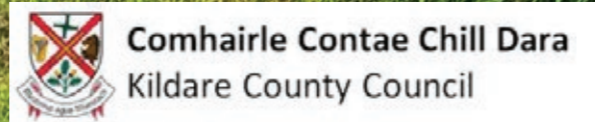


Clane

Town Centre First Plan

POTENTIAL PROJECTS

February 2024



Theme 1

Movement & Connectivity

Potential Projects:

- MC 1: IMPROVED PERMEABILITY**
- MC 2: PEDESTRIAN PRIORITY IMPROVEMENTS**
- MC 3: TRANSPORT STUDY FOR CLANE**
- MC 4: IMPROVED LOCAL PARKING**
- MC 5: SCHOOL ZONE TREATMENT**
- MC 6: WALKABILITY AUDIT**
- MC 7: WAYFINDING STRATEGY**

Projects identified in this section are conceptual only and are subject to appropriate planning consents and further investigation and consultation processes prior to detail design stage.

Movement & Connectivity

MC 1 IMPROVED PERMEABILITY

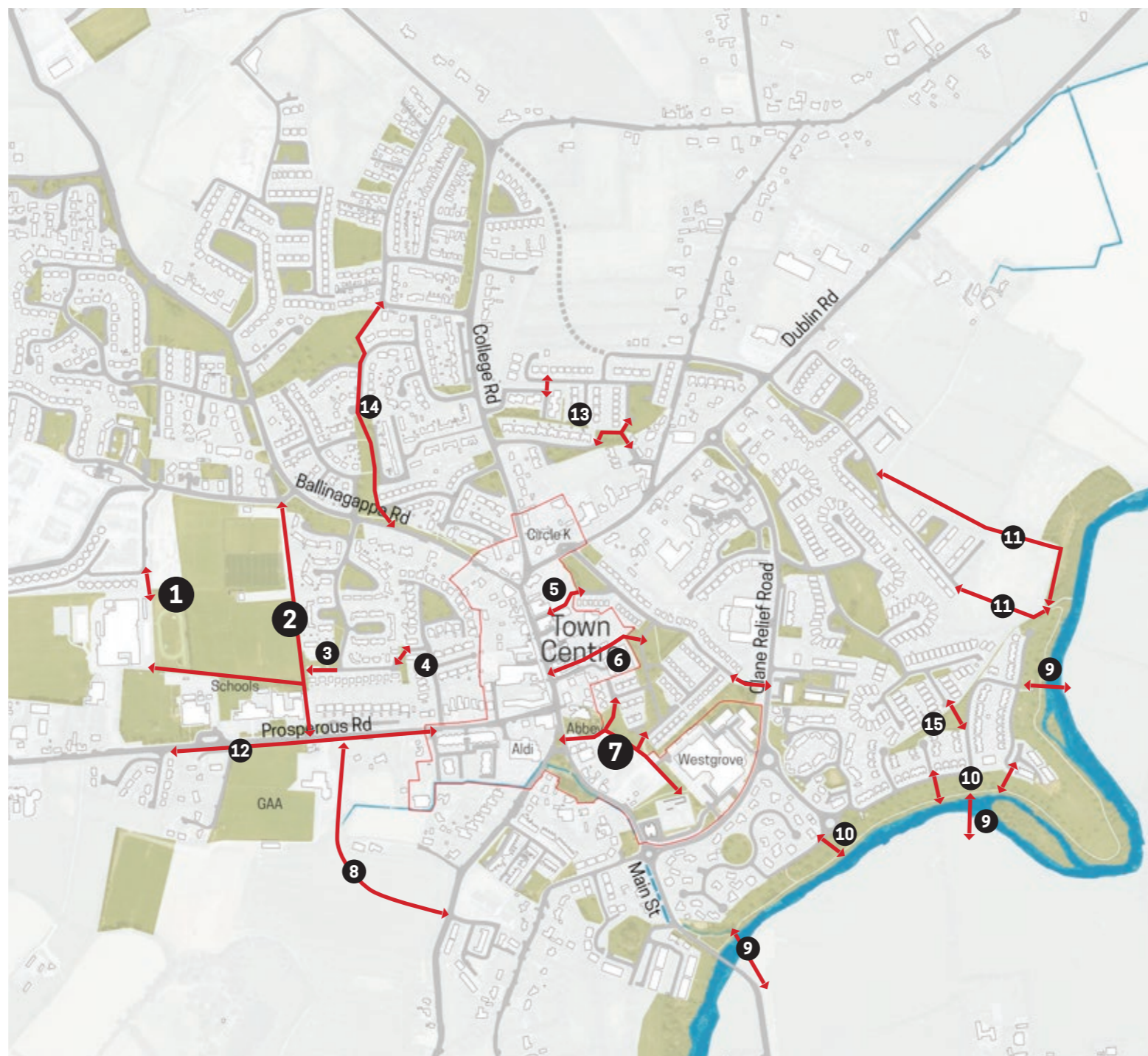
Public consultation and observations from an analysis indicated there is no opportunity for pedestrians or cyclists to travel between Main Street and its parallel streets or between Ballinagappa Road and schools which limit quick and convenient access to the town centre for Clane's residents and visitors. Such barriers tend to increase reliance on the private car.

Key Opportunities:

- The removal of permeability barriers would be a major gain for the Clane community, as the provision of these safe and attractive walking and cycling routes should significantly cut journey times.
- Key priority potential permeability links which should be examined and implemented would be no **1 & 2** connecting north-west part of the town (Ballinagappa Rd) with all schools on Prosperous Road, significantly shortening required travel distance and reducing need to drive to schools.
- And link no **7**, connecting Main Street and Abbeylands and providing alternative walking route between east part of the town and Main Street.

'Links to residential areas possible and vital to reduce the car traffic.'

'Footpath on one side only approaching the schools'



Potential Permeability Links:

- 1 Abbottfield to Scoil Mhuire
- 2 College Wood Manor to Prosperous Road
- 3 Ottomy to College Wood Manor Link
- 4 Ottomy Avenue to Liffey Lawns
- 5 Main Street to Central Park
- 6 Main Street to Churchfield
- 7 Main Street to Abbeylands/ Churchfield
- 8 Millicent Rd to Prosperous Rd (planned road)
- 9 Potential pedestrian bridges over River Liffey
- 10 Liffey Walk to Alexandra Manor/ Walk
- 11 Liffey Walk to Brooklands
- 12 Missing footpath on south side of Prosperous Road
- 13 Potential links within Capdoo Park
- 14 Looughbollard to Ballinagappa Rd
- 15 Abbey Park to Alexandra Walk

'Pedestrian access to the schools from Ballinagappa road would reduce traffic congestion considerably.'

Potential permeability links

Note: Any provision of potential permeability links are subject to further investigation prior to detailed design, third parties engagement and involvement, technical consideration, planning consent etc.

Movement & Connectivity

MC 2 PEDESTRIAN PRIORITY IMPROVEMENTS

In public opinion Clane town centre is generally dominated by vehicle traffic, to which pedestrian movement is secondary. Most road space is given over to vehicles, and there are few opportunities for pedestrians to safely follow desire lines that cross vehicle traffic. Concerns have been raised during public consultations about the need to improve pedestrian priority in the town.

Key Opportunities:

- Improve/upgrade existing pedestrian crossings.
- Provide new dedicated pedestrian crossings at critical/ desired locations.

'Clane is missing safety infrastructure for kids walking/cycling to and from school, including proper zebra crossing'

'If Pedestrians safety is prioritised, then parents will be happier not bringing cars to drop their children to school'



Potential new and upgraded pedestrian crossings (subject to further investigation)

- Crossing to be upgraded
- Potential new pedestrian crossing

Note: Potential proposals are subject to further investigation prior to detailed design, comprehensive traffic and transport assessment and technical consideration etc.

Potential locations of new pedestrian crossings (subject to further investigation)



(images source: Google Streetview)



Movement & Connectivity

MC 3 TRANSPORT STUDY FOR CLANE

‘Improving public transport would also minimize the traffic problems’

During the public consultation, several concerns were raised regarding traffic congestion, the presence of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) in the town centre, the necessity for enhanced public transport, and improved traffic management, including cycling facilities.

It is a recommendation of this plan to undertake a Transport Study for Clane, focusing on road infrastructure, public transportation services, cycling and walking facilities, traffic management, and sustainable transport initiatives. The study aims to improve mobility, alleviate congestion, enhance road safety, and promote sustainable transportation options to cater to the needs of both residents and businesses in the Clane.

Potential topics which could be investigated as part of Transport Study for Clane:

TOWN CENTRE HGVs BAN

HGV traffic travelling through the Main Street creates an unpleasant and hazardous environment for residents and visitors in Clane. The removal of HGVs should create a safer and more pleasant environment for users of the town centre.

IMPROVED PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Convenient and efficient public transport services are a core element of reducing dependency on motor vehicle.

Increasing the frequency of existing bus routes to to railway stations at Maynooth and Sallins with the Improvement of bus stop facilities would reduce the commuter trips made by car from and through Clane and thereby create an environment better suited to walking and cycling.

POTENTIAL ONE WAY SYSTEM ON MAIN STREET

In tandem with the potential HGV exclusion zone, consideration could be given to restricting all motor vehicle traffic along the northern section of Main Street (between the Prosperous Road junction and the Dublin Road / Ballinagappa Road junction) to one direction only which would improve pedestrian and cyclists safety and enhance environmental quality of the town’s public realm.

IMPROVED CYCLE NETWORK

Clane is a growing town and opportunities for improvements to the wider pedestrian and cycle network should be considered.

Opportunities exist for the enhancement of and creation of pedestrian and cycle infrastructure throughout Clane town centre to provide better connections and safe routes to surrounding existing and planned residential areas, shops and schools.

‘Walking on Main Street is no fun with all the Heavy Goods Vehicles pressing through the village. Really especially concerned about the kids walking to and from school.’

‘Traffic management solution / possible one way system to reduce volume. System would then allow space for proper cycle paths widths that children can use. That are connected throughout the town.’

‘More dedicated cycle lanes.’

Existing Context



Movement & Connectivity

MC 4 IMPROVED LOCAL PARKING

It is intended that the extent of parking on Main Street should be rationalised in the future. Parking on Main Street should be re-arranged to support adjacent business activities in parallel bays rather than perpendicular bays.

Key Opportunities:

- Perpendicular parking re-arranged to parallel.
- Vehicle movements simplified to increase road safety and to reduce congestion.
- Dedicated parking to the rear of Main Street should counter-act the removal of some spaces on the Main Street.
- Improved signage directing drivers to off street carparks.
- Age friendly/ Disabled/Accessible spaces/ Loading should be catered for and prioritised on Main Street.
- Freed up space should be dedicated to public realm improvements such as greening, seating, space for relaxing etc.
- Greater use of off street parking in car parks adjacent to Main Street ie. old Supervalu car park.
- Improved environmental quality of the town's public realm.
- Provision of real time information about the available parking.
- Introduction of EV charging spaces.
- Potential seasonal parklets on Main Street to support food and beverage offer in the town.

'Reduce street parking'



The existing parking arrangement where cars reverse into Main Street traffic flow is hazardous and adds to traffic congestion. The existing car parking arrangement also dominates the streetscape, restricts footpath space which could be expanded for the enjoyment of the public realm.



'Remove angled parking spaces in Main Street that create congestion when cars are reversing out of spaces.'

'Parking on Main Street... reversing out into traffic is dangerous'

Available off street carparks in direct vicinity of Main Street

Movement & Connectivity

MC 5 SCHOOL ZONE TREATMENT

School zones represent discrete sections of the street network at which it is particularly beneficial to introduce pedestrian-priority measures, and to reduce on-street parking.

In Clane, such treatment could be implemented along the section of Prosperous Road on which are located the accesses to Scoil Bhríde, Scoil Mhuire, Scoil Phádraig, and Clane GAA club.



(Google Streetview)
Prosperous Rd Existing Context

‘Safe route to schools funding.’

Key Opportunities:

- Prioritise immediate provision of continuous footpaths along both sides of the Prosperous Road from the town centre.
- Local speed limit restriction.
- Protected cycle lanes connecting to wider cycle network.
- Control of on-street parking (particularly at drop-off and collection times).
- Road carriageway narrowing.
- Kerb build-outs and footpath widening outside school entrances.
- Surface colour/texture change.
- Distinctive signage.
- Controlled pedestrian and cyclist crossings near school entrances.
- Improved street lighting.



School Zone treatments examples: Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Programme

Note: School Zone treatments are subject to detailed design, traffic studies, engagement with private landowners, technical consideration and planning consent etc.

Movement & Connectivity

MC 6 WALKABILITY AUDIT

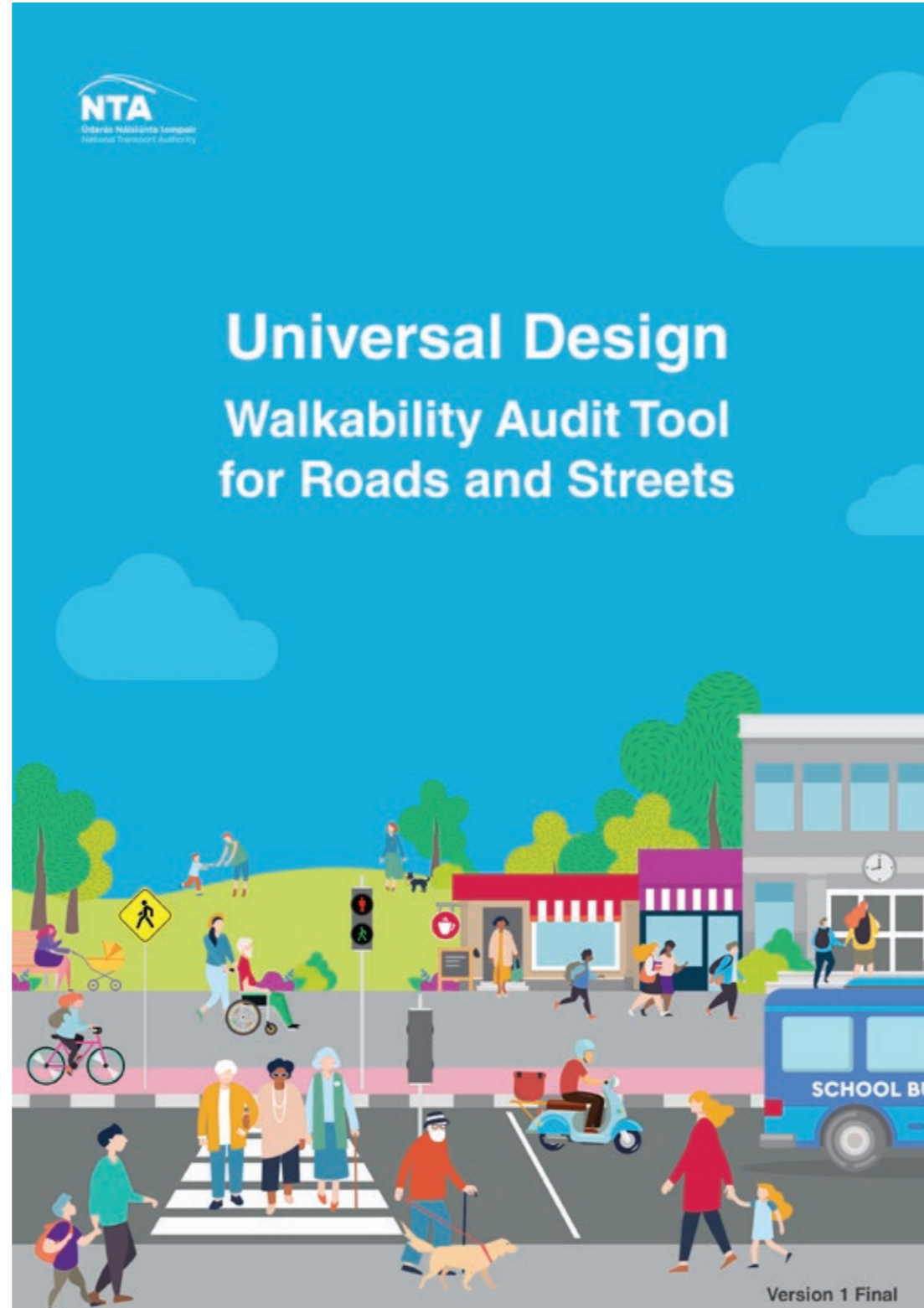
Public consultation and observations from an analysis of pedestrian infrastructure within and around Clane, identified opportunities to improve accessibility for vulnerable road users.

Measures to be explored include:

- Footpaths resurfacing and widening.
- Improvements for vehicular accesses and street-adjacent parking areas.
- Introduction of new pedestrian crossing facilities in critical locations.
- Enhanced intervisibility and pedestrian priority etc.

Key Action:

- A full Walkability Audit should be conducted throughout the town centre area, following National Transport Authority guidelines, to identify all such infrastructure elements that require improvement. These deficiencies should then be remedied, either in isolation or as part of more comprehensive improvement schemes.



- Participant's Details
- Footpaths
- Facilities
- Crossing the Road
- Road-User Behaviour
- Safety
- Look and Feel
- Outside the School Gates
- After the Audit
- Recommendations
- Maps
- Photographs

Movement & Connectivity

MC 7 WAYFINDING STRATEGY

A Town Wayfinding Strategy is a system to guide and direct people within a town. It typically includes signage, maps, and other visual cues to help residents and visitors navigate the urban environment efficiently.

Key Actions:

- A comprehensive review of existing directional signage in the town centre.
- Evaluate the town's layout, key landmarks, and popular destinations.
- Implement clear and visible signage at strategic locations, including street signs and directional markers.
- Explore digital options, such as mobile apps or interactive kiosks.
- Integrate technology for real-time updates and personalized navigation.
- Ensure the wayfinding system is accessible to people of all abilities.
- Gather feedback and make adjustments based on user experience.
- Establish a plan for ongoing maintenance and updates.

'Walking routes could be identified around the village and displayed.'



Potential key locations for wayfinding signage



Wayfinding signage examples

Theme 2

Public Realm & Built Environment

Potential Projects:

- PE 1: MAIN STREET UPGRADE**
- PE 2: THE ABBEY & MILLICENT RD**
- PE 3: PROSPEROUS RD EAST END**
- PE 4: MAIN STREET NORTH JUNCTION**

Projects identified in this section are conceptual only and are subject to appropriate planning consents and further investigation and consultation processes prior to detail design stage.

Public Realm & Built Environment

PE 1 MAIN STREET UPGRADE



 Location of potential project

'Develop Main Street and town centre into an accessible place focused on pedestrians, cyclists and public transport'

'Reduce parking on Main Street to facilitate better traffic flow and eliminate tailbacks. Or one way system'

'Pedestrians should be given priority on the main street and the surface material/public realm should reflect this.'

Main Street is a key historic street in the town with a number of protected buildings along. It's a busy area with visually appealing building facades, shop fronts, and various businesses. However, many areas suffer from outdated and deteriorating surfaces. Perpendicular parking is hazardous as vehicles must reverse into traffic, causing additional congestion. Additionally, parked cars visually dominate the street due to the wide carriageway.

Key Opportunities:

- Improve a historic identity of Main Street as an attractive and active village street with elements of greening.
- Re-balance the provision for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicular traffic and improve safety for all and permeability along and across the street which will support active and sustainable travel choices.
- Improve streetscape by using high quality paving, lighting, planting, public art, bicycle parking and street furniture .

Existing Context



Public Realm & Built Environment

PE 1 MAIN STREET UPGRADE (OPTION A: SHARED STREET)



Note: Proposals are illustrative only (subject to further investigation prior to detailed design, traffic studies, technical consideration and planning consent etc.)

Key Potential Features:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cyclists/vehicles shared street with central textured strip in the road that prompts drivers to take extra care 2. Widened footpaths with tree planting (subject to underground utilities) 3. Relocated pedestrian crossing (occasional church access retained) 4. Potential dedicated outdoor dining areas | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Relocated bus stop with proposed bus shelter and bicycle stands 6. Rearranged parking/loading bays (age friendly/ disabled and short stay priority) 7. Series of raingardens and raised planters along the street with public seating 8. Pedestrian priority access treatment (continuous footpath) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Potential to remove church railing and open up pedestrian access to front of church square 10. Unique treatment raised table street in front of Church of St. Patrick & St. Brigid 11. Bicycle parking 12. Potential seasonal outdoor dining area (on street parking) |
|---|---|---|

Public Realm & Built Environment

PE 1 MAIN STREET UPGRADE (OPTION A: SHARED STREET)



Note: Proposals are illustrative only (subject to further investigation prior to detailed design, traffic studies, technical consideration and planning consent etc.)

Public Realm & Built Environment

PE 1 MAIN STREET UPGRADE (OPTION B: ONE WAY STREET WITH CYCLEWAY)



Note: Proposals are illustrative only (subject to further investigation prior to detailed design, traffic studies, technical consideration and planning consent etc.)

Key Potential Features:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1-way vehicular traffic arrangement 2. Widened footpaths with tree planting (subject to underground utilities) 3. Relocated pedestrian crossing (occasional church access retained) 4. Potential dedicated outdoor dining areas 5. Relocated bus stop with proposed bus shelter and bicycle stands | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Rearranged parking/loading bays (age friendly/ disabled and short stay only) 7. Series of raingardens and raised planters along the street with public seating 8. Pedestrian priority access treatment (continuous footpath) 9. Potential to remove church railing and open up pedestrian access to front of church square | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Special treatment raised table street in front of Church of St. Patrick & St. Brigid 11. 2-way segregated cycle track with buffer to parking |
|---|--|---|

Public Realm & Built Environment

PE 1 MAIN STREET UPGRADE (OPTION B: ONE WAY STREET WITH CYCLEWAY)



Note: Proposals are illustrative only (subject to further investigation prior to detailed design, traffic studies, technical consideration and planning consent etc.)

Public Realm & Built Environment

PE 1 MAIN STREET UPGRADE POTENTIAL (OPTIONS A & B)



OPTION A: SHARED STREET

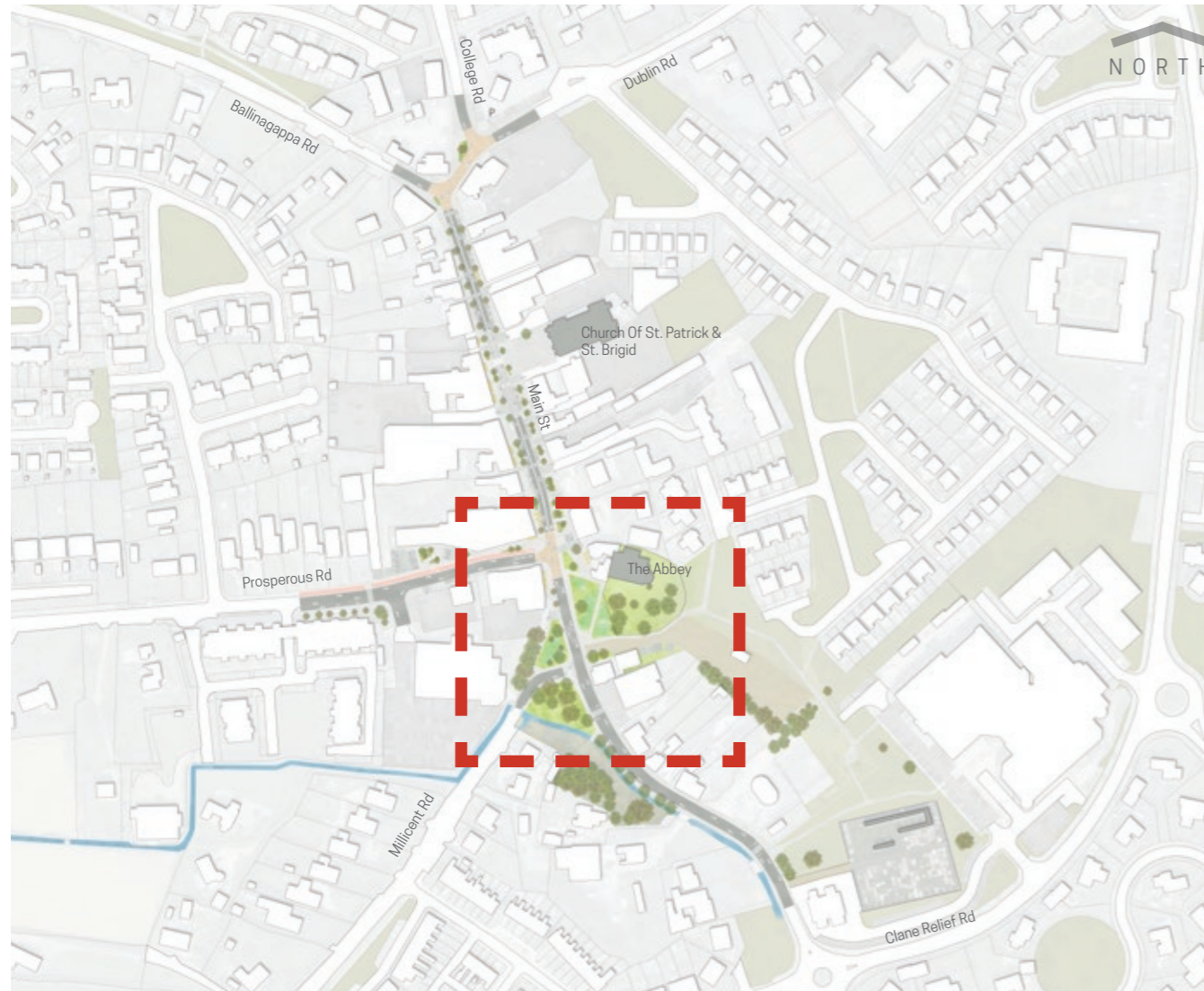


OPTION B: ONE WAY STREET WITH CYCLEWAY

Note: Proposals are illustrative only (subject to further investigation prior to detailed design, traffic studies, technical consideration and planning consent etc.)

Public Realm & Built Environment

PE 2 THE ABBEY & MILLICENT RD UPGRADES



 Location of potential project

Note: The Conservation Management Plan for the Abbey is currently being prepared and could help to guide any potential future works around The Abbey as part of Town Centre First Plan.

The primary approach to the town centre from the south is characterised by the prominent presence of The Abbey, a significant historic structure in the town.

Unfortunately the presence of overhead wires and the poor condition of existing surfaces detract from the overall aesthetic appeal of the area.

Additionally, there are two small green spaces situated at the junction between Main Street and Millicent Road which could be upgraded.

The existing playground in this area is dated and could benefit from renovation.

Key Opportunities:

- Improve a historic identity of Clane by upgrading area around The Abbey and Millicent Road to create good first impressions when arriving to Town Centre.
- Re-balance the provision for pedestrians, and vehicular traffic and improve safety for all with potential new links and pedestrian crossings which will support active and sustainable travel choices.
- Improve streetscape by undergrounding overhead cables, using high quality paving, lighting, planting, public art and street furniture.
- Further investigation of the potential interventions at Millcent Road junction is recommended.

Existing Context



Public Realm & Built Environment

PE 2 THE ABBEY & MILLICENT RD UPGRADES



Key Potential Features:

1. Raised table junction in contrasting surface
2. Dedicated outdoor dining area and bicycle parking
3. Existing carriageway width reduced to minimum required
4. Widened footpaths
5. Management of grassland wild meadow
6. New pedestrian path
7. Bus shelter
8. Small public space with interpretive signage and seating
9. New path along Abbey wall connecting to Churchfield and Abbeylands
10. Vehicular access retained (pedestrian priority treatment)
11. Relocated vehicular access to Breeza Bar (pedestrian priority treatment)
12. Existing access road closed
13. Extended green space with additional planting
14. New footpath
15. Junction tightening with pedestrian priority treatment (raised table continuous footpath)
16. Potential to upgrade existing green space with new surfaces and street furniture ie. picnic tables
17. New raised table pedestrian crossing (access to Country Market Store unobstructed)
18. Playground general upgrade (potential for small skate park)

Note: Proposals are illustrative only (subject to further investigation prior to detailed design, traffic studies, engagement with private landowners, technical & archaeological consideration and planning consent etc.)

Public Realm & Built Environment

PE 2 THE ABBEY & MILLICENT RD UPGRADES POTENTIAL



Note: Proposals are illustrative only (subject to further investigation prior to detailed design, traffic studies, engagement with private landowners, technical & archaeological consideration and planning consent etc.)

Public Realm & Built Environment

PE 3 PROSPEROUS RD EAST END UPGRADE



 Location of potential project

‘Creation of a public square at Hughes Pharmacy along the Prosperous Road’

‘A safe corridor for children to travel to school. At present the Prosperous Road is a death trap to children cycling.’

A key street leading to schools experiences heavy traffic and large pedestrian footfall during morning and afternoon peak hours.

On the north side, the footpath is disrupted by multiple accesses and parking causing pedestrian safety concerns.

The area boasts a high level of activity, featuring visually appealing building facades, shop-fronts, and various businesses.

However, the public realm is dominated by cars, contributing to its congested appearance.

Key Opportunities:

- Potential to transform the space in front of Hughes Pharmacy to an area where the public can shop and relax. Opportunities to re-arrange parking.
- Opportunity to improve safety and movement between Main Street and schools through provision of segregated cycle track. (subject to detailed Movement and Transportation Studies)
- Improve streetscape by using high quality paving, lighting, planting, public art, bicycle parking and street furniture.
- Widen footpaths along the street.
- Introduce pedestrian priority vehicle accesses (continuous footpath).

Existing Context



Public Realm & Built Environment

PE 3 PROSPEROUS RD EAST END UPGRADE



Key Potential Features:

1. 2-way street, carriageway width reduced to required minimum
2. 2-way segregated cycle track
3. Rearranged and resurfaced carpark
4. Vehicular access and parking retained and resurfaced
5. New small public plaza with seating, public art and greening
6. Widened pedestrian space in front of retail/commercial frontage
7. Raingardens/ raised planters with tree planting
8. Bicycle parking
9. Raised table junction in contrasting surface
10. Widened footpath
11. Pedestrian priority access treatment (continuous footpath)
12. New pedestrian crossing
13. Relocated bus bay to allow for pedestrian crossing with proposed bus shelter
14. Additional parking
15. Potential dedicated outdoor dining areas

Note: Proposals are illustrative only (subject to further investigation prior to detailed design, traffic studies, engagement with private landowners, technical consideration and planning consent etc.)

Public Realm & Built Environment

PE 3 PROSPEROUS RD EAST END UPGRADE POTENTIAL



Note: Proposals are illustrative only (subject to further investigation prior to detailed design, traffic studies, engagement with private landowners, technical consideration and planning consent etc.)

Public Realm & Built Environment

PE 4 MAIN STREET NORTH JUNCTION



 Location of potential project

‘The junction at Manzors for the Kilcock road is dangerous for pedestrians, the layout could be updated with potentially the addition of a pedestrian crossings.’

Key junction in the town centre which is heavily congested, with wide carriageways and generous turning radiuses accommodating HGV movements.

Pedestrian crossings are insufficient, despite very high foot traffic.

Additionally, footpaths are narrow in some areas, causing major pedestrian safety concerns.

Key Opportunities:

- Improve pedestrian safety with additional pedestrian crossings.
- Reduce carriageway width and tighten turning radiuses to minimum required in conjunction with potential HGVs ban on Main Street (subject to detailed autotracking).
- Widen footpaths.
- Improve streetscape by using high quality materials.
- Alternative potential to redevelop corner opportunity site between College Rd and Ballinagappa Rd which could accommodate new pedestrian plaza with planting and, with new buildings set back, providing wider footpaths on both sides of the road.
- Option to provide raised table treatment in contrasting color surface.
- Further investigation of the potential interventions that could be implemented in long-term is recommended.

Existing Context



Public Realm & Built Environment

PE 4 MAIN STREET NORTH JUNCTION (OPTION A & B)



Note: Proposals are illustrative only (subject to further investigation prior to detailed design, traffic studies, engagement with private landowners, technical consideration and planning consent etc.)

Option A: Using Existing Available Space

1. Reduced carriageway width to minimum required in contrasting surface
2. New pedestrian crossings
3. Tightened turning radiuses to minimum required (subject to detailed autotracking)
4. Widened footpaths at critical locations
5. Greening opportunities

Option B: Potential Opportunity Site Re-Development

1. Remodeled raised table junction in contrasting surface
2. Generous width footpaths
3. Pedestrian crossings
4. High quality pedestrian plaza with planting and public seating
5. Dedicated areas for outdoor dining
6. Additional greening opportunities
7. Potential new 3/4 storey multi-use building with active use frontage
8. Potential to refurbish derelict protected structure
9. Car park serving new building

Public Realm & Built Environment

PE 4 MAIN STREET NORTH JUNCTION POTENTIAL (OPTION B)



Note: Proposals are illustrative only (subject to further investigation prior to detailed design, traffic studies, engagement with private landowners, technical consideration and planning consent etc.)

Theme 3

Heritage & Identity

Potential Projects:

- HI 1: TOWN BRAND AND PROMOTION**
- HI 2: SHOPFRONTS ENHANCEMENT STRATEGY**
- HI 3: TOWN CENTRE EVENTS PROGRAMME**
- HI 4: CELEBRATING CLANE'S HERITAGE**
- HI 5: TOWN CENTRE GATEWAYS**
- HI 6: PUBLIC ART OPPORTUNITIES**

Projects identified in this section are conceptual only and are subject to appropriate planning consents and further investigation and consultation processes prior to detail design stage.

Heritage & Identity

HI 1 TOWN BRAND AND PROMOTION

Clane possesses a wealth of offerings for residents, visitors, and organizations. There is ample potential to elevate the town's profile and showcase its assets and attractions by implementing a cohesive 'place-brand' strategy.

Key Actions:

- Prepare Clane Town Brand Strategy which must align with broader Kildare County Council aims with regard for desire for county wide branding.
- Pursue the promotion and marketing of Clane on local, national, and international levels.
- Creating, designing, and consistently managing a specialised website and social media channels.
- Conducting periodic branding and event campaigns across social media, the web, and print, encompassing events like music festivals, markets and heritage weeks.
- Organization of regular events, exhibitions, and festivals.



Heritage & Identity

HI 2 SHOPFRONTS ENHANCEMENT STRATEGY

Shopfronts play a crucial role in shaping the character, quality, and perception of streets in towns and villages across the country. The objective is to advocate for high-quality shopfronts and encourage the incorporation of key design principles in the redevelopment or upgrading of such properties.

Clane is home to several traditional shopfronts that have preserved many essential features. The plan aims to address the enhancement of shopfronts and facades, with a specific focus on the Main Street.

Key Actions:

- Undertake a high level building survey for Clane to identify shop fronts that are in need of sensitive refurbishment.
- Identify traditional shop fronts and seek to conserve using best conservation principles.
- Ensure shopfront improvement works align with heritage and conservation considerations and have regard to Kildare County Council Shopfront Guidelines.
- Collaborate with local businesses and property owners to assist them in exploring options for improvements and provide support in securing grant funding for shopfront improvements.



(Google Streetview)

Clane's quality shopfronts



(Google Streetview)



(Google Streetview)



Examples of shopfronts for improvement



'The Main Street of Clane used to be beautiful, the emergence of tacky fronted business has taken a lot of this away, having a strict store front policy (no plastic signs etc) would really help'

'Protect the traditional shop fronts and buildings such as Jones pub.'

Heritage & Identity

HI 3 TOWN CENTRE EVENTS PROGRAMME



The events programme is a powerful tool for community engagement, acting as a catalyst for social cohesion and inclusivity. It brings people from different walks of life together, providing a shared space for enjoyment, learning and building connections. Through these events, the unique identity and vibrancy of the community are not only celebrated but also strengthened.

Preparation of the plan has demonstrated that Clane benefits from an active and engaged local community who cares passionately about their town and its future.

Key Actions:

- In conjunction with improvements to key public spaces, the Town Team and other local groups could develop events programme for the town.
- This programme could encompass a variety of activities, including recurring farmer's markets and diverse musical and cultural events.
- The events programme should undergo continuous assessment and be promoted through local channels to ensure its ongoing success.
- Programme should also support local traders to enhance the offering available at the market and seek to attract further artisan producers to trade at the markets.



Potential locations for Town Centre events

- 1 Main Street (option to close for traffic during events)
- 2 Church Of St. Patrick & St. Brigid front plaza
- 3 Old Convent backland parking and green lawn

'I would love to see more spaces for community events'

'Perhaps community events and festivals would be a good way to connect the people.'

Precedent examples:



Country Market, Schull



St. Nicholas Market Church Lane, Galway



Fair Green Carpark Market, Navan

Heritage & Identity

Town Centre Events Potential Locations



Church Of St. Patrick & St. Brigid front plaza (before and with potential community market)

Old Convent backland parking and green lawn (before and with potential community market/event)

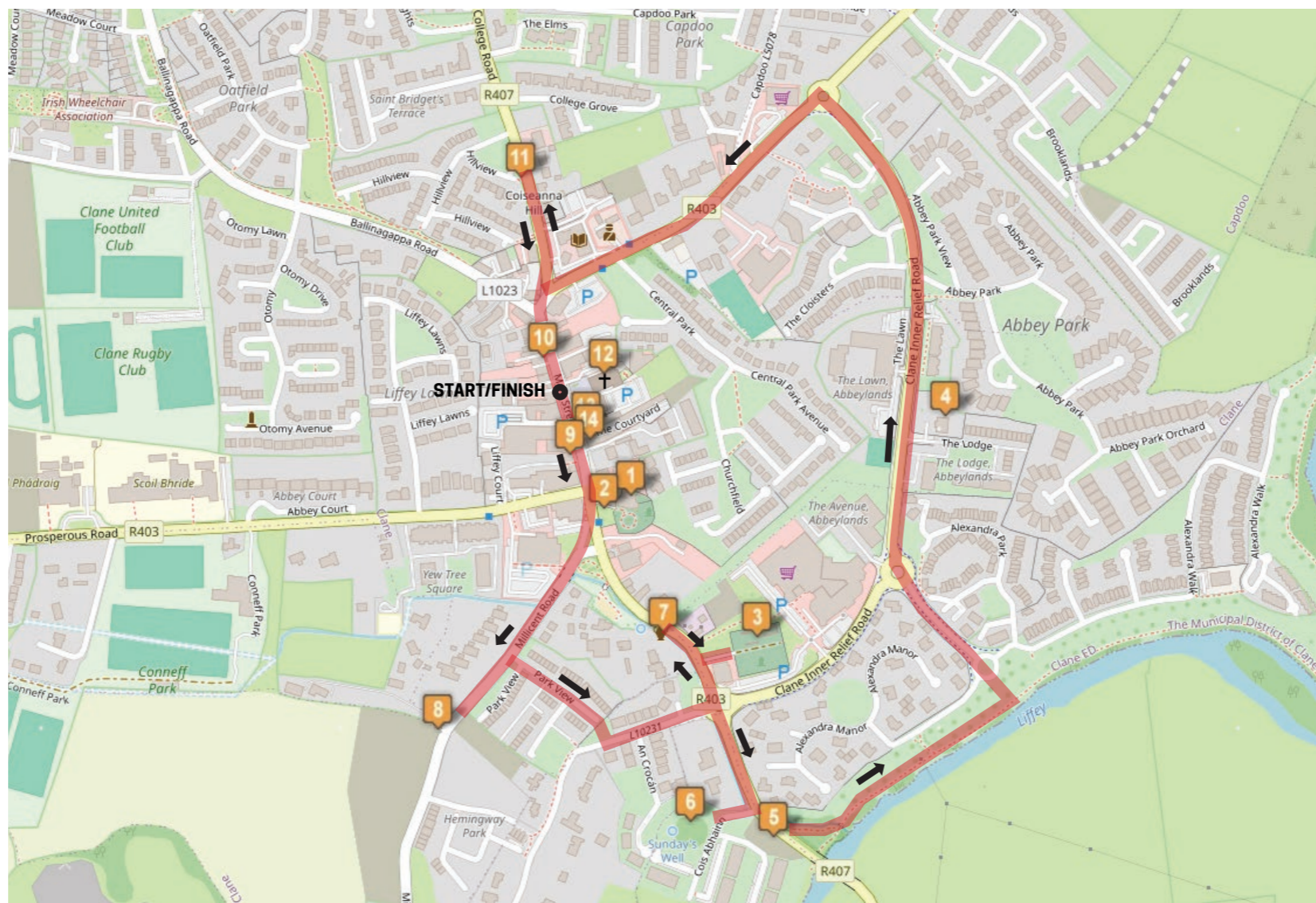
Heritage & Identity

HI 4 CELEBRATING CLANE HERITAGE

Research and public engagement undertaken as part of the Clane Town Centre First Plan has identified a wealth of archaeological and architectural heritage assets in Clane including The Abbey, Friary, Church of St. Patrick and Brigid etc.

Key Actions:

- Audit existing heritage signage around the town.
- Develop signage in line with Kildare County Council signage and branding approach.
- Identify locations around Clane where interpretive panels and plaques could be mounted with consent of all relevant property owners.
- With the help of the Town Team and Clane community, a heritage trail route could be explored along existing and new walking routes around Clane town centre.
- Work with the Town Team to help to promote the Heritage trail. Introduce consistency between online mapping/apps, leaflets etc.



- 1 The Abbey Community Centre
- 2 Fr. John Sullivan Memorial
- 3 Friary and Abbey Cemetery
- 4 Abbeylands House
- 5 McCracken's Woollen Mills
- 6 Norman Motte
- 7 Bullaun Stone
- 8 MillenniumCross
- 9 Dr. Flanagan's House
- 10 Old Garda Barracks
- 11 1798 Memorial
- 12 Church of St. Patrick and Brigid
- 13 The Old Court House
- 14 RIC Barracks

Potential heritage trail in Clane



Examples of interpretation signage

Heritage & Identity

HI 5 TOWN CENTRE GATEWAYS

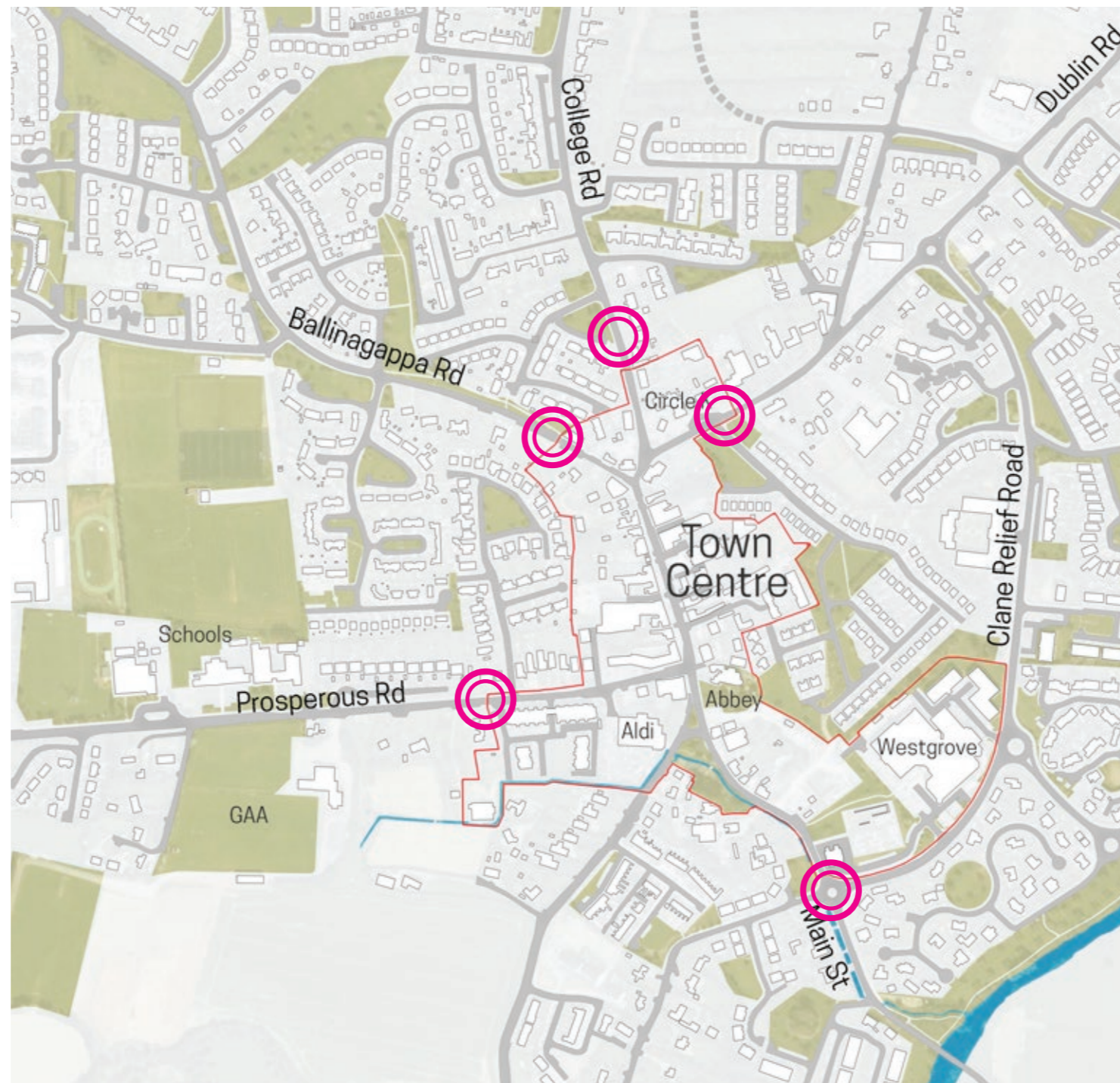
An integral aspect of place making involves the creation of enhanced signage that effectively communicates a sense of arrival. This plan advocates for the development of designed signage, specifically aimed at establishing a distinct sense of arrival within Clane Town Centre.

Concerns have been raised during public consultation about the low quality of entry points, lacking a distinct sense of arrival to the town centre, and there is a recognised need for improvement in these areas.

Key Opportunities:

- Traffic calming/ narrowing of the road at gateway locations.
- Town identity signs.
- Road platform with contrasting road surface.
- Associated landscaping.
- Sculpture or art, referencing Clane's brand, culture and history.
- All works must align with broader Kildare County Council aims with regard for desire for county wide branding.

Note: Kildare County Council recently delivered gateway signage projects in Kilcock and Prosperous with a plan to expand this template across other towns and villages including Clane.



Town Centre gateway signage potential locations (subject to further investigation)



Town gateways art ideas



(Google Streetview)

Precedent: Prosperous gateway (under construction, 2023)

Heritage & Identity

HI 6 PUBLIC ART OPPORTUNITIES

Public art refers to any art object, installation, or activity, whether permanent or temporary, found in public spaces and created by artists or craftspeople.

Public art in Clane town centre, as throughout the town, can play an integral part in the overall public realm. It can take many forms from bespoke lighting, to street furniture and paving elements, as well as specific interventions.

Key Actions:

- In collaboration with Kildare County Council Arts Service implement appropriate public art which would make a meaningful contribution to Clane's identity and foster a sense of pride within the community.
- Explore scope for provision of public art that captivates the public's imagination.
- Establish opportunities for art programming and explore opportunities to facilitate artists in exhibiting or performing in public spaces.
- Integration of works by artists and craftspeople into building structures or landscaping, which can include two-dimensional elements.
- Limit the installation of large-scale sculptures or art pieces in areas of the town where reducing visual clutter is the primary goal.
- Incorporate public art into the planning and design of key development areas and sites, including its integration within high-quality public spaces.



Public art examples and ideas

Theme 4

Activities & Use

Potential Projects:

AU 1: PLAYGROUND UPGRADE

AU 2: LIFFEY PARK OPPORTUNITIES

AU 3: RECREATIONAL ROUTES

AU 4: VACANCY & POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITY SITES

Projects identified in this section are conceptual only and are subject to appropriate planning consents and further investigation and consultation processes prior to detail design stage.

Activities & Use

AU 1 PLAYGROUND UPGRADE

According to the school workshops and public consultation, existing town centre playground is very popular amongst the children, but over a number of years play equipment and ground surfaces have become worn and in need of refurbishment.

It is an intention of the Plan to promote upgrade and refurbishment of the existing playground which would meet the needs of the community and creates a safe, enjoyable, and inclusive play environment.

Key Actions:

- Evaluate the current playground for safety and functionality.
- Gather community feedback to understand specific concerns, needs and preferences.
- Collaborate with a playground designer to create an inclusive and engaging design.
- Consider age-appropriate play features, accessibility, and thematic elements.
- Ensure the playground is accessible to individuals with disabilities.
- Enhance the playground's visual appeal with landscaping.
- Develop a comprehensive plan for regular inspections and repairs.
- Plan community events or a grand opening to celebrate the upgraded playground.



Existing playground



'The playground is a focal point of Clane and has not been looked after in years it needs to be fixed and improved'

Activities & Use

AU 2 LIFFEY PARK OPPORTUNITIES

Community engagement has identified a public aspiration to unlock and improve the linear parkland along River Liffey for enhanced recreational facilities.

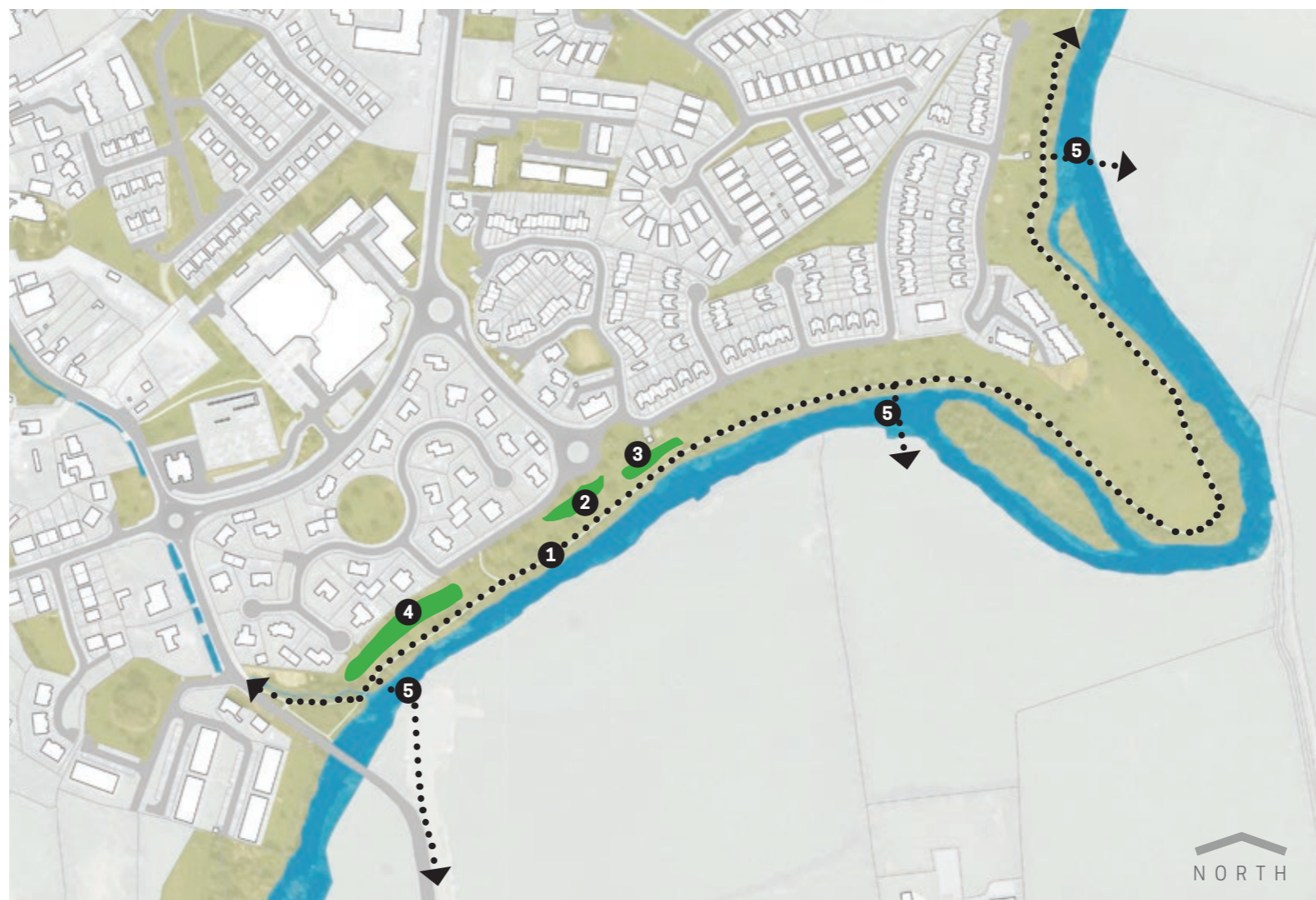
Potential improvements should promote a strong connection between the community and the natural assets.

Key Opportunities:

- Explore options for upgrading existing walking route with dedicated cycling facility.
- Option to provide picnic and bbq area with elements of covered seating.
- Potential for dog park and outdoor gym.
- Opportunity to introduce waymarker posts used as direction route marking.
- Introduce appropriate reduced lighting along walking/cycling route.
- Due to ecological sensitivity of the area, any proposals would need to be consulted with ecologist and comply with IFI guidelines.

'A generous and nicely appointed park for all preferably utilising the Liffey, a completely underutilised amenity'

'Build a dog play park, training ground.'



- 1 Upgraded pedestrian/ cyclists
- 2 Dedicated picnic/ bbq area with sheltered seating (alternative location for community allotments)
- 3 Potential location for outdoor gym
- 4 Dedicated dog-friendly park
- 5 Pedestrian bridges over River Liffey (indicative locations)

Note: Proposals are illustrative only (subject to further investigation prior to detailed design, technical & ecological consideration and planning consent etc.)



Cycleway



Outdoor gym



Dog friendly park



Sheltered seating

Activities & Use

AU 2 LIFFEY PARK OPPORTUNITIES



Liffey Walk: As Existing



Liffey Walk: Potential

Note: Proposals are illustrative only (subject to further investigation prior to detailed design, technical & ecological consideration and planning consent etc.)

Activities & Use

AU 3 RECREATIONAL ROUTES

'Clane is crying out for new safe walking trails.'



Community engagement and public survey have identified the aspiration to develop a wider network of recreational routes around the town connected to the existing routes in the Town Centre.

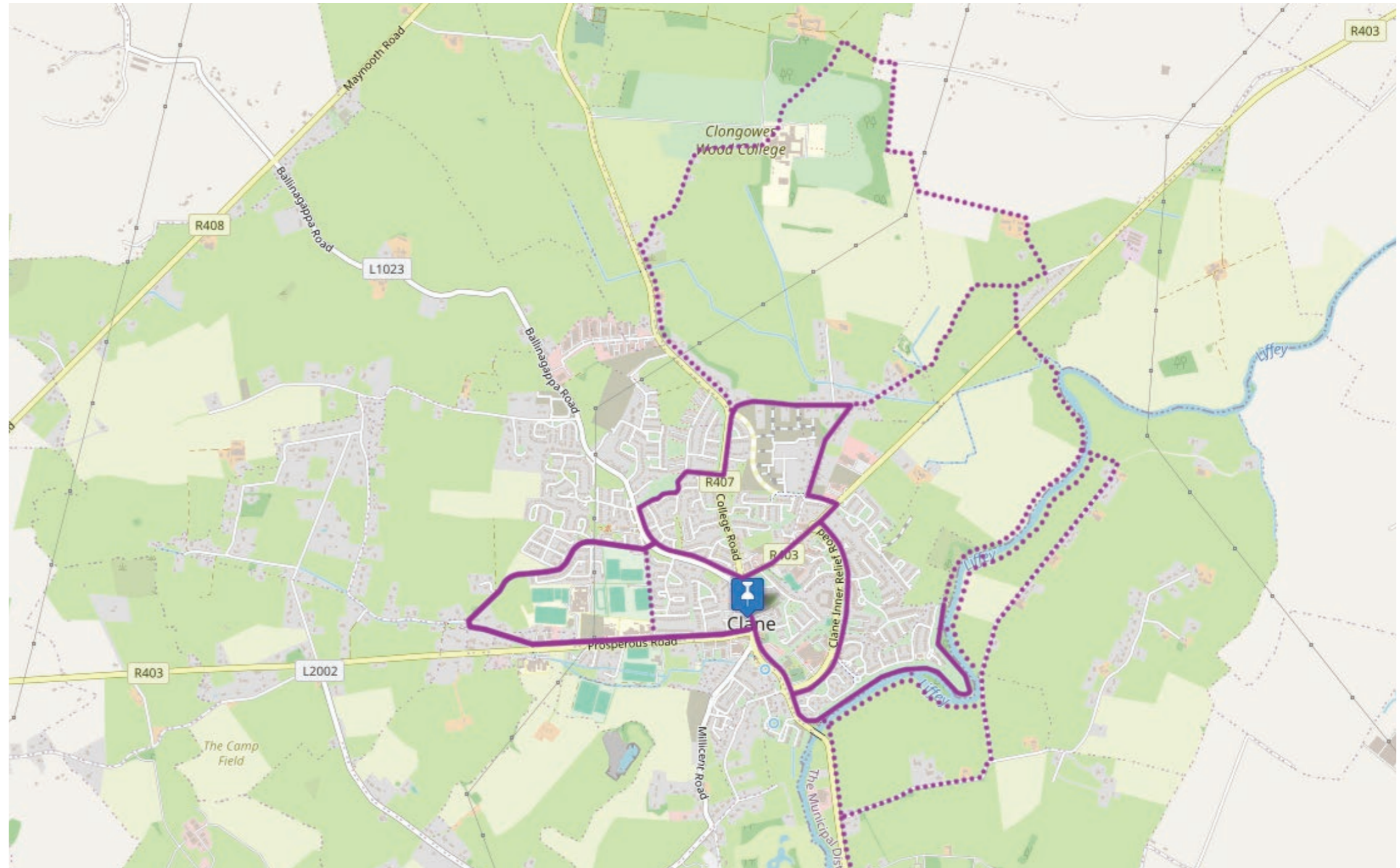
Proposed routes would be used for active recreation, potentially including hiking, cycling and mountain biking.

Number of potential connected routes were identified on the map to the right.

Potential routes are indicative only and would include extensive consultations with a number of stakeholders.

Key Opportunities:

- 3 indicative looped routes were identified to the north and east side of the town running through Clongowes Wood and along River Liffey.
- Potential long term walking/cycling route along R407 connecting Clane with Sallins.
- Engagement required with Kildare County Council, Clongowes Wood and other relevant private landowners to explore the feasibility of cycling and walking activities and trails using the identified routes.
- Opportunity to introduce waymarker posts used as direction route marking for potential walking/cycling routes.



Network of recreational walking 'loops'

- Existing walking 'loops' and routes
- Potential new routes connecting with existing network (indicative only)

Note: Proposed routes are illustrative only (subject to further investigation prior to detailed design)

Activities & Use

AU 4 VACANCY AND POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITY SITES

Targeting programme to address vacancy and dereliction is a key priority under the national Town Centre First policy framework.

The primary approach to dealing with vacant and derelict sites should be for property owners to proactively undertake significant measures, such as refurbishment or selling the properties. In cases where this proactive step is not taken, and initial engagement by the Council does not yield progress, the acquisition of properties through mutual agreement or, if necessary, compulsory purchase, should be considered.

Key Opportunities:

- The reestablishment of former Clane Youth Club accommodating a range of uses for teenagers including a café, sports hall, gaming room, gymnasium, and general recreational spaces.
- Vacant buildings and sites in the town centre could provide additional, more central remote working space to complement existing Clane Project Centre ie. Old Convent, former AIB
- New cafés or restaurants in the town centre could significantly enhance its offerings in the town.
- Vacant properties within the town centre would be also suitable for high-end, craft, niche, and boutique shops.
- Option of converting a vacant buildings into an assisted living centre could also be explored ie. Old Convent

Key Actions:

- Collate a vacancy and dereliction survey and identify land and property owners.
- Begin dialogue with property owners, make them aware of available funding streams and discuss options for bringing the land/property back into active use.
- Where possible seek short term interventions such as façade painting and ‘pop-up’ or ‘meanwhile uses’.
- Identify potential funding opportunities with the Heritage Council and other relevant funding agencies to explore how public sector financial support might be secured.
- Any refurbishment of vacant or derelict buildings should have regard to Chapter 11 ‘Built & Cultural Heritage’, Appendix 5 and Appendix 6 contained within the Kildare County Development Plan 2023 – 2029 and to all relevant local and national Guidelines.

‘Can the old youth hall and library on the College Road be converted into a new youth hall for the 13 to 18 age bracket?’

‘Sort out the vacant properties on the Main Street - use for community use or convert for housing or tourism opportunities’

‘A digital hub where people could rent desk space to work remotely..’

Existing Context



Activities & Use

AU 4 VACANCY AND POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITY SITES

Research undertaken as part of the Clane Town Centre First Plan has also identified a range of potential sites which could be suitable for re-development.

The plan promotes efficient utilization of these infill and backland sites to introduce a variety of suitable town centre functions. These additions, encompassing retail/commercial opportunities, and innovative, compact housing types, are intended to infuse vitality into the town centre.

Key Opportunities:

- Encourage a diverse mix of residential, commercial and retail functions within the town centre.
- Embrace innovative and compact housing designs that cater to diverse demographics, promoting inclusivity and efficient use of space.
- Preserve and integrate historical and cultural assets into the town centre.
- Encourage a lively and active street front with a mix of retail establishments, cafes, and restaurants to create a bustling and attractive commercial core.



Potential opportunity infill sites within Town Centre

Note: Potential uses are subject to further investigation, engagement with private landowners and planning consent etc.)

Potential Uses:

- 1 Residential Infill
- 2 Mixed Use with active frontage
- 3 Residential Infill
- 4 Multi Use Events Space (optional carpark extension)
- 5 Residential/ Mixed Use Infill
- 6 Residential Infill
- 7 Residential Infill
- 8 Mixed Use with active frontage / Residential Infill