



Kilkenny County Council
Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

IN FOCUS

CALLAN TOWN

REGENERATION

Ár dTodhchaí
Tuaithe
Our Rural
Future



Kilkenny County Council selected Callan to pilot the “Framework for Town Centre Renewal” published by the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Conservation, Heather Humphries in 2016. The Council identified Callan as a priority location due to the severe decline in its economy and the dereliction in Mill Street and Bridge Street. Over the last five years Kilkenny County Council have had a key focus on addressing these issues through the targeting of investment and the development of proposals that are adding to the regeneration of Callan.

Callan has suffered over the past decade due to the economic decline and this is clearly evident in Bridge Street and Mill Street which accounts for many of Callan’s vacant premises. The vacancy rate in Callan has been high for commercial addresses in Kilkenny. The town also faced challenges in the context of unemployment and general deprivation. As with many county towns around Ireland, Callan has changed in recent years with the development of an industrial park away from the traditional town centre, a bypass, large scale residential developments out of the town centre, vacant properties (both commercial and residential) in the town centre, the closure of traditionally owned family businesses and underutilised heritage buildings.



In Callan we were delighted to have been the first town in Kilkenny where the setting up of a Town Team was formally established in 2018. This process in partnership with Kilkenny County Council has led to significant developments in the town over the last three years. The process has brought groups together in the town, all working towards implementing key actions that were identified following extensive consultations.

And with the support and expertise from Kilkenny County Council we are delighted to have been able to achieve over 70% of our actions from our town plan in just under three years. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kilkenny County Council for all there support and to the Callan Town Team members who have played a key role in helping us achieve our goals.

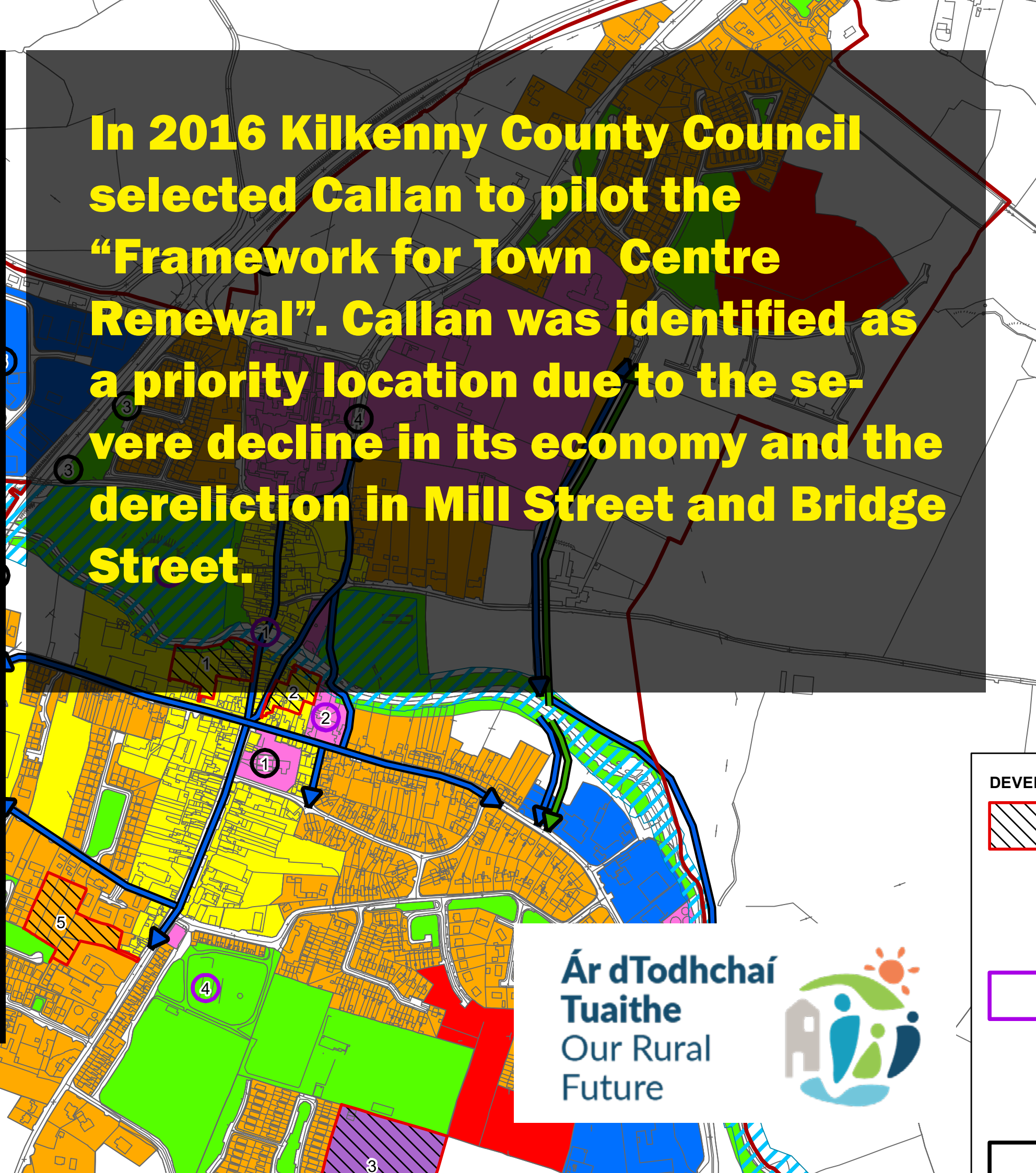
Dermot McCabe
Chairperson (Callan Town Team)

CALLAN REGENERATION

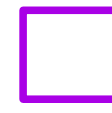
These changes resulted in a noticeable dis-improvement in areas of the traditional town centre, particularly at Bridge Street and Mill Street due to underutilisation and dereliction of the built environment. Kilkenny County Council has been actively working with the Callan Town Team and other community groups to address these issues and support the delivery of sustainable regeneration projects and services in Callan Town.

Over the last four years a number of public and community meetings were held in Callan to address the decline of the town and to consult on the development of the various regeneration projects of which a number of these have been completed and are in development. Callan was the first town in Kilkenny where a Town Team was established and this process in partnership with Kilkenny County Council has led to significant developments in the town over the last three years.

In 2016 Kilkenny County Council selected Callan to pilot the “Framework for Town Centre Renewal”. Callan was identified as a priority location due to the severe decline in its economy and the dereliction in Mill Street and Bridge Street.



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BACKGROUND

So where did it all start? Following consultation facilitated by Kilkenny County Council, the Callan Town Team was formed, in January 2018. The Team now comprises of 15 members with representation from Retailers & Business, Community, Voluntary & Education, Tidy Towns & Environmental, Heritage & Sport, Arts, Farming and Tourism sectors. Each individual on the Team represents a larger group of stakeholders for each sector. All sectors operate in the town of Callan and/or its hinterlands. All sectors are accountable back to the people of Callan.

Callan Town Health Check.

As a first step to investigate the real issues and to assist in the identification of solutions Kilkenny County Council engaged consultants to undertake a Health Check for Callan in 2018. The Health Check provided up-to-date information on the performance of Callan Town, incorporating an assessment of strengths, constraints,



Kilkenny County Council presented the Town Team concept and consulted with the Local Community in Callan and set up the Counties **first Town Team in January 2018**

**COMMUNITY MEETING
CALLAN
DECEMBER 5TH -7.45 PM
VENUE – CALLAN PARISH HALL
PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT TOWN
IMPROVEMENT PLAN
*ALL WELCOME***

My experience of working as Secretary of the Callan Town Team since it was initially set up, has been a very positive one. With the ongoing guidance from Kilkenny County Council and assistance in setting up of the key structures that represent various sectors in the local community. This representative process has played a key

role in focusing the Town Team on developing specific actions that were included in the Callan Town Team Plan. The majority of our short/ medium and some long term aims have already been achieved and these successes have been of huge benefit to our town.

Etaoin Holahan
Secretary (Callan Town Team)



CALLAN
TOWN IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2019

opportunities and threats which were used in preparing for the future development and enhancement of the town. Moreover, the data obtained in the assessment supported future community and socio-economic planning and development of the town. Following various consultation sessions, the Callan Town Health Check collated information based on a range of indicators and issues that were raised, the overall performance of the town was then assessed against pre-determined indicators in order to create reliable baseline information. The Health Check report was completed and the recommendations of that report have been considered by the Callan Town Team and this has since resulted in the development and publication of the Callan Town Improvement Plan .

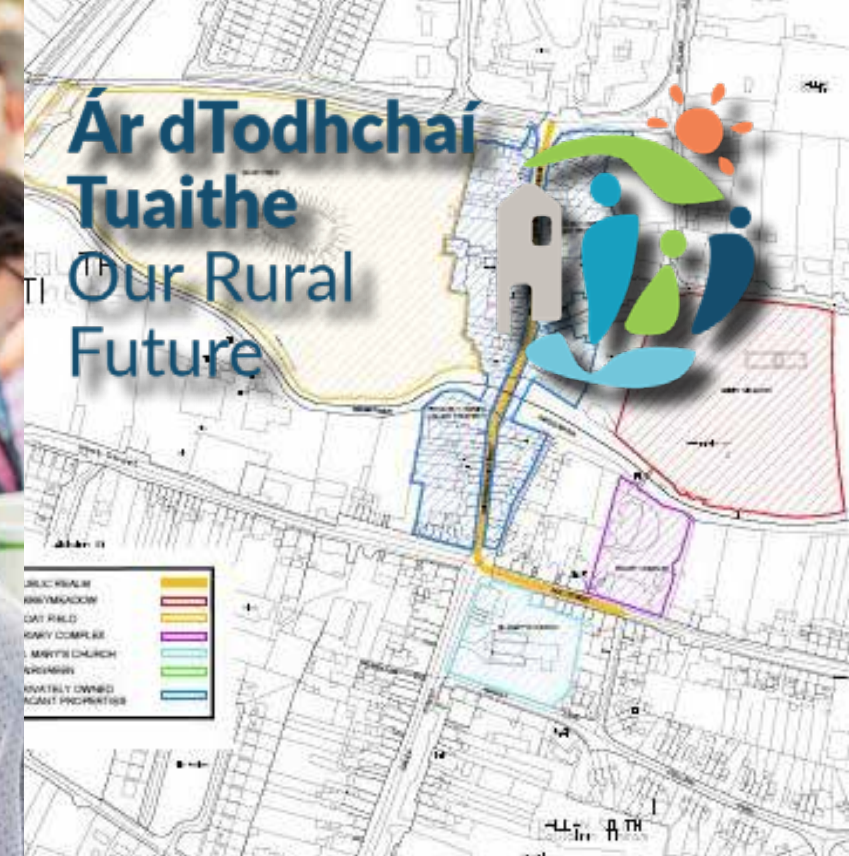


Using the Callan Health Check as a catalyst to engage communities and local organisations the Town Improvement Plan was completed and launched in August 2019. This active document set out a vision for the town alongside identified actions to achieve an overall vision that includes the regeneration of Bridge Street, Mill Street, the Motte Field, the Fair Green and the development of the Friary Complex, all key actions within this plan.

Vision; “Callan Town Team- Putting Callan on the map- building on Callan’s existing infrastructure, driving change, and creating vibrancy in the community”.

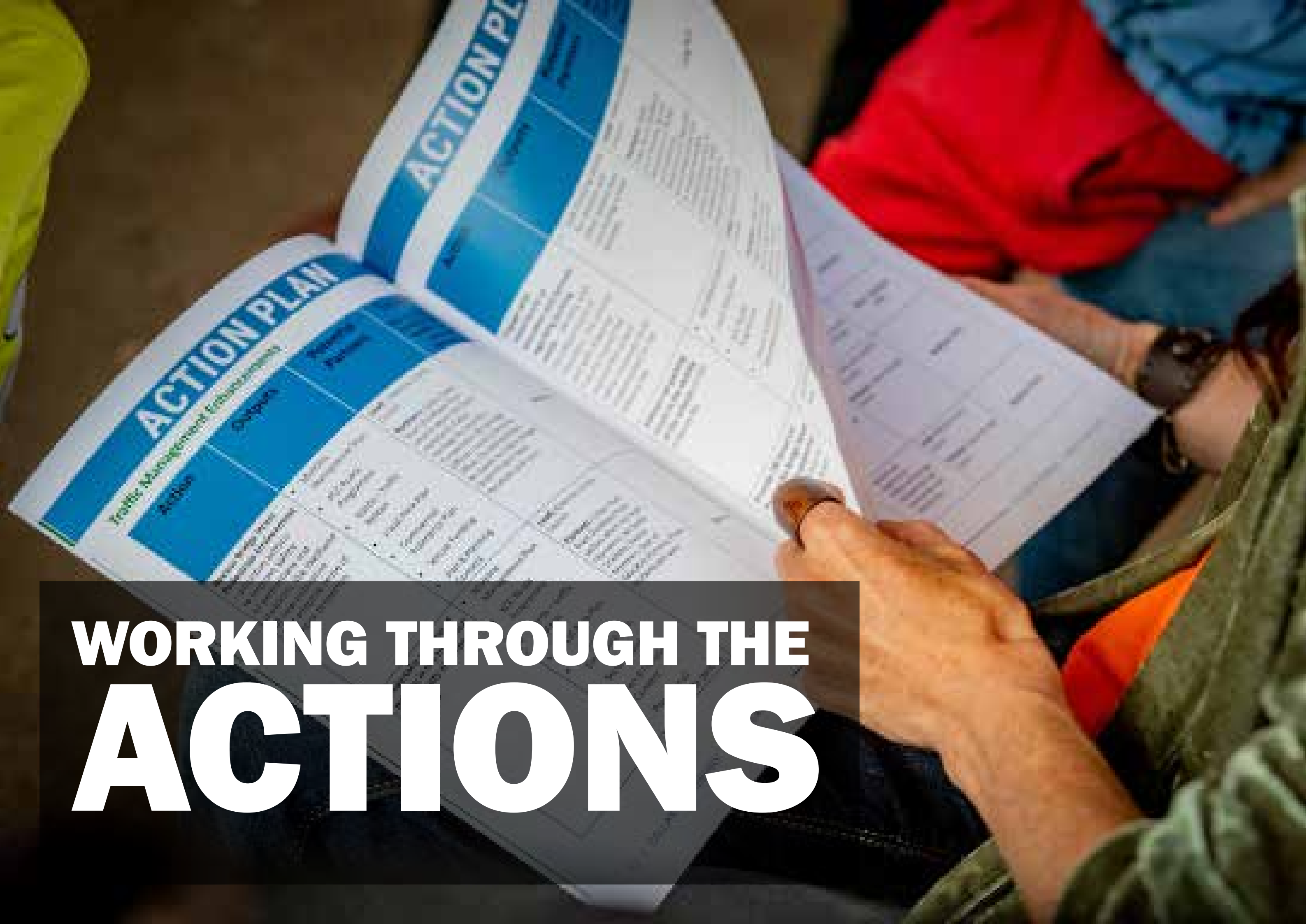
This plan is actively mobilising communities in Callan to share responsibility and co-operate locally and with the identified Implementing Partners (and others) to implement actions identified and achievable solutions. The plan identifies solutions to key issues identified through the public consultation process. This plan also serves to inform future applications for funding under various local and national schemes administered by various Government Departments, State Agencies and non-government organisations (NGO’s).

Kilkenny County Council meet with the Callan Town Team every six weeks to facilitate the implementation of specific actions identified in the plan.



WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP





WORKING THROUGH THE ACTIONS

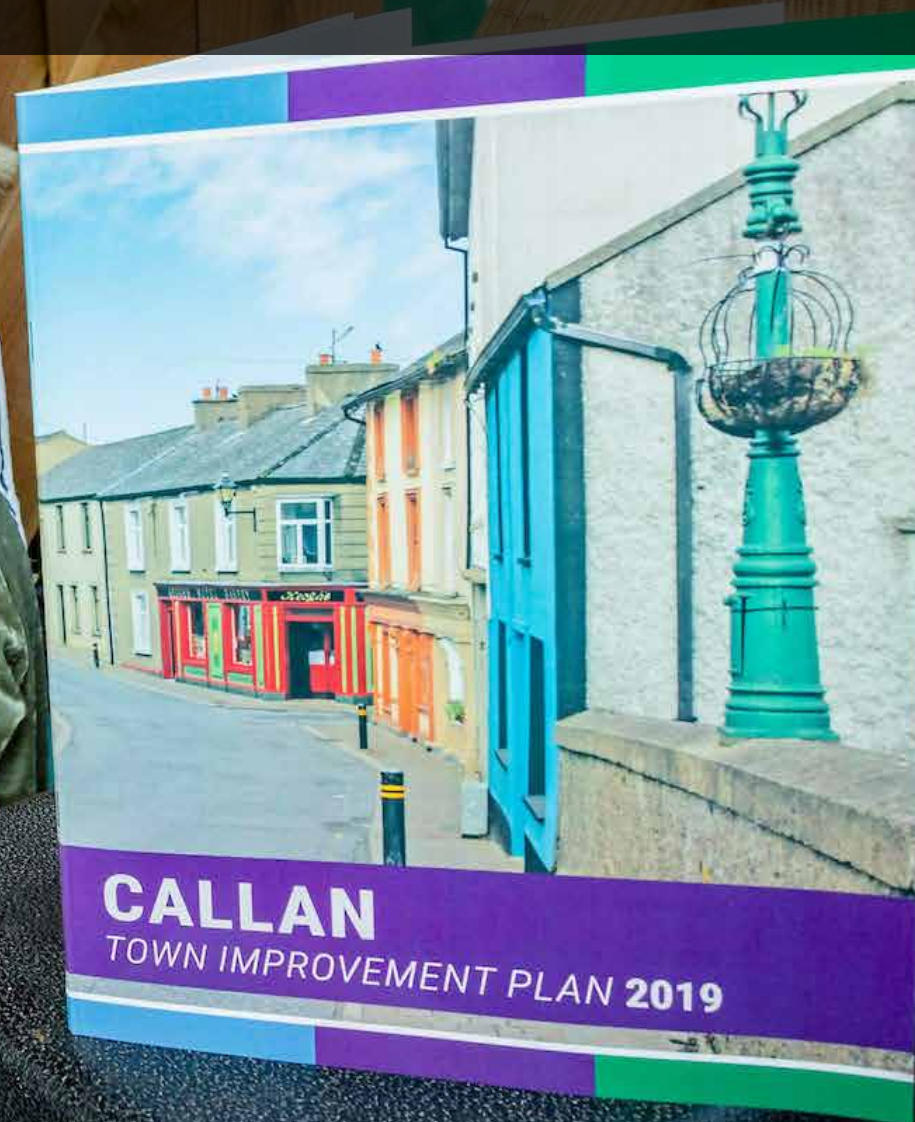
FUNDING & THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTIONS

Over the last three years Kilkenny County Council has been successful in the delivery of a number of Town & Village renewal projects in Callan. Kilkenny County Council has also been successful in securing significant funding for Callan under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund. This funding stream is committed by Government to be invested in rural Ireland over the period 2019 to 2027. The purpose of the fund is to support job creation in rural areas, address de-population of rural communities and support improvements in our towns and villages.

The Fund is part of the Rural Development Investment programme which will assist and support economic recovery in rural areas. It includes a number of integrated funding interventions.

Examples include;

- **Rural Regeneration and Development Fund.**
- **Town and Village Renewal Scheme.**
- **Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme.**
- **Local Improvement Scheme.**
- **LEADER.**
- **Walks Scheme.**
- **Other funding streams secured in Callan. came from the National Transport Authority.**



The Town & Village Renewal Scheme has played a key role in funding projects in Callan

Since 2017, Kilkenny County Council has been successful in applying for, securing and administering funding for numerous projects in Callan. One of these funding streams includes the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. This scheme was first introduced in 2016 and is funded under Project Ireland 2040.

The scheme is targeted at towns and villages with a population of 10,000 or less and all projects funded under the Scheme must be completed within a 12 to 18 month period. The Town and Village Scheme is one of a series of national and local support measures designed to rejuvenate small rural towns and villages throughout Ireland.

TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION

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SAMPLE PROJECTS

COMPLETED & IN PROGRESS



Before



After

CALLAN RESIDENTIAL OCCUPANCY PILOT PROJECT

Callan was one of six towns selected by the Department of Rural and Community Development to participate in a pilot scheme to address residential vacancy in town centres in 2018 which was set up to examine at vacancy/underuse of buildings in town centres coupled with a tendency for people to prefer to live on the outskirts of a town rather than in the centre. Upper Bridge Street, Callan was identified as the study area. This street was chosen as the initiative complemented the Town & Village and RRDF schemes and the strategic aims of the Callan Draft LAP, which highlighted a cluster of vacant and underused buildings on this street in particular. The majority of buildings in this area are historic, in a dense arrangement of long narrow points, along a meandering, linear street line, with narrow laneways. The work of the pilot scheme tied in with a number of objectives under the 'Built Heritage Development' section of Callan's LAP.

The core objectives of the Pilot Project in Callan were to:

- Identify opportunities to develop vacant/ under-occupied premises for residential use in Upper Bridge Street.
- Develop preliminary options for residential reuse to current standards.
- Develop proposals for potential repair interventions to high conservation standards
- Develop low carbon, energy efficiency strategy including suitable and compatible materials for the buildings. Improve image of the street and exploit its inherent built and visual assets.

Motte Field



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Kilkenny County Council secured funding for the recently completed Motte Field. The funding was awarded following successful applications under the Rural Regeneration fund and ORIS (Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme). Driven by local community activists in partnership with Kilkenny County Council this is now a significant accessible amenity project in Callan that incorporates a walkway/park amenity that connects the town centre to new residential areas. Public consultation on the project first began more than seven years ago, improving access to the field was a key part of the Local Area Plan for Callan, and the development of the Motte Field as a community amenity was also included in the town plan published by the Callan Town Team.

Callan's Motte Field is the historic site of a 13th Century motte and bailey, one of the largest in Leinster. The project creates a public access off-road and high quality (Na-



tional Trails Office Grade I) footpath through an area of a Norman Motte and Bailey. This public amenity has been a huge success and now attracts many local people who want to go for fitness walks away from car traffic and on a good surface. This new amenity is also attractive to visitors who want to experience the historic and natural environment in Callan. This project is also wheelchair- accessible and is in keeping with Amendment No. 2 to the Callan Local Area Plan (2016).





Kings River Callan & Friary Footbridge



In 2017 Kilkenny County Council welcomed the announcement of funding under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme to carry out initial clean up works and to further investigate improvements to the Kings River in Callan. Funding was also secured under the ORIS funding stream to build a new footbridge crossing the river. These works are now complete.



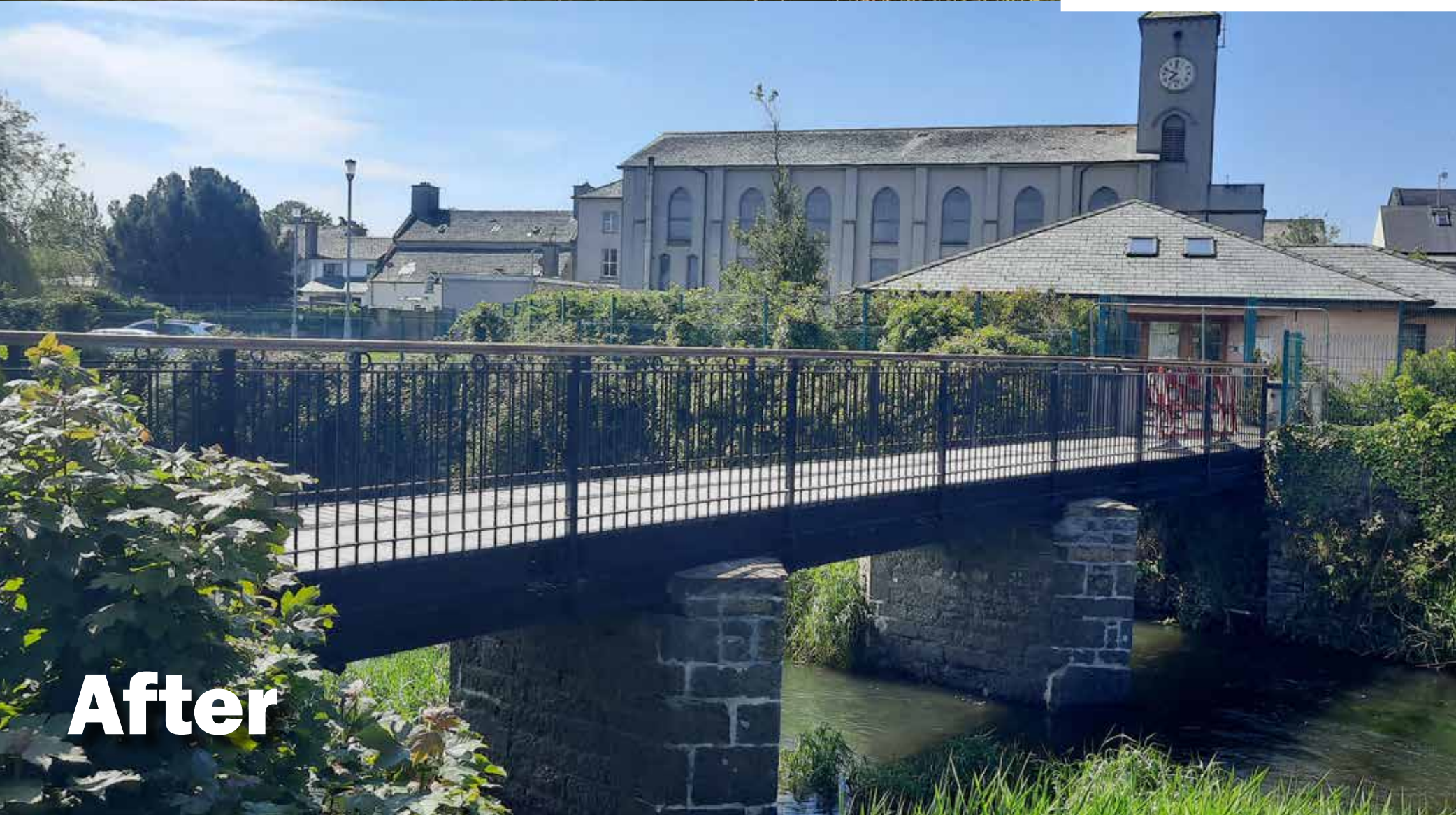
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Before



After





Abbey Meadow Regeneration

A Rejuvenated Historical Site

Kilkenny County Council has also been successful in securing funding for the Abbey Meadow. Works have been completed on the Abbey Meadow in partnership with local community activists, the Callan Community Network, the Town Team and Kilkenny County Council on the further development of this historic amenity. With funding secured under the ORIS (*Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme*) programme these works have added to the overall regeneration of the area and have addressed key issues identified by community groups and Kilkenny County Council. An example of works carried out included the development of a walking trail, seating landscaping and new signage. With the recent development of the Motte Field and the Abbey Meadow, Callan now have two significant amenities in the centre of the Town.



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MOTTE FIELD

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NEW FOOTBRIDGE

ABBAY MEADOW

CONNECTING AMENITIES

With the recent development of the Motte Field and the Abbey Meadow, Callan now has two significant accessible amenities in the centre of the town.

Another key action in the Callan Town Improvement Plan included the upgrading of the railings, iron works and stone works surrounding St Marys in the centre of the town. This project was managed by Kilkenny County Council's Conservation Officer, Francis Coady. Following a successful application for funding submitted by Kilkenny County Council for phase 1 of the improvements, additional funding was also secured for phase 2. Callan was one of ten successful towns to receive funding under the Historic Towns Initiative - a partnership between the Department of Housing, Kilkenny County Council, Local Government and Heritage and The Heritage Council. The award of €57,000 went towards the completion of the conservation works to the perimeter railings, iron works, and stone masonry around the historic St Mary's Church in the heart of the town. This work commenced in 2020 on Green St and around to Mill St. The works have contribut-

ST MARYS CONSERVATION WORKS



ed positively towards the ongoing heritage-led regeneration of this really beautiful Irish town. The work will also greatly enhance the setting of the St. Mary's Church, while also benefiting the public realm of Green Street and the town centre. The works has been undertaken to best conservation practice, and showcases the necessary skill set and crafts. The works employed a specialist stone mason and ironworker, and archaeologist, providing much need support for their craft community in Covid times.



St Mary's Church was first built in the 13th Century, however, 200 years later alot of the original building was knocked to make way for the present building. Much of the current structure dates to the 15th and 16th Centuries. The railings were erected around the churchyard in the early 19th Century, much later than the original building.





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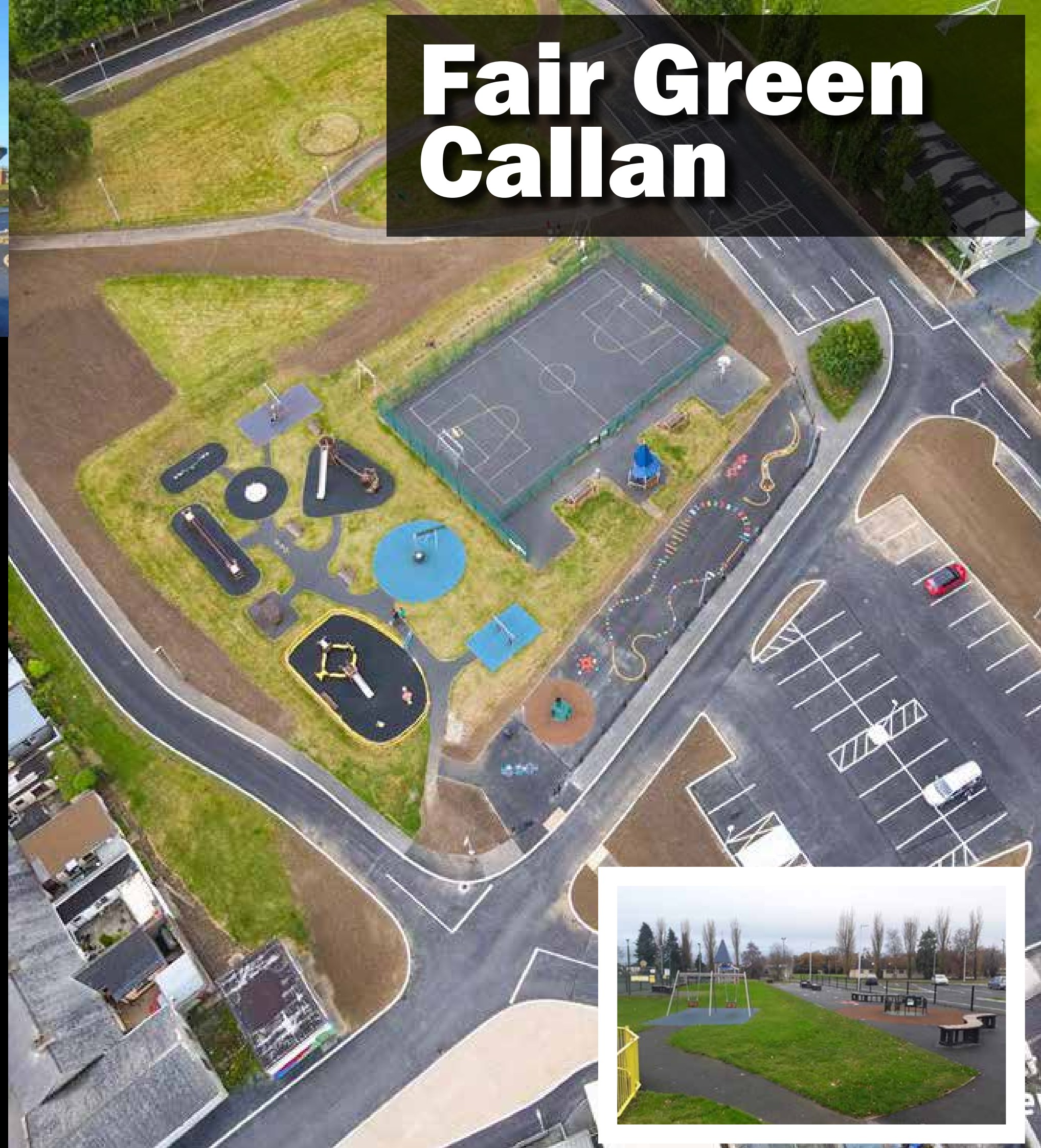


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Fair Green Callan

Kilkenny County Council successfully secured funding for the Fair Green project in Callan, this exciting new amenity is now fully completed and open to the public. This project received €291,750 under the 2018 Rural Regeneration fund. As an open space area, the Fair Green regeneration project now provides much needed amenities in this part of the town.

Works completed includes; the upgrading of the existing amenities within the green area including an extension of the existing playground, the provision of Age Active Area & Passive Recreation Area, the implementation of traffic management measures including the introduction of a one-way system, formalised parking areas, signage, a round top table, , new lighting, new drainage system , perimeter fencing, provision of footpaths and walking track, landscaping and the enhanced the main entrance



BRIDGE STREET CALLAN



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Funding was secured by Kilkenny County Council towards the improvement of the public realm space on Bridge Street and to accommodate shared surfaces for walking whilst improving social distancing. Bollards, road markings, signage and realignment works at the junction were carried out.

Increasing the footpath widths all have facilitated social distancing allowing people to move freely in a safer manner. Bridge street also is the main link to the recently completed Motte Field walking trail.

All of these works will facilitate the return of business in Callan under Covid-19 through addressing social distancing and putting measures in place that will assist with social distancing in the town. As part of this application consultations took place with the local business community to address ways to deal with Covid-19 and issues presented.

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Following an application submitted by Kilkenny County Council to the the National Transport Authority,€1.1million in funding was successfully secured for active travel in Callan.

Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan said: “Today’s allocation marks another significant step forward in providing green sustainable transport options to those outside of the large urban centres.

“Developing high quality walking and cycling facilities will encourage more people to switch to active travel and will contribute to tackling climate change. Connecting communities and making walking and cycling attractive, safe and accessible to everyone is what this funding will help to accomplish.

“The projects being funded today will make a real difference to rural communities across the country and this is only the beginning.”

Anne Graham CEO of the NTA said: “Walking and cycling in areas outside of cities and suburbs is increasingly becoming a more common sight. Today’s allocation will ensure that these modes of transport will become faster and more importantly safer.



Kilkenny County Council has secured €1.1million in funding for active travel in Callan under the National Transport Authority Programme.

ABBNEY MEADOW CAMPING BAY

Motor Home Bays for Callan

Kilkenny County Council recognises that the provision of a select number of motor-home Parking Bays in our Rural Towns are an important element in the provision of non-competing facilities for the expanding number of tourists traveling domestically during the Covid-19 pandemic. Kilkenny County Council was successful under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme in securing funding to pilot these bays in Callan.

Motor-home parking bays will also play a key role in helping to bring an additional tourist footfall into these communities. The provision of these motorhome Parking bays will support rural tourism initiatives add value to rural enterprise, natural heritage assets and outdoor recreational activities.

These motorhome camping bays will provide standalone campervan and motorhome facilities i.e. designated parking bays/electrical supply, with-



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facilities for tourers to stay in a select number of towns and villages badly hit economically by the Covid-19 Pandemic. These motor-home bay developments will demonstrate compliance with Fáilte Ireland's publication 'Caravan & Camping Parks Classification Matrix' or Fáilte Ireland's Welcome Standards and will respect the artistic, historic and cultural heritage of Kilkenny while integrating with and benefiting the local economy and community in the identified locations.

Kilkenny County Council are presently awaiting the delivery of the electricity power bollards for the identified spaces. It is expected that these bays will be operational before the end of the year.



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CALLAN OUTDOOR SEATING



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Kilkenny County Council secured funding for the provision of new seating on the main street in Callan. Creating seating areas on the Main street in Callan now allow customers of various commercial premises to sit down at central locations in the town. These works will facilitate the return of business in Callan under Covid-19 through addressing social distancing and putting measures in place that will assist with social distancing in the town.

NEW CHRISTMAS LIGHTS FOR CALLAN



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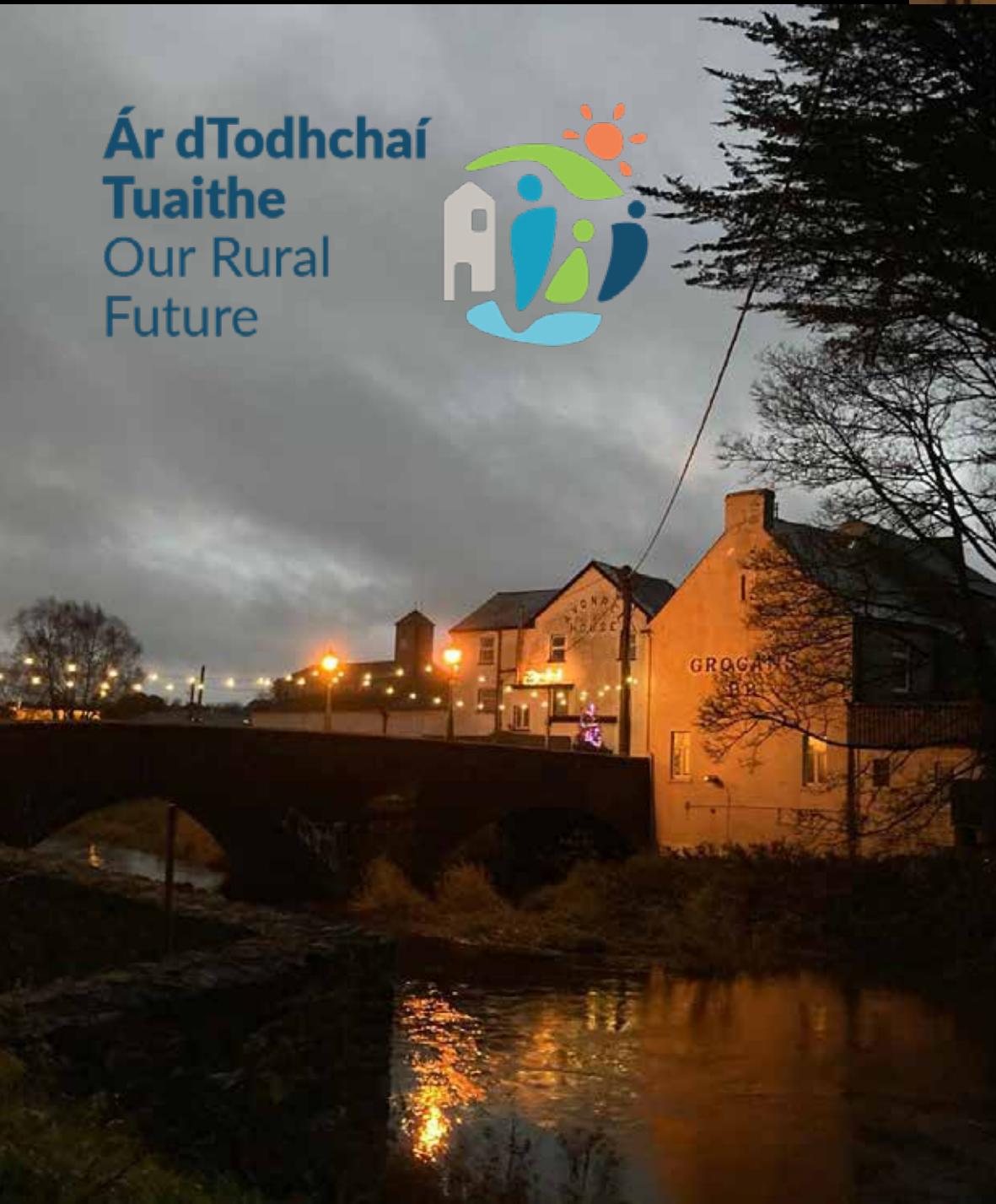


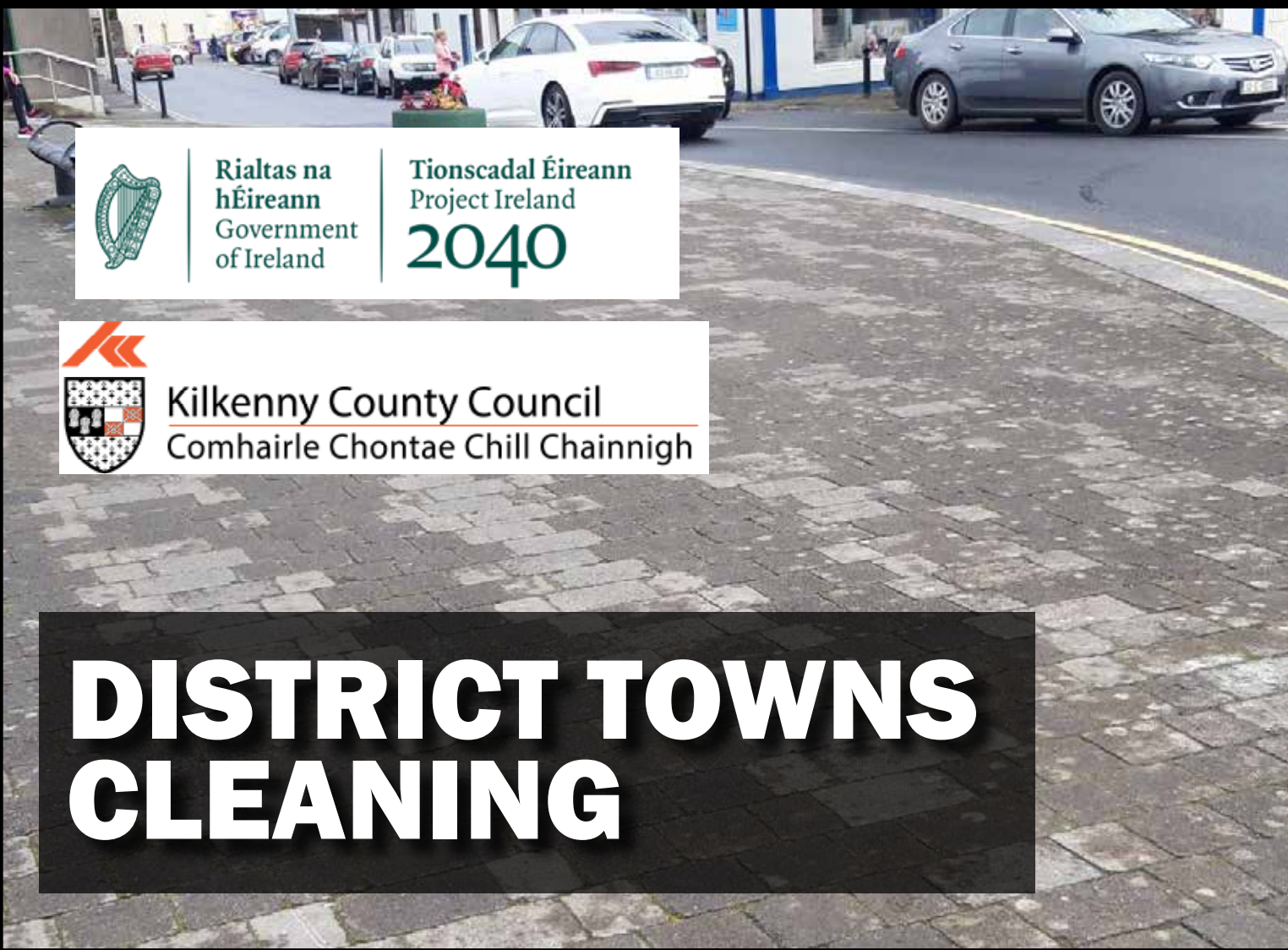
Kilkenny County Council was also successful in securing funding under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme for new Christmas lights in Callan. Having consulted with the Callan Town Team, the upgrading of the festive lights was identified as a key priority for the four towns, one of which included Callan. The funding was used for the provision of a much-needed upgrade of Christmas lights to more efficient LED lighting.

Callan's older festive lights were of a substandard and needed to be upgraded to LEDs/higher quality lights.

LEDs provide many advantages over incandescent bulbs as they are more efficient, durable and longer-lasting. They are also a safer option, weather-resistant and much more robust. They also create a much more inviting and warmer atmosphere.


The purchase, installation and maintenance of these festive lights now act as an essential and cost-effective step in helping to boost morale during the festive season.





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DISTRICT TOWNS CLEANING

Callan was one of four district towns that received funding administered by Kilkenny Council under the Town & Village Renewal Accelerated Measures Scheme.

Funding was secured for;

- Deep cleaning of paving, signage and street furniture.
- All furniture including bins, seats tree grills etc were cleaned and painted with some minor repair works carried out.
- Entry signage outside Callan was cleaned and replaced in some areas.
- New signage outlining free car-parking spaces was erected.



PROPOS MASTERPLAN

NEW

AN APPLICATION HAS BEEN
SUBMITTED TO THE
DEPARTMENT FOR FUNDING
UNDER THE URBAN &
RURAL REGENERATION FUND

Uí Loingsigh

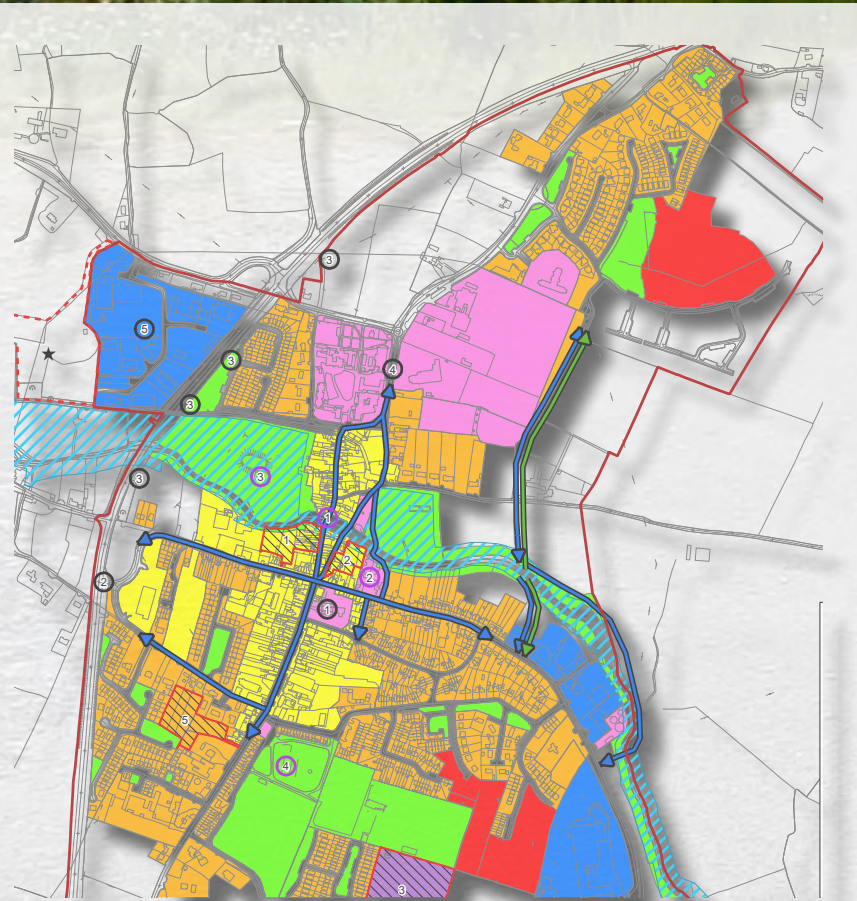
SMITHWICKS

MASTER PLANNING

Subject to the approval of funding

A proposal for funding has been submitted to the department under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund to develop a masterplan for key identified areas surrounding Mill Street, West Street and Bridge Street in Callan and linking these areas to the recently developed Motte Field and the Abbey Meadow.

As part of the application submitted and as recommended by the 2019 Callan Local Area Plan, the 2020 Callan Residential Occupancy Pilot Project and the 2018 Callan Town Team Town Improvement Plan, it is proposed to develop a detailed masterplan (*subject to the approval of funding*) specifically for the areas incorporating Bridge Street, Mill Street, West Street and its surrounds (All of these streets are in close proximity with the Friary Complex which is located on Mill street). Should funding be made available This masterplan, will be completed by a multidisciplinary team that includes relevant design professionals e.g. architect conservation professional as well as technical expertise in relation to planning, transport planning, engineering and environmental science.



FRIARY COMPLEX & PRIORY

The buildings highlighted below incorporate the Friary Complex and the Priory Building.

B

PRIORY BUILDING

PROPOSED LOCATION FOR THE NEW
REMOTE WORKING HUB

A

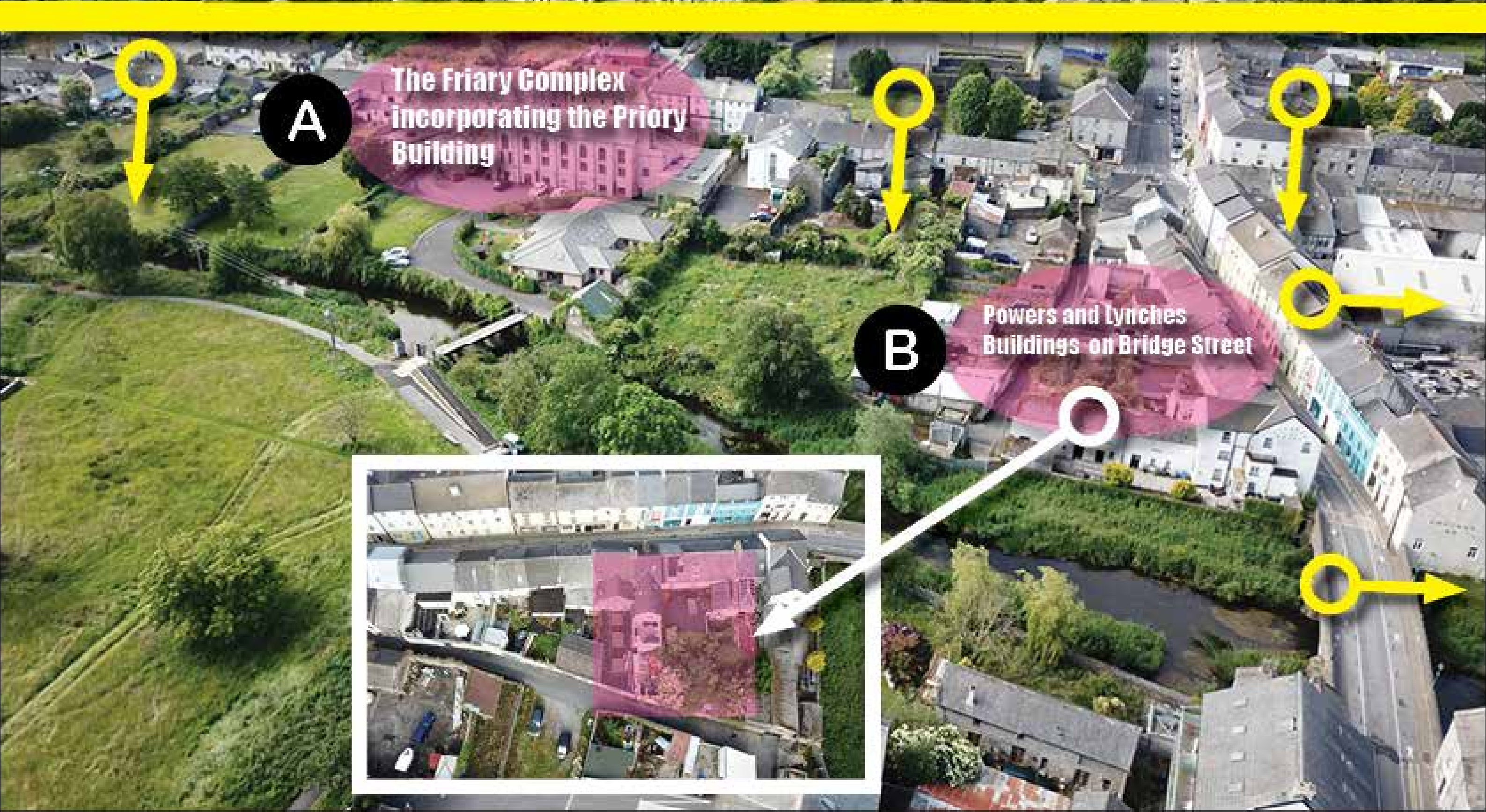
FRIARY COMPLEX -

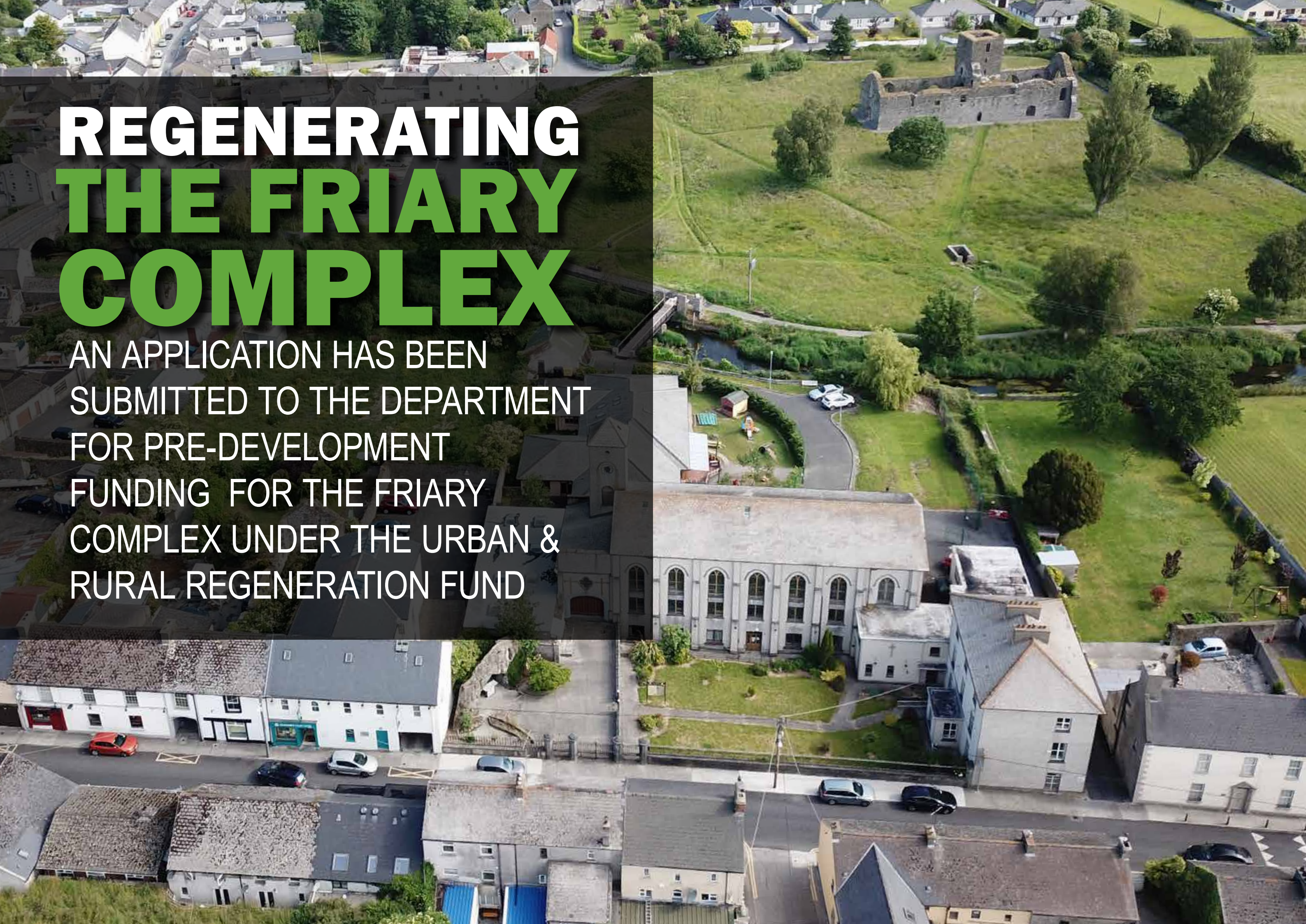
PROPOSED LOCATION FOR THE NEW
LIBRARY, ARTS/THEATRE SPACE, YOUTH
& COMMUNITY SERVICES

Front view of the friary Complex and the
Priory Building.

Location

The areas highlighted in purple include A) the Friary Complex incorporating the Priory building and B) Power's Shop: No.20 Upper Bridge St. and Lynches Building (Ui Loinsigh's Pub: No.18). The yellow arrows indicated the surrounding areas identified for the proposed Masterplan



An aerial photograph of a town. In the foreground, there are several rows of residential houses with grey roofs. In the middle ground, a large, light-colored building with a series of arched windows, identified as the Friary Complex, is visible. To the right of the Friary, there is a large, open green field. In the background, a stone ruin of a castle or tower stands on a grassy hill. A river or stream flows through the town, and a road with parked cars is visible near the Friary.

REGENERATING THE FRIARY COMPLEX

AN APPLICATION HAS BEEN
SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT
FOR PRE-DEVELOPMENT
FUNDING FOR THE FRIARY
COMPLEX UNDER THE URBAN &
RURAL REGENERATION FUND

DEVELOPING THE FRIARY COMPLEX

A key objective for Kilkenny Council Council, the Callan Town Team and other partners is the development of the Friary Complex incorporating the Priory building. The overall proposal is to develop a multi-use community facility that will house a much-needed library, together with community, theatre, arts, youth and remote working space in the Priory building. The final details with reference to its use will be further clarified following the completion of the design process and consultation with all relevant stakeholders. The development of a masterplan for the areas identified will assist Kilkenny County Council in further identifying regeneration projects that will assist in the revitalisation of Callan Town. The Callan Friary Complex located in Callan has been made available to Kilkenny County Council by the Augustinian Church. The property is a heritage building for which the community has strong cultural appreciation. A proposal for funding has been submitted to the Department seeking to protect and



Subject to the approval of funding



conserve both the Friary Complex buildings and its continued use as a civic and community space contributing to the reinvigoration of Callan town centre.

The gifting of the Friary Complex to Kilkenny County Council and the investment in amenities at the Motte field and Abbey Meadow, present an opportunity to the local authority and its partners to provide improved public services and facilities.

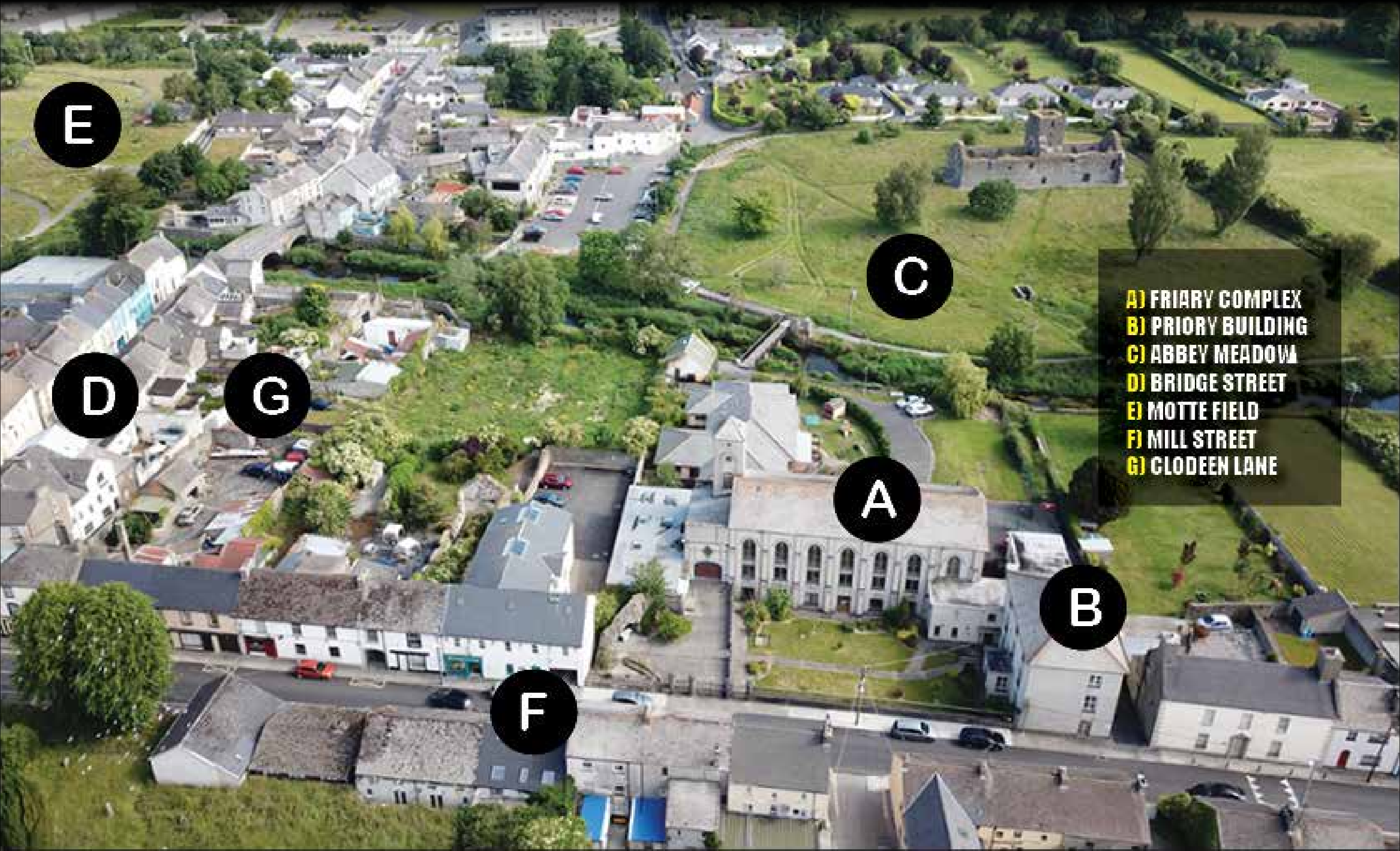
The regeneration of the Friary Complex and the Priory building as a state-of-the-art library, community space, arts centre/theatre, youth space and remote working hub will provide a platform and infrastructure that will be a sustainable, creative and an innovative space located in the centre of Callan Town.



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LINKING KEY AMENITIES IN CALLAN



E

D

G

F

A

C

B

- A) FRIARY COMPLEX
- B) PRIORY BUILDING
- C) ABBEY MEADOW
- D) BRIDGE STREET
- E) MOTTE FIELD
- F) MILL STREET
- G) CLODEEN LANE

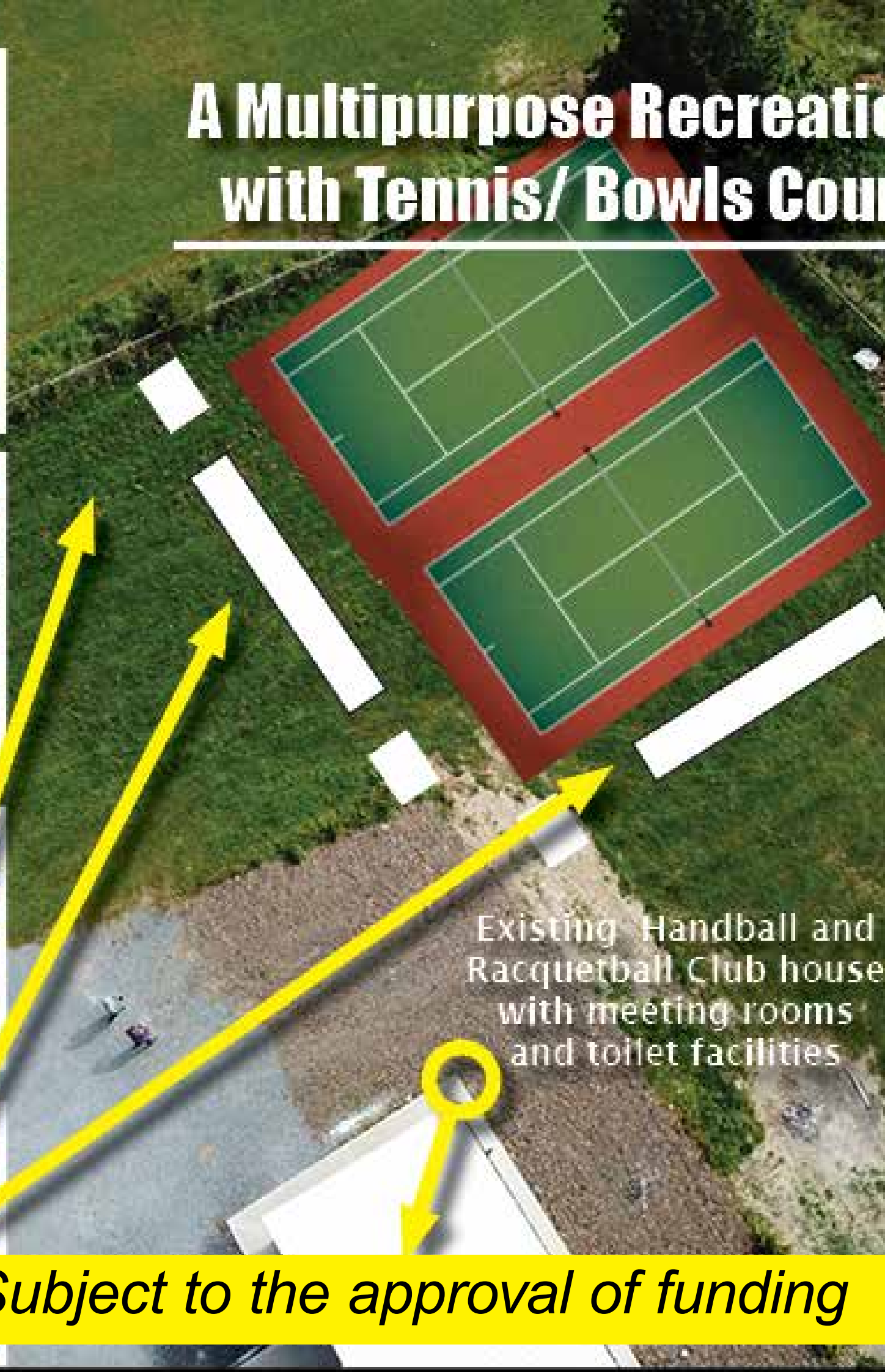
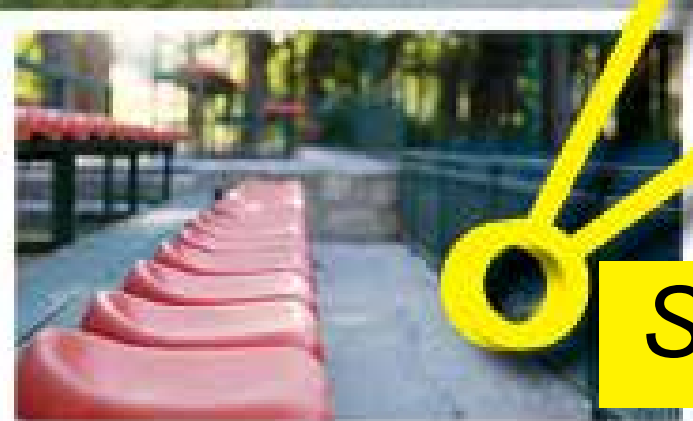
An aerial photograph of a sports facility. In the foreground, there are several tennis courts with white markings on a dark surface. To the right, a large green grassy field is visible, with a group of people playing a sport, possibly soccer or football. In the middle ground, there is a long, narrow building with a white roof and blue accents, possibly a clubhouse or administrative building. The background shows more greenery and a road.

KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL ARE
WORKING IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH
THE CALLAN HANDBALL
CLUB TO DEVELOP
NEW TENNIS COURTS &
OUTDOOR SEATING

NEW

AN APPLICATION HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR FUNDING UNDER THE TOWN & VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME.

A Multipurpose Recreational Amenity with Tennis/ Bowls Courts & Seating



Existing Handball and Racquetball Club house with meeting rooms and toilet facilities

Subject to the approval of funding

This project proposal has been submitted by Kilkenny Council to the Department for funding under the 2021 Town & Village Renewal Scheme. The project has been developed by the Callan Handball & Racquet Ball Club which is a community-based sports Club servicing Callan town and its surrounds.

Kilkenny County Council have worked with this group in supporting the development of the Club house which incorporates a community meeting room space, toilets and indoor racquetball, handball and squash court. The Club has one acre of land within the complex, which is located between the primary and secondary schools. It is within three hundred metres from three of the largest housing estates in Callan

SOME BRIEF OBSERVATIONS FROM THE TOWN TEAM SECRETARY

Fair Green Recreational Amenity

Fabulous facility open to the whole town that is being enjoyed by many.

Abbey Meadow Regeneration

The new seating and stone steps in the Abbey meadow are very welcome and have contributed to the enjoyment of this lovely heritage site in the centre of Callan, ongoing maintenance of keeping the nettles away from the young trees and the seats and the maintaining of the large flower bed on entry and by the ramp could be taken on by the today towns .Access to the abbey itself at certain times would be a welcome development and the instatement of the stone distance markers carved by local stonemason Seamus Kelly would be great.

New Xmas Lights

The new Christmas lights have cheered up the streets of Callan enormously.

New Foot Bridge beside Friary

This is a wonderful development, the accessibility of the bridge via the ramp is very welcomed and the bridge itself is lovely.

Mobility Plan

Very excited about the level of engagement on this piece of work, there is a real opportunity to open up the centre of the town to make it more attractive to live in and work in. Prioritisation of pedestrians must be paramount. Local knowledge and ideas must be taken on board as well as updates of progress to keep the community engaged and excited about this. *Well done to all involved.....*

Etaoin Holahan

Secretary callan Town Team





NEW TOWN TEAM PLANS

**THOMASTOWN, GORESBRIDGE
MULLINAVAT, JOHNSTOWN
URLINGFORD & CASTLECOMER**

TOWN TEAM PLANS

GORESBRIDGE, MULLINAVAT, JOHNSTOWN, URLINGFORD, CASTLECOMER & THOMASTOWN

Kilkenny County Council were successful in securing funding under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme to undertake Health Check assessments for a number of Towns & Villages in County Kilkenny. These included Goresbridge, Mullinavat, Johnstown, Urlingford, Castlecomer and Thomastown. The completed Health Checks provide a “stock-take” of the current economic, social, environmental and physical situation relating to the Town or Village in order to assess the vitality and viability of town / village centres. The assessment essentially analyses the strengths and weaknesses of a town / village and is based on a quantitative analysis of factors such as the range and quality of activities in the centre, its mix of uses, its accessibility to people living in the area and its general amenity appearance and safety.

The new Town Teams presently being set up will work in partnership with Kilkenny County Council similar to the process piloted in Callan.





The new Town Team plans were developed following consultation workshops and information exchanges and input from various sources including various local community interests, visitors and traders. Following a needs assessment, recommendations and actions were identified based on factual findings and community needs and inputs.

The NEW Town Team plans set out a shared vision for the identified towns, a strategy to deliver key objectives, an identification of suitable projects to address economic decline and restore vibrancy. Other areas covered in the plans include projects that will improve the physical and social environment and also the identification of projects suitable for the Town and Village Renewal/ Rural Regeneration funding streams.



Message from the Chair of the Callan/ Thomastown Municipal District Kilkenny County Council



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the groups and individuals in Callan who have participated in the development of the Callan Town Improvement Plan. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Executive and the staff of Kilkenny County Council who facilitated this process and who developed, submitted and were successful in securing significant funding for identified actions in the Callan Town Improvement Plan.

This process has highlighted how working in partnership with a shared vision can achieve a huge amount in a relatively short period of time. I would also like to wish all of the new Town Teams in Thomastown, Mullinavat, Goresbridge, Urlingford, Johnstown and Castlecomer every success.

Yours sincerely
Michael Doyle
Chair Callan/Thomastown Municipal District
Kilkenny County Council

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Kilkenny County Council
Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnig



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Kilkenny County Council
Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh

**KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL LOOK FORWARD TO
CONTINUING TO WORK WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES
TO FURTHER DEVELOP PROJECTS IN OUR RURAL
TOWNS AND VILLAGES**

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