

Celbridge

TOWN RENEWAL PLAN - PUBLIC CONSULTATION



Kildare County Council
Comhairle Contae Chill Dara

INTRODUCTION

Celbridge Town Renewal Plan

The Strategic Projects and Public Realm section of Kildare County Council and Metropolitan Works, in association with the community of Celbridge, are in the process of preparing a Town Renewal Plan for Celbridge. The key objective of the Celbridge Town Renewal Plan is to deliver a new vision for the town with pedestrian focused public spaces and liveable streets. The aim is to put the pedestrian and cyclist at the heart of the design solution for the town and to create fully accessible, inclusive and age-friendly public spaces. The Town Renewal Plan will include a masterplan of the area with key priority regeneration projects and an implementation strategy for the town. The Plan will also align with the policies and objectives of the Celbridge Local Area Plan.

A Focus on Sustainability

Providing sustainable communities where people can live, work and socialise is the cornerstone of the Town Renewal Plan. The following high level aims will inform the emerging Plan.

They include:

- Providing a mix of land uses to minimise transport demand by prioritising walking, cycling and public transport, and minimise the need to use cars;
- Delivering a quality of life which residents and visitors are entitled to expect, in terms of amenity, safety and convenience -presenting an attractive and distinct sense of place with a quality public realm that is easily maintained;
- Enhancing and protecting green infrastructure/biodiversity and our built and natural heritage;
- Reviewing the range of community and support facilities, where and when they are needed and ensuring they are easily accessible for everyone.

How Covid -19 has Changed the Way we Interact

COVID-19 has brought a sudden unexpected change in how we socialise and use our surrounding environment. These changes in how we live and work have placed stresses upon our town infrastructures, highlighting inadequacies but also opportunities to develop our towns in a sustainable and progressive way. Local parks, paths and outdoor amenities have become so important to our physical and mental wellbeing during this time. We have begun to interact more with our home towns as we no longer commute and have more spare time to enjoy the natural beauties which our localities have to offer. At the same time, the pandemic has acted like an x-ray to our urban environment, diagnosing symptoms of poor urban design where they exist such as the lack of open space to encourage safe and enjoyable social interaction. We realise that quality urban spaces are required in our towns in order to improve our quality of life, our health and wellbeing.

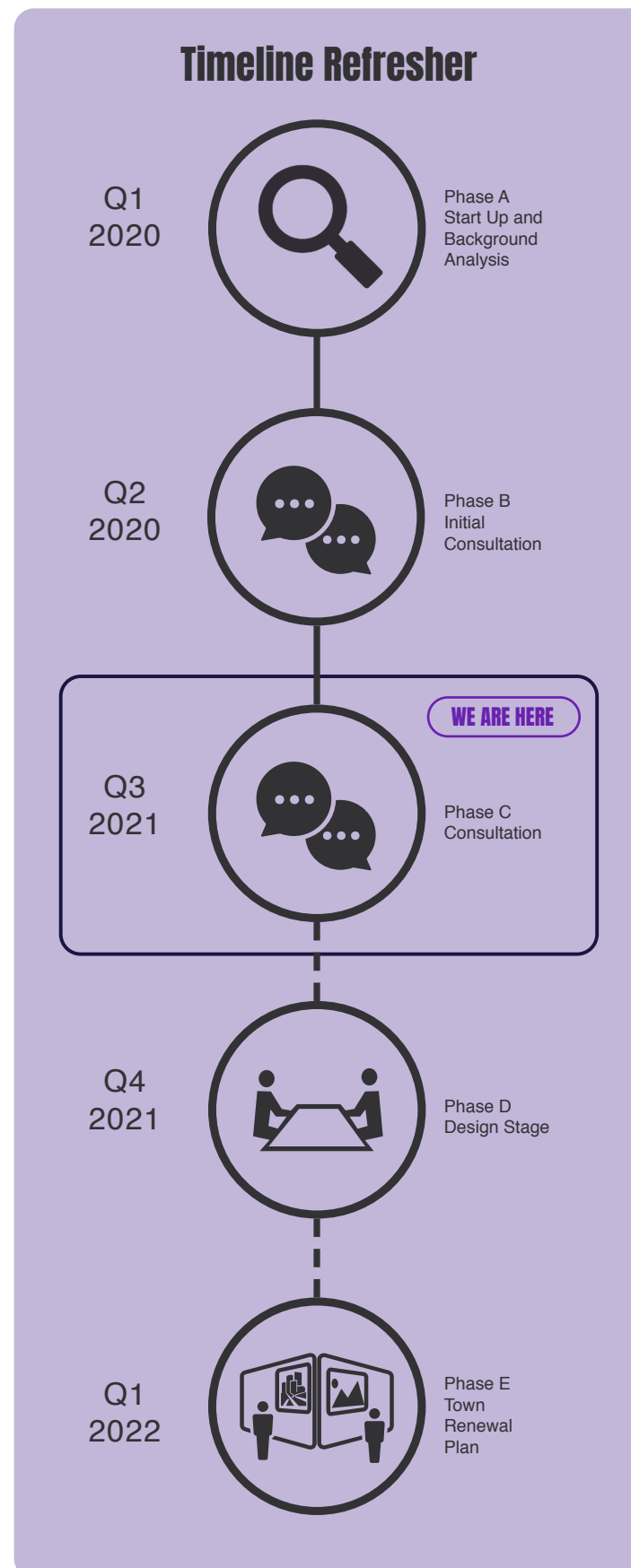


Celbridge - Study Boundary

Celbridge

TOWN RENEWAL PLAN - UPDATE AUGUST 2021

CONSULTATION STEPS



Phase A – Start Up and Background Analysis (Q1 2020)

This phase consisted of the appointed design team carrying out site visits and background analysis to generate a set of plans which help our understanding of the town, its history and structure. Typical issues we looked at are existing land uses, open spaces, connections and linkages, public transport and movement network, building heights etc. This information's helps the design team build a picture of the town and better understand the opportunities.

Phase B – Initial Consultation (Q2 2020)

This phase consisted of an online mini-survey, carried out from 5th to 19th of June 2020, which sought to get a snapshot of what residents thought worked well and what didn't work so well. The team also met with local representatives to understand their hopes and concerns for the town. Learning about local strengths, needs, issues and challenges is a massively important step in the process of design development, and so engagement and feedback is essential.

We are grateful to the respondents who completed our Community Mini-Survey, and the excellent additional comments submitted. As we embark on this exciting project, the feedback we received will help guide the project Design Team in the early design proposals and considerations. The results of this mini -survey are presented back as part of this consultation.

Phase C – Consultation (Q3 2021)

This current phase consists of an online survey which will see wide communication of the project – its aims and objectives, how the engagement process will inform the project, how people can get involved, means of contact, etc. Using a new website, surveys, meetings with local stakeholders, electorate, public engagement we will be listening closely and gathering knowledge on local strengths, needs, challenges and opportunities. This initial communication stage will set out the context of the Town Renewal Plan and look for specific feedback on what proposals you would like to see brought forward.

Phase D – Design Stage (Q4 2021)

Following this consultation stage, preliminary designs will be drawn up which respond, where possible, to feedback received and transparently set out the rationale. These emerging ideas will be put on display and, depending on Covid restrictions, the website may be used to upload information and illustrate material. It could have a short questionnaire with a series of specific questions aimed to draw out useful responses.

Phase E – Town Renewal Plan (Q1 2022)

This phase would see the finalisation of the Town Renewal Plan and publication of the document.

INITIAL ONLINE SURVEY- Results and Conclusions - Demographics

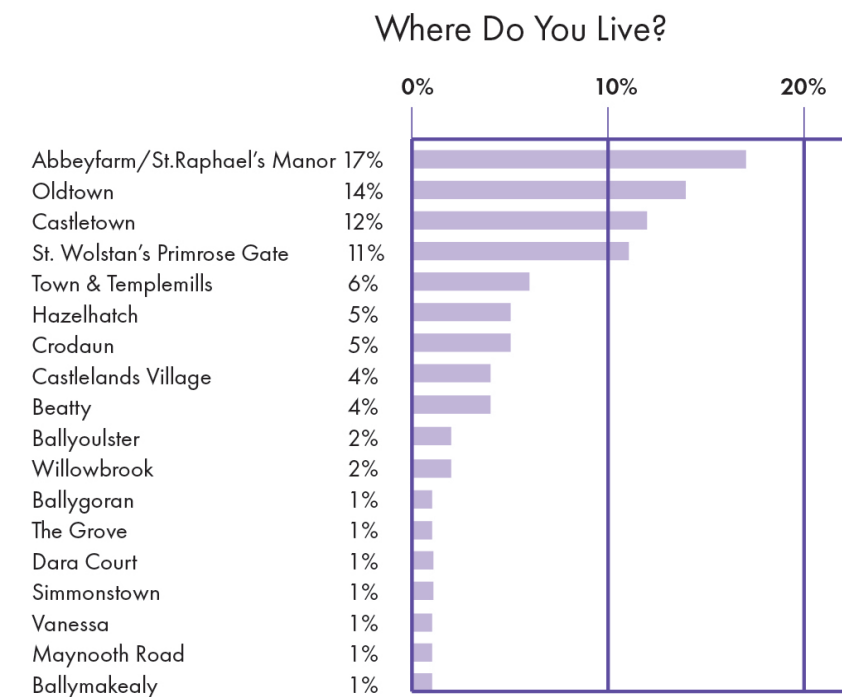
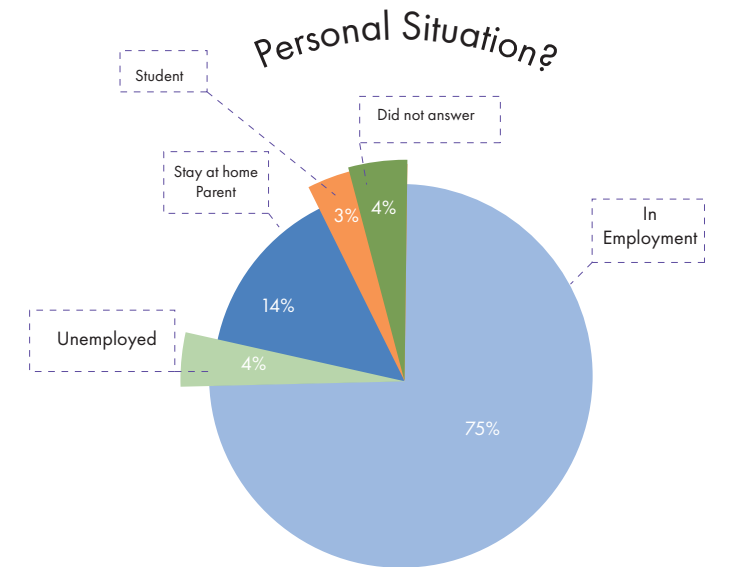
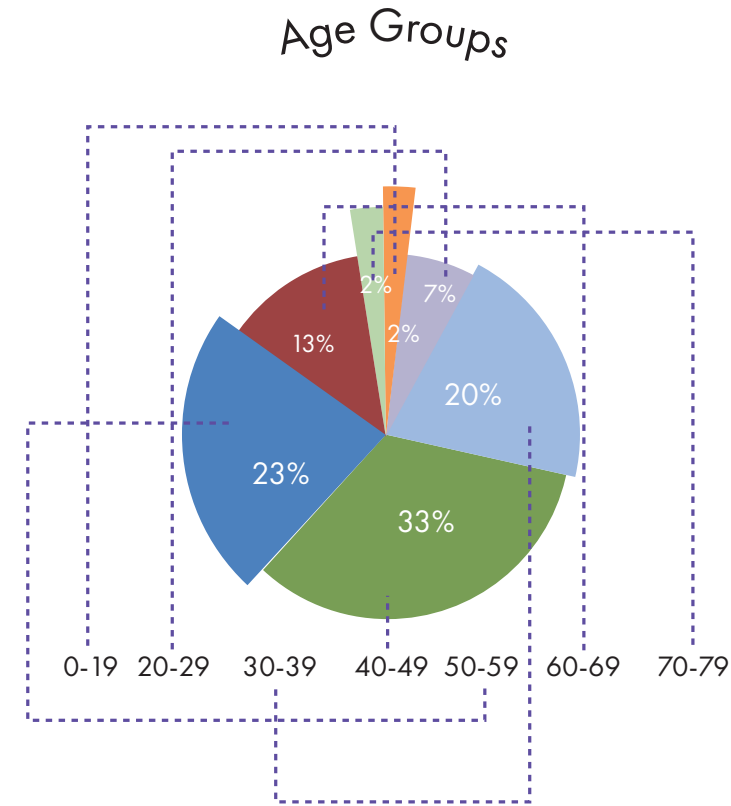
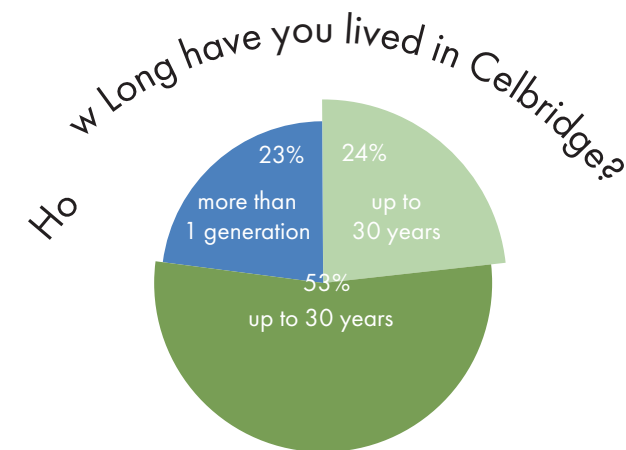
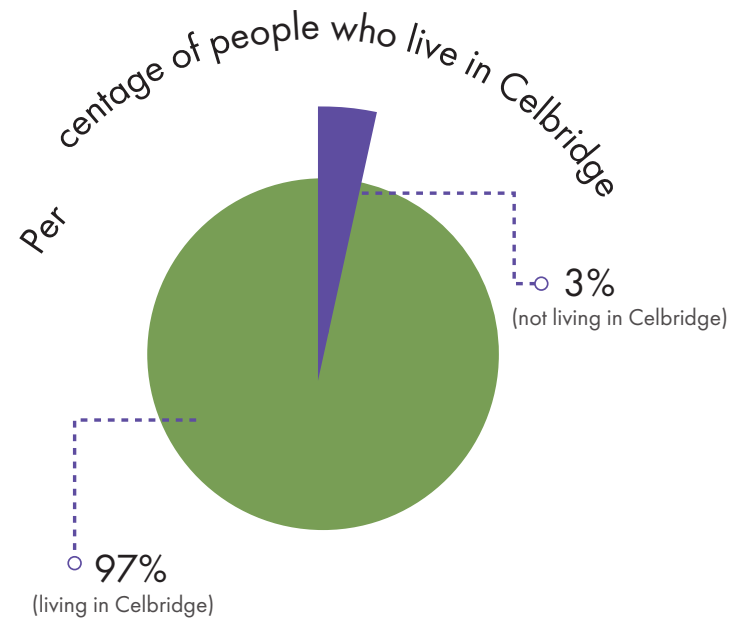
ENGAGEMENT

Kildare County Council and Metropolitan Workshop, the Project Team have embarked on a Community and Stakeholder Engagement process since the initiation of Celbridge Town Renewal Plan. Our aim is to work closely with residents, business owners and community groups who live and work in Celbridge so that their opinions and observations are reflected in the plans to improve the town.

An initial online survey was carried out from 5th – 19th June with 1934 respondents to gain insights on what was seen as important to the residents of the town. Specific areas highlighted in the Local Area Plan were further investigated including pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure, inadequate facilities (most notably a swimming pool), night time activities (theatre/cinema/arts centre) with a particular focus on the sustainable use of cultural and historical assets of the town and its environs.

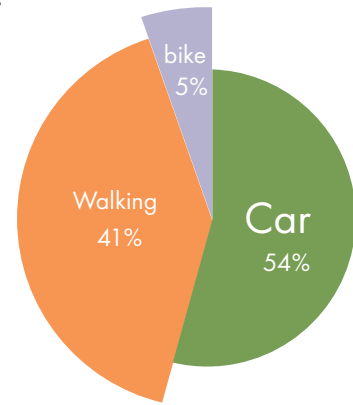
In order to avoid repetition of survey material amongst this group, we have collated feedback and comments from the initial survey on the following pages

We are so thankful to all respondents to our Community Survey. As we embark on this exciting development project, the feedback we received will directly guide the project Design Team in the early design proposals and considerations.

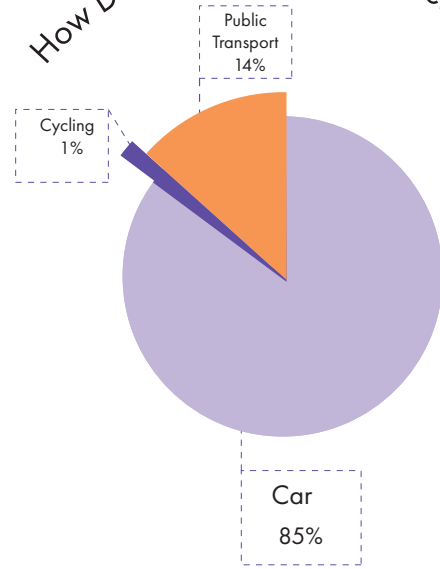


INITIAL ONLINE SURVEY - Results and Conclusions - Transportation and Walking/Cycling

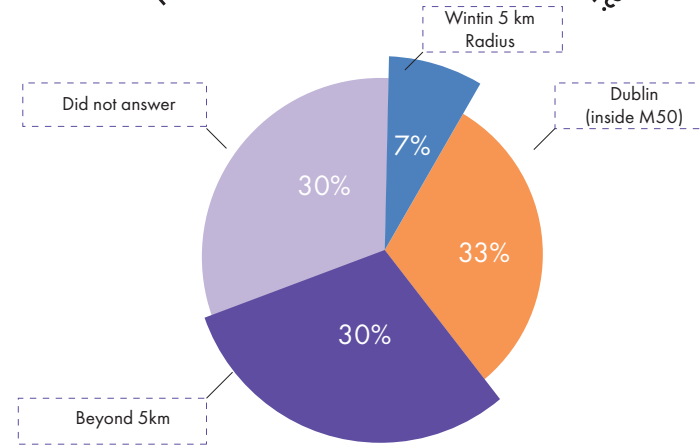
How Do you travel within Celbridge



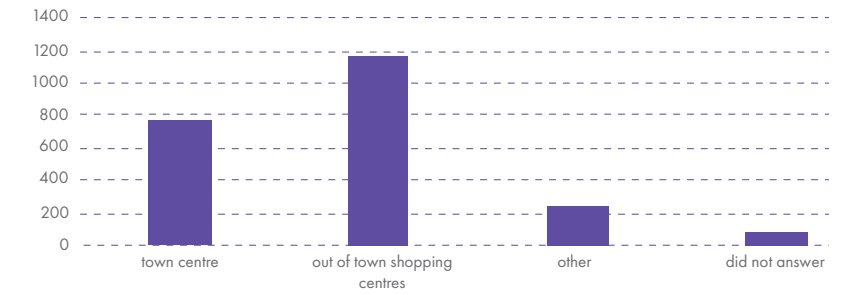
How Do you travel beyond Celbridge



If you are employed, where is it?



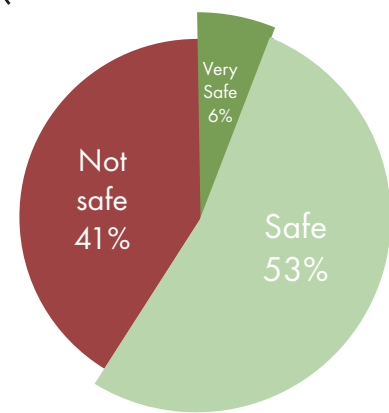
Where do you shop?



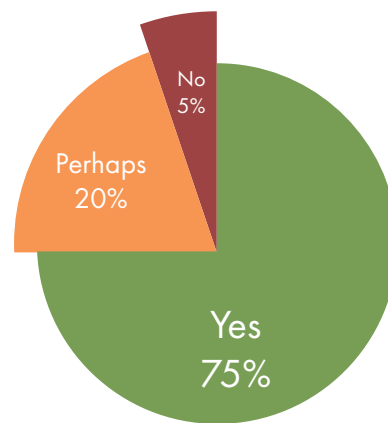
insights

- A severe over-reliance on car transport both for local outings and journeys further afield.
- Both commuting long-distance to work and out of town shopping are common amongst the demographic surveyed
- Further survey required to understand challenges faced by Celbridge town to compete in terms of retail offering

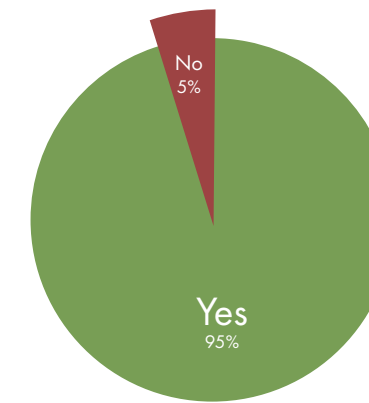
What is the perception of safety for walking and cycling around?



Would better footpaths, cycle facilities and road crossings encourage more walking and cycling?



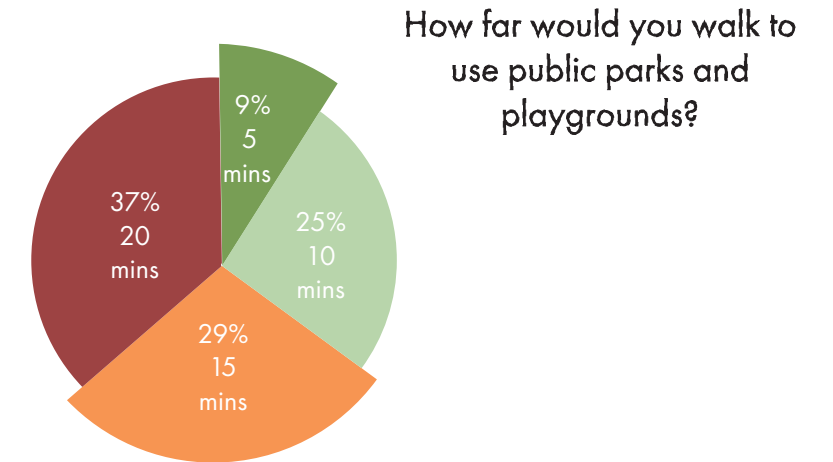
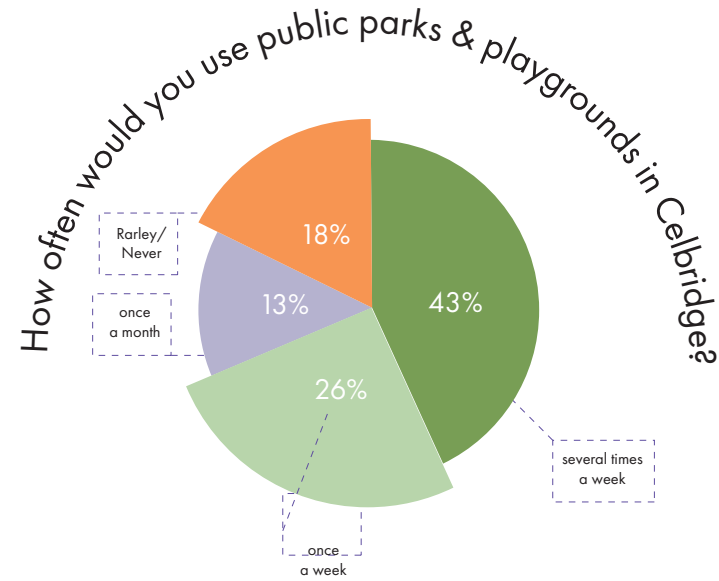
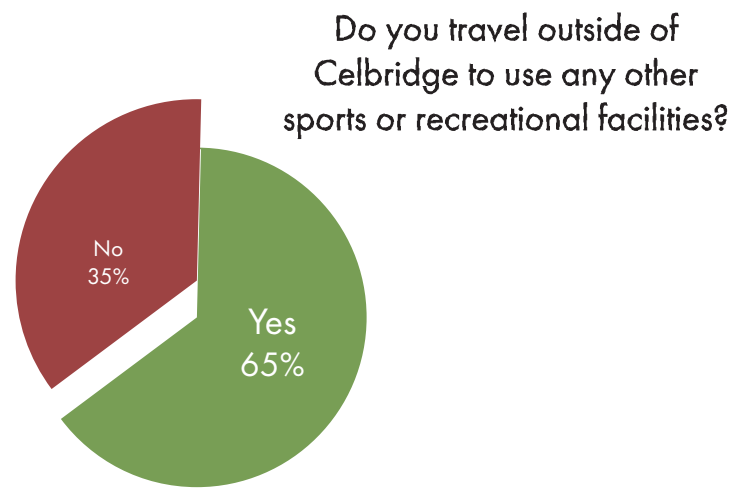
Is travel congestion and/or inappropriate driver behaviour common in celbridge?



insights

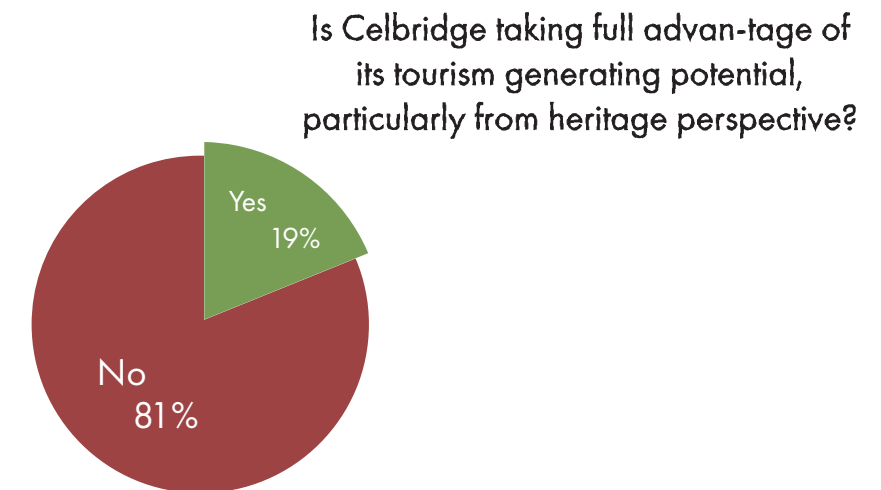
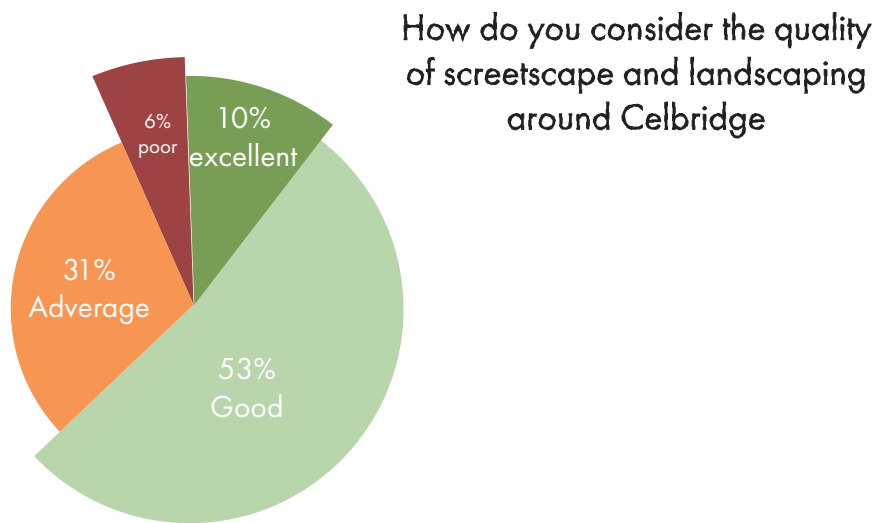
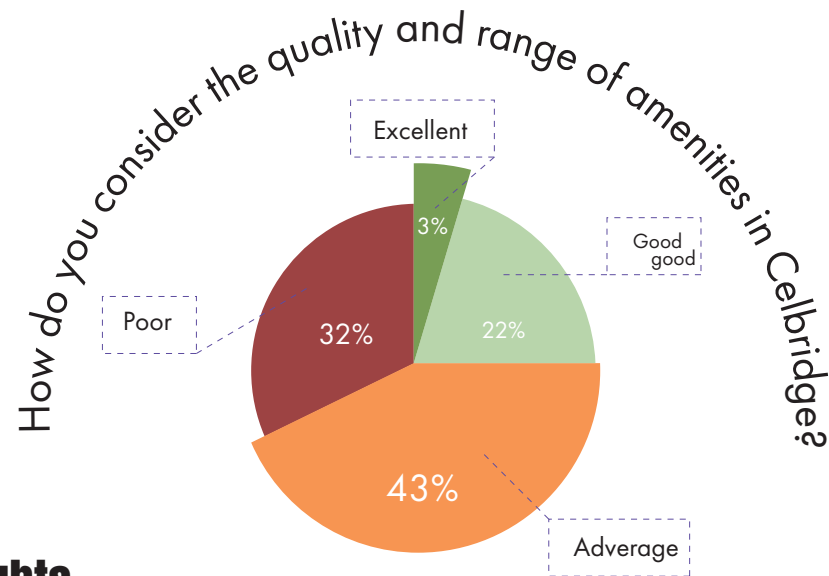
- A significant percentage(41%) regard Celbridge as an unsafe place to cycle or walk
- Both cycling and pedestrian infrastructure is regarded as requiring improvement due to traffic safety concerns.
- Traffic management measures need to be looked at to improve traffic congestion and pedestrian and cyclist safety

INITIAL ONLINE SURVEY - Results and Conclusions - Facilities/Amenities



Insights

- A majority surveyed presently travel outside of Celbridge to access basic recreational facilities.
- Over two-thirds of those surveyed use a public park or playground in Celbridge at least once a week.
- Over two-thirds of those surveyed are willing to walk over 15 minutes to a suitable park or playground facility, this highlights the need to increase pedestrian and cyclist links between residential and recreational nodes.
- Further survey required to illustrate facilities used outside Celbridge and whether similar facilities could be sustainably provided or safe pedestrian and cyclist links made to these infrastructures.



Insights

- More than two thirds of those surveyed considered the present facilities of celbridge as average or better.
- Over 90% consider the present streetscapes and lanscaping of the town as average or better..
- A significant percentage believe that Celbridge is not taking full advantage of its tourism potential.

KEY OBSERVATIONS HIGHLIGHTED IN SURVEY FEEDBACK

Traffic

86% of individuals surveyed highlighted traffic management and key infrastructure (most notably a new bridge(62%)) as the one project which would have greatest positive impact on the town.

Of the 33 submissions received on the Celbridge LAP 2016-2022, 8 submissions (24%) mention the need for traffic congestion improvement, recommending the construction of a new traffic bridge to the south of the town.

Pedestrian and Cycle Connectivity

A common concern highlighted in the surveys (34% of submissions) is of pedestrian and cyclist safety and quality of off-road amenity infrastructure in Celbridge and environs.

The key project highlighted is the extension of the Liffey Valley Park through the inclusion of Celbridge The Liffey Valley Special Amenity Order(SAAO). Further connections to key infrastructure including the train station are also commonly noted.

Of the 33 submissions received on the Celbridge LAP 2016-2022, cycle and pedestrian infrastructure is the second most common concern featuring in a quarter of submissions.

In 2020 a “pedestrian and observational study” was carried out by MacCabe Durney Barnes planning consultants which identified the need to improve pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure to connect Celbridge town to the Train Station at Hazelhatch. This study stated that ‘The distance combined with the lack of cycling facilities influences the modal choice of train commuters.’

Linkages to Heritage

81%, 1494 of individuals surveyed, agreed that Celbridge is not taking full advantage of its tourism generating potential, particularly from a heritage perspective. The interconnectivity of Castletown Demesne to the town and other heritage assets was consistently remarked upon.

A common concern is the protection of vistas and the reconnection of Castletown Demesne to the Wonderful Barn and Conolly Folly and strengthened connections to St Wolstans and the Donaghcumper Estates.

Of the 33 submissions made to the Celbridge LAP 2016-2022, the protection and improvement of access to the historic town and neighbouring estates is the most common concern, featuring in just under half (46%) of the comments.

Community Facilities

When questioned on a lack of facilities, over half (55%) of correspondents mentioned the lack of swimming facilities in proximity the town, followed by childrens play parks, 22%.

While the provision of a swimming pool in North Kildare remains a priority for Kildare County Council, a funding application for the construction of a pool in Maynooth to serve North County Kildare was submitted to the Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund. However, the final location of a swimming pool for North County Kildare may be subject to review.

Of the 33 submissions received on the Celbridge LAP 2016-2022, 8 submissions (24%) mention the present need to increase facility provisions generally for the town before continuing to develop further housing.

Over 10% of submissions mention the need to strategically develop lands on the eastern side of the river near Hazelhatch Train Station to avoid further increase in cross-town commuter traffic flows and to promote sustainable travel.

HOW CAN WE IMPROVE CELBRIDGE

With your help, through the implementation of the Town Renewal Plan, the Strategic Projects and Public Realm team of Kildare County Council are planning improvements to further encourage the sustainable development of Celbridge. We are actively pursuing opportunities to rebalance our streetscapes into people-orientated rather vehicular-orientated spaces, prioritising compact growth and a town centre first approach to development and seeking to progress priority regeneration projects for the community of Celbridge. We are also committed to ensuring that climate action and the protection and enhancement of biodiversity is at the forefront of all projects. We are again asking for your feedback. What can we do to improve the place in which you live?

How can we get involved?

There is a comprehensive engagement process for the Town Renewal Plan which provides a series of opportunities for people to get involved. Feedback is sought from the community, stakeholders and interested parties by the Design Team to inform the process of moving towards the selection and design development of town renewal projects.

The engagement phases start with this introductory communications and information gathering phase, where we aim to gather feedback through a survey and discussions with key stakeholders. After considering views on this stage, we will return with a more detailed masterplan, and update you on how the feedback was considered in the design approach. Again, you will have the chance to provide feedback on this.

While COVID-19 has severely challenged the possibility of holding physical consultation events, we aim to hold virtual events and meeting. Further information will be available in the coming weeks on the website at <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/browse> and also through local media.

How can I access the information if I cannot use the internet?

We aim to provide all information available on this website (<https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/browse>) on a print friendly pdf that can be downloaded. If possible we will also provide information at public locations in the area such as the library and community centres.

Celbridge

TOWN RENEWAL PLAN - UPDATE AUGUST 2021

PRIORITY PROJECTS

While we are looking for a wide range of suggestions as to how the town could be improved, there are some specific sites which we would love to hear your views on.

Main Street/Town Centre Extension

People focused town centre which incorporates sustainable mobility

The main street would benefit a range of streetscape improvements allowing it to function as a people focused town centre amenity with an emphasis on sustainable mobility. This could be combined with investment in the upgrade and regeneration of existing properties and commercial premises, extending to appropriate infill developments which would significantly enhance Main Street.



Castletown

The Celbridge Town Renewal Plan aims to promote an improved connectivity between Castletown and the Town Centre of Celbridge. This strengthened connection would aim to promote the main street as a tourism and commercial destination with complementary amenity uses.

Celbridge

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PRIORITY PROJECTS

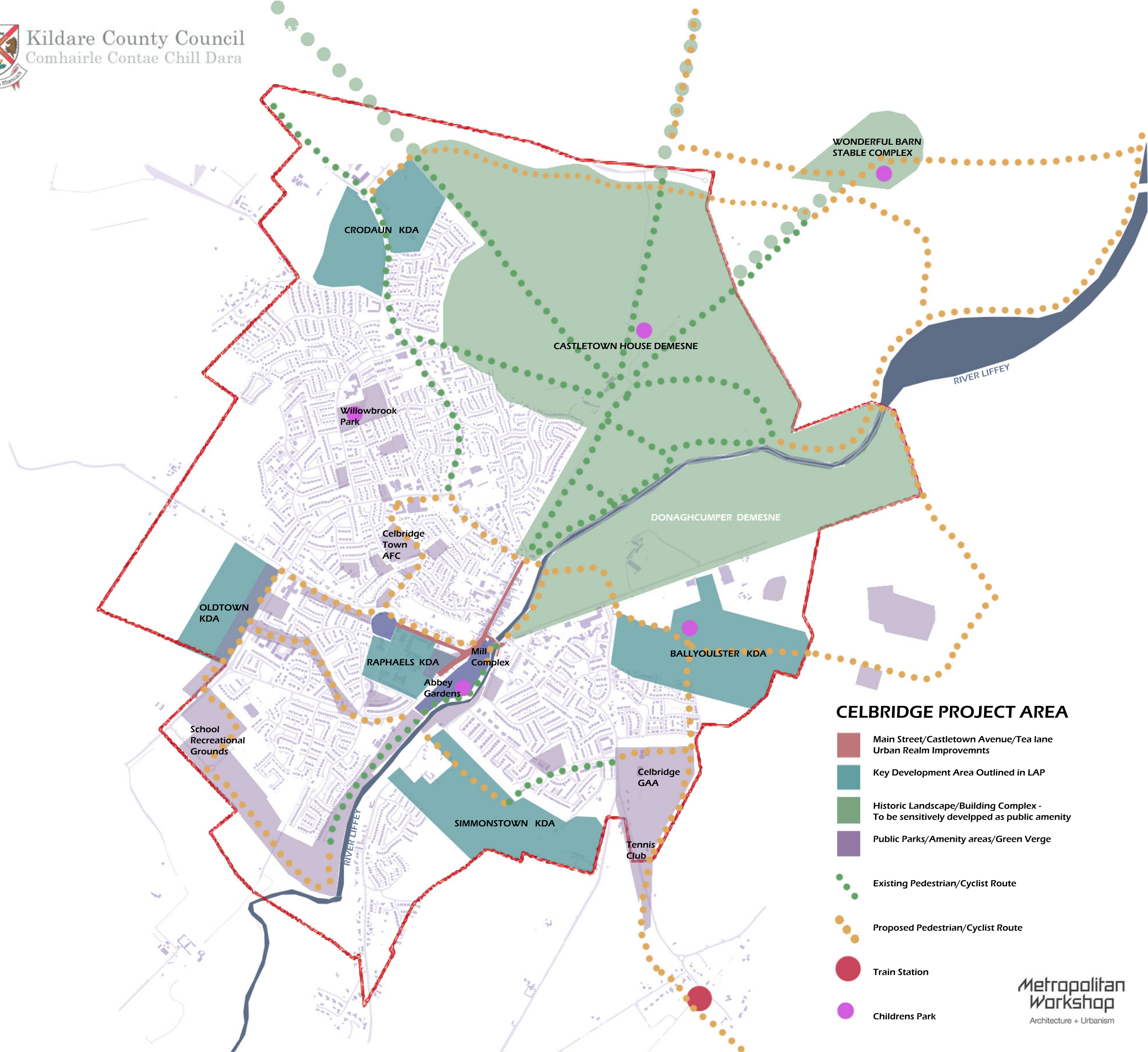
Amenity Lands at St John of God

Under the Celbridge LAP, the lands of St John of God are identified for the purposes of Town Centre Extension. Located to the south-west of the town centre, it comprises the historic walled demesne of Oakley Park, which is now owned by the Saint John of God Trust. It accommodates a range of educational, residential and respite services. The continued use of this site for community and educational purposes is strongly supported and the integration of new community and amenity uses at this location would be a key priority in increasing public amenity space throughout Celbridge.











More Open and Public Spaces

While Celbridge has a significant amount of open space, it is not distributed evenly and access to some areas is limited. The parklands of Castletown, St. Wolstan's and Donaghcumper dominate the eastern edge of town, with little to the west. The areas of public open space within the various residential estates of the town largely are incidental areas with limited functionality. These spaces offer little in the way of support for recreation or biodiversity. Open space and parkland represents an important component of a sustainable town as they contribute to the amenity of the area, as well as providing for the health and well-being of residents and encouraging ecology. The Celbridge LAP aims to support the provision of a hierarchy of high quality multi-functional public open spaces within Celbridge, and to preserve and protect such spaces through the appropriate zoning of lands.



CELBRIDGE PROJECT AREA

-  Main Street/Castletown Avenue/Tea lane Urban Realm Improvemnts
-  Key Development Area Outlined in LAP
-  Historic Landscape/Building Complex - To be sensitively developed as public amenity
-  Public Parks/Amenity areas/Green Verge
-  Existing Pedestrian/Cyclist Route
-  Proposed Pedestrian/Cyclist Route
-  Train Station
-  Childrens Park