
### Development Context

These boards have been produced with specific attention given to a wide number of existing strategies and development objectives for the town and wider region: it is the aim of the team to respond to the thoughts and opinions of the local community alongside these policies. Through a process of site appraisal and interrogative analysis, the team's findings have led to a number of draft strategies; we now need your help to refine these!

### The Wider Team

This plan is being led by The Paul Hogarth Company, in collaboration with the Strategic Project and Public Realm Team of Kildare County Council. Central to its success, however, is the involvement of the local community.

### We see Monasterevin as somewhere...



- to visit and explore
- to work and prosper
- to call home
- to play and grow
- to benefit the environment

# What do we want for Monasterevin?



## Local Engagement

Critical and lively conversations



Spatial and cultural understandings through historic mapping studies

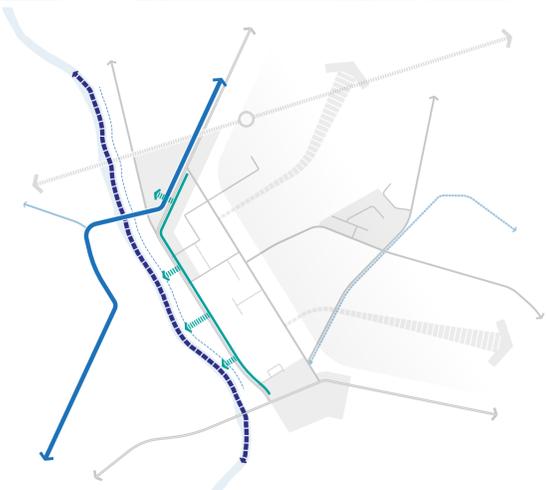
## Engagement & Consultation

Stemming from previous work in the town, our team has undertaken a number of community consultations in Monasterevin, providing baseline understandings of the town and region. These meetings have provided enlightening conversations about community needs, local knowledge and prospective opportunities for the town.

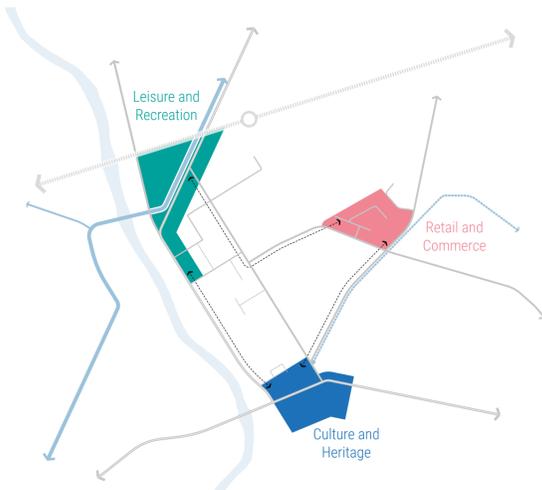
With a number of revised proposals being developed and presented, we are excited to understand the thoughts and ideas relating to this Draft Masterplan (2021), and are undertaking this process of public engagement.

## Site Analysis & Findings

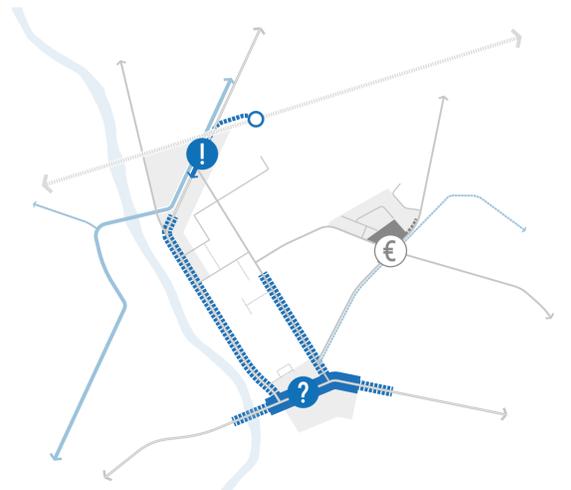
A number of key findings have emerged from the team's studies so far, including Monasterevin's strengths as a regional heritage attraction and the town's strong sense of community pride. Further findings are demonstrated below, offering a foundation for developing further improvements through town-wide investment.



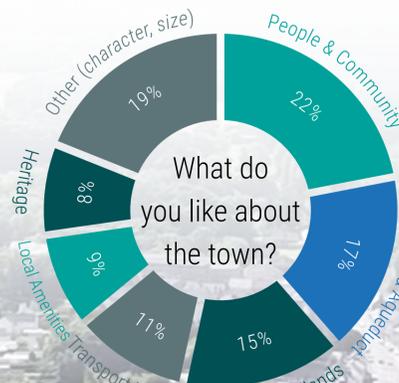
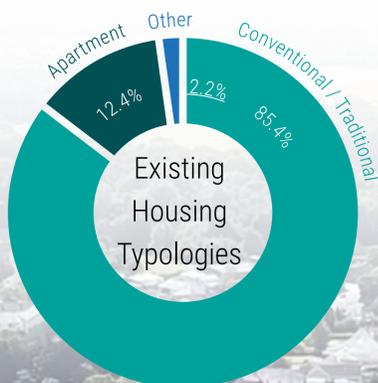
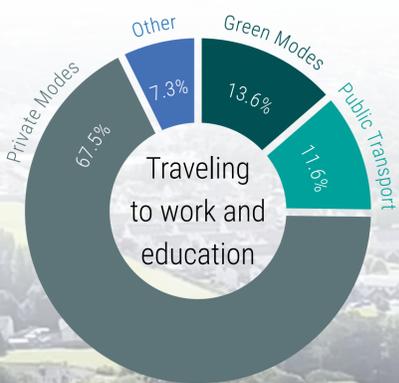
Unique regional character along the waterways remains untapped.



Recent sprawl has established a number of distanced town centres and neighbourhoods.



Dereliction of historic, cultural assets and public realm creates a perceived negativity.



and how can this strategy be achieved?

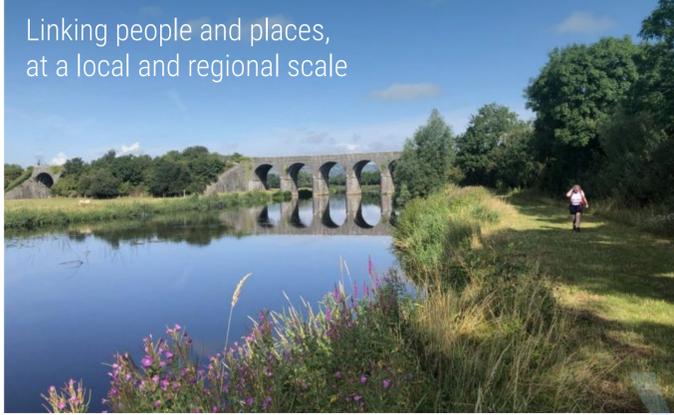


*Towards Venice...*

This Masterplan will guide the sustainable growth of Monasterevin, for it to be a safe and enjoyable place to live, work and prosper, while leveraging the town's unique assets as an exciting place to visit and explore.



Ensuring a viable, sustainable and exciting direction for Monasterevin



Linking people and places, at a local and regional scale



Putting Monasterevin back on the map: shaping a compelling and coherent identity

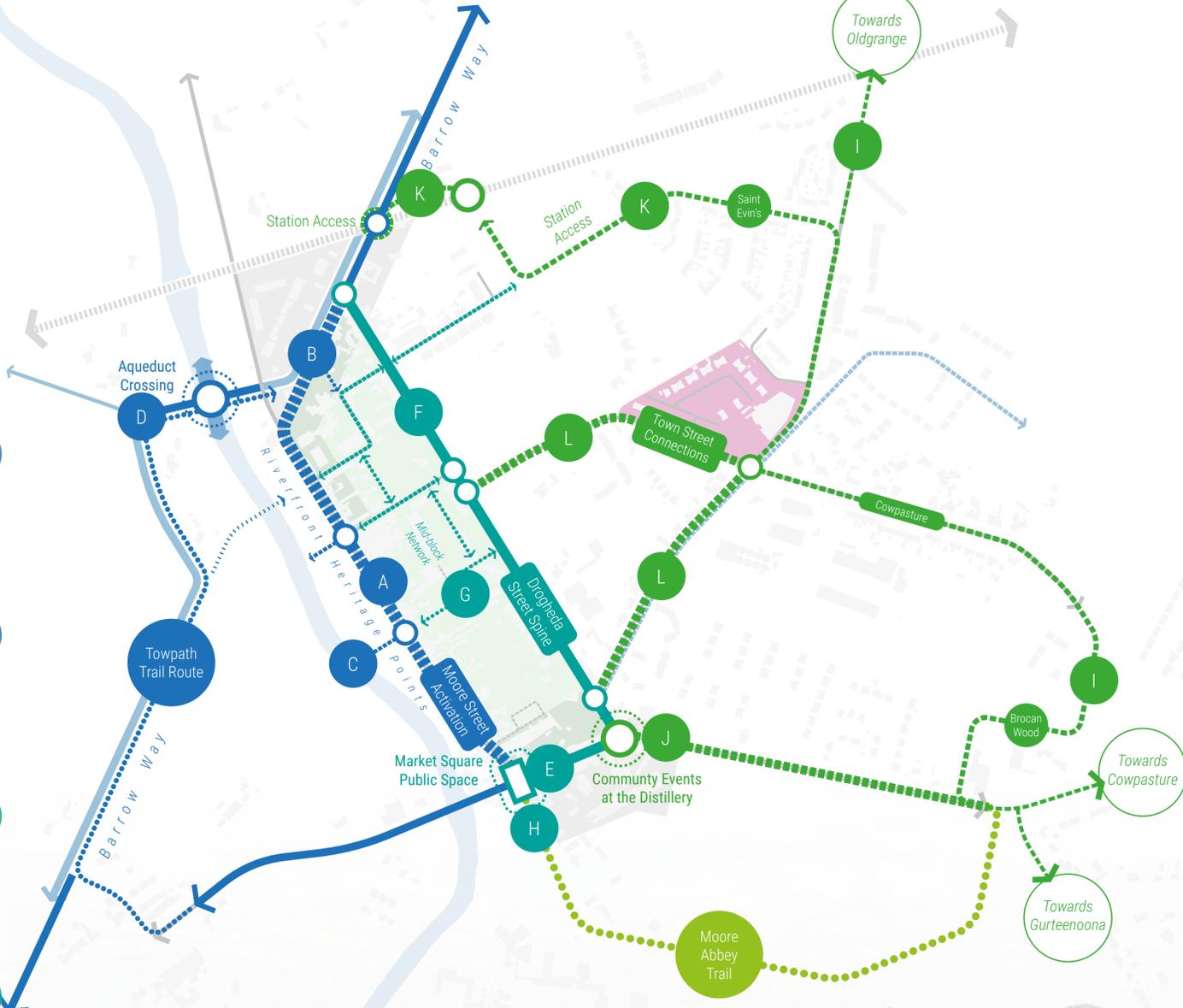


Enlivening Monasterevin: energising its waterways, buildings and spaces.

Through leveraging the town's unique built heritage assets - including Market Square, the Cassidy Distillery, the Canal Aqueduct and the old Canal Harbour area - a network of routes is envisaged and strategically mapped out, connecting each key node to one another, and also the surrounding neighbourhoods as well as the wider waterfront areas of the Grand Canal and River Barrow.

This network of routes and nodes begins to shape a masterplan for Monasterevin, providing a hierarchy places and connections, as well as areas for commercial investment, emerging as key opportunities within a town-wide strategic vision.

- A Moore Street**  
Re-imagining this heritage street as a place not only to move through, but one to stop along: visit local shops, take a moment and enjoy river views.
- B Canal Harbour**  
Public realm upgrades and town centre connections enable for this historic wharf area to be re-established as a centre of activity.
- C Riverfront Heritage Points**  
Spanning from Moore Street are a number of parkland and riverfront opportunities, each with unique historic and biodiverse attributes.
- D Canal Aqueduct Crossing**  
Perhaps the most unique feature of the town's waterways network, accessibility improvements to the aqueduct are a major opportunity.
- E Market Square**  
Public realm, place-making and landscape upgrades can return this social and commercial asset to the centre of Monasterevin Town.
- F Drogheda Street**  
Streetscape improvements including re-surfacing works, public lighting, and junction upgrades that cater for pedestrians are all envisaged.
- G Mid-block Route Network**  
This once active network within the historic centre can be rediscovered and reactivated with a route and place-making strategy.
- H Woodland Trail, Moore Abbey**  
Extending the town centre trails and neighbourhood greenway network to the surrounding heritage assets at the historic Moore Abbey grounds.
- I Neighbourhood Greenways**  
Enabling for the safe, comfortable and enjoyable movement between neighbourhood areas, recreation areas and commercial centres.
- J The Distillery**  
Re-imagining this historic landmark as a space to exhibit, perform, work, meet and play - a creative centre for residents and visitors alike.
- K Station Access**  
Ensuring regional links through local investment is critical, and access to the train station will be key to ensuring safe and universal access.
- L Town Connections**  
Existing links present an opportunity to cater for local journeys without a car: pedestrian and cycle links are envisaged to connect local centres.



A safe and enjoyable place to live, work and prosper.



Cockburn Street, Edinburgh  
Active frontage with generous pedestrian space

## Streetscape

Currently in Monasterevin the transport network provides large amounts of space for the private vehicle: generous carriageways for cars, wide junctions and extensive parking are prevalent. This space offers encouraging potential for improvement and upgrade, with more consideration for each of pedestrians and cyclists.

It is proposed to invest in the quality and safety of the town's transport routes to include areas of stone paving, clear junction markings, greater street tree coverage, a palette of street furniture, appropriate lighting, and safe cycling lanes. This investment in street design will help activate and bring an urban vitality to the town, while improving the commercial performance for local retailers.

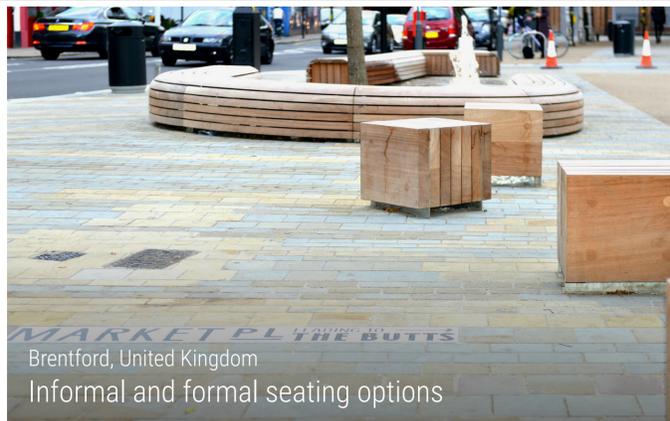
## Built Heritage

As demonstrated through spatial and economic analysis as well as a number of on-site examinations, the town presents extensive vacancy across its older building stock, particularly in the historic centre. This presents an opportunity for increasing the density of the town, offering a more thriving and liveable centre with greater economic results for local commercial premises.

## Pedestrian and Cycle Network

It is proposed to develop a network of foot and cycle connections throughout the town: these would be structured around existing carriageway routes and waterfront towpaths, with strategic points of investment and improvement for increased cohesion across the town, as well as ensuring universal access between neighbourhoods, heritage attractions and the waterfront.

This network would create an attractive, healthy alternative to the car, improve the quality of the landscape and create a locally beneficial recreational resource.



Brentford, United Kingdom  
Informal and formal seating options



Social clusters



Civic engagement



Outdoor seating



On-street tree planting



Bringing the Barrow Way into town



Safe junctions for all users



Local active travel modes



A revitalised streetscape,  
connecting centre to waterfront

A vision for  
**Main Street**



## A Public Centre

Central to the growth of Monasterevin was its capacity to host gatherings and public events at the Market Square. Many of the town's commercial successes expanded from this junction at Moore Street and Dublin Road - a site which originally functioned as a crossroads that extended south into Moore Abbey - and is today marked by the stone cross monument to priest Edward Prendergast.

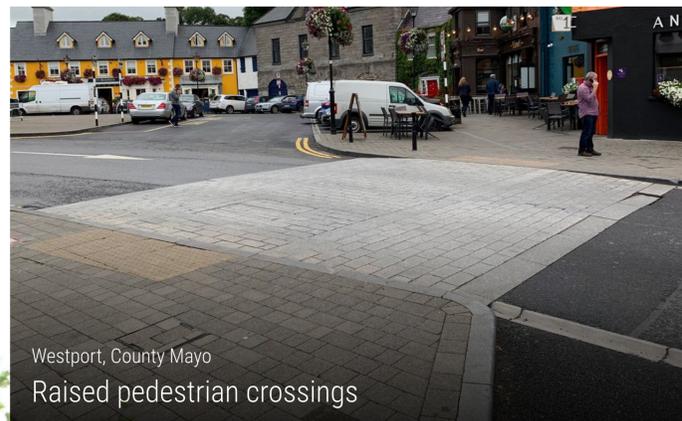
As part of the town-wide place-making strategy, this Market Square is re-imagined as a public meeting place that is conducive to more socially engaging activities such as stopping for a lunchtime break, meeting others for a coffee, and enjoying the splendour of overhead tree canopies. Central to this spatial reconfiguration is the reduction in carriageway widths - bringing greater safety to other users of the public realm.

## An Informal setting

A simple configuration of on-street planting, a consolidated signage and wayfinding strategy, the capacity for people to sit in comfort, and the facility to park bicycles will ensure that the town's Market Square becomes a must-see point along the wider Barrow Way.



Asna Square in Clonakilty has been reconfigured around the needs and movements of people



Westport, County Mayo  
Raised pedestrian crossings



Clapham Old Town, UK  
Reclaimed public space

## Movement and Place

Adopting the guidance and guidelines outlined in the Monasterevin Local Area Plan (2016-2022), it is envisaged that the existing limestone monument in Market Square is relocated to the south of the carriageway junction - adjacent to Moore Abbey entrance - retaining its prominence as a cultural landmark while ensuring that the central square is more available for adaptable uses.

Seen below, a number of table-top crossing points give greater ease of movement to pedestrians, while flexible use of on-street furniture offers vibrancy to the area.



A revitalised civic space  
for a re-activated historic centre

A vision for  
**Market Square**



## Towards Venice

Famed for its association with regional waterways and the historic bridges that traverse and connect them, Monasterevin has earned and adopted the nickname *Venice of Ireland* - and with good reason.

The town offers an exciting network of off-road pedestrian and cycle routes that run adjacent to the Grand Canal and the River Barrow, connecting to regional networks such as the Barrow Way and Moore Abbey Wood. This Masterplan envisions a robust network of connections that cater for both visitors and local residents, ensuring a relationship with these historic waterways that is as enjoyable as it is sustainable for future generations. These waterfront assets will be linked to the town and neighbourhood centres through multi-modal routes and signage.



Cycle-base tourism options, Lincolnshire Wolds Cycle Route, UK

## Regional Attraction

With the recent and successful growth in sustainable and recreational tourism across many of Ireland's celebrated greenways and cycle routes (including those across County Mayo and in Waterford City), it is recognised that there is a strong potential for Monasterevin to present greater regional attraction along emerging waterfront pedestrian and cycle networks.

## Historic Links

An examination of old heritage routes into and across Monasterevin town centre, as well as along the celebrated watercourses, gives us great insight to the mobility options that are possible to re-establish across the town.

## Local Recreation

Stemming from an in-depth spatial analysis of the town, it is understood that Monasterevin presents encouraging opportunities for local connections between existing neighbourhoods, the town centre areas and a number of waterfront routes. Indeed, these links become central to a town-wide network of trails and towpath routes that offer greater permeability and waterfront access to those living across the town.

## Neighbourhood Greenways

Adding to these waterfront routes, it is also possible to establish mid-block links and neighbourhood greenways that offer greater access to local retailers and smaller public spaces across the historic town centre, linking the canal and river with the heritage assets in Monasterevin.



Accessible canalside public realm with adaptable furniture options



Quality paving options



Pedestrian links, Western Greenway



Kennet and Avon canal cycle route, UK

Below:  
Canal Harbour Vision



Accessible waterfront



Traffic-calming carriageways



Re-imagined heritage attractions



Accessible recreation



Sustainable drainage systems



A vision for **Canal Harbour** Reconnecting with the historic waterfront