

HELLO & WELCOME

Please take a few moments to view the following boards that we have prepared

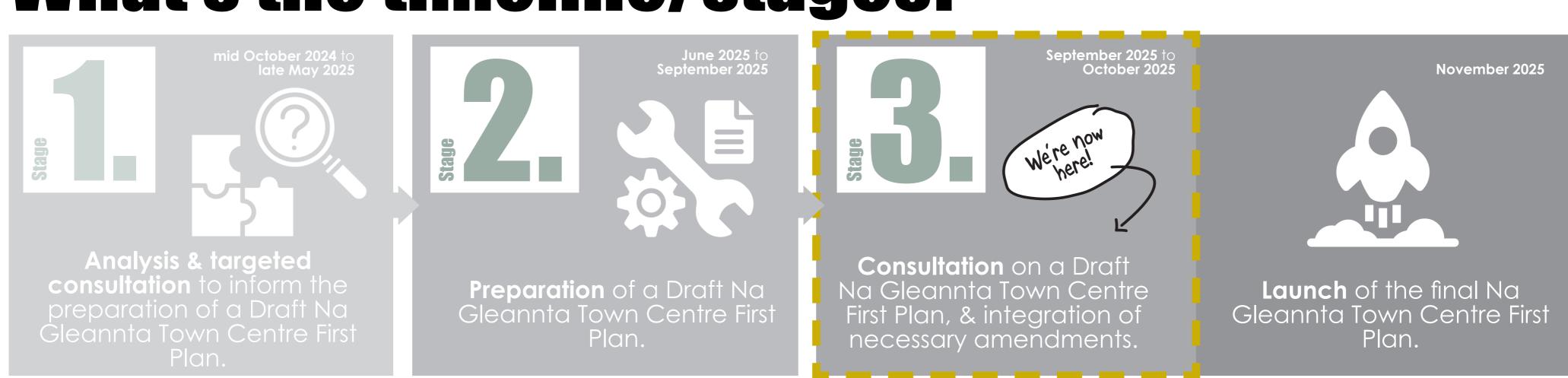
What is Na Gleannta Town Centre First Plan?

It's a place-making Plan, which will be regeneration & renewal focused with a view to strengthening the role, image, vibrancy, vitality & resilience of Glenties town centre.

Who's involved?

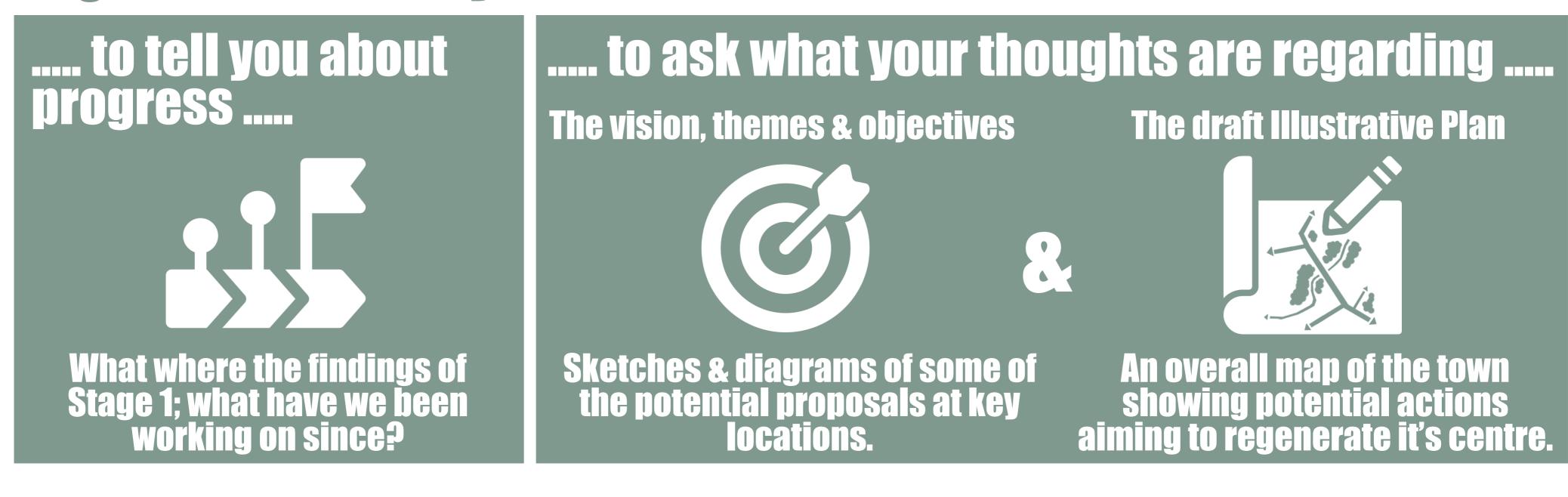
You!... Donegal County Council in conjunction with Master-planning Consultants, GM Design Associates are drafting the Plan. It's content will be the convergence of community vision, business interests, local knowledge, & key Stakeholder expertise.

What's the timeline/stages?



So, what's the purpose of this event?

To get the community involved















A SUMMARY OF STAGE 1

Targeted Consultation

Consultation with and the participation of a range of stakeholders is a critical component of the process. The outcomes of the engagement and consultation undertaken has informed the preparation and development of the Draft Plan.

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL **DEPARTMENTS**

There is demand for **Social Housing** in the town.

Vacancy and dereliction along Main **Street** needs to be addressed.

Flood risk has been identified just upstream of the main bridge in the town over the Stracashel and just downstream on the left bank.

The Council intend to construct **3 housing units** on the site of the **Old Fire Station** on the Rock Road.

Na Gleannta gets a special mention in the CDP in terms of the potential for tourism development, heritage, recreation and culture.

Aspects of **poor quality public realm** and street furniture could be addressed.

The current **social housing need** in Glenties is **22**, broken down as follows.

Bedrooms	1	2	თ	4	5	6	Total
Need	1	16	3	2	0	0	22

LOCAL RETAILERS & BUSINESSES ...





community spirit

supportive local community



low footfall



lack of public parking



decline of younger people in opportunities to retain them



high running costs

ELECTED MEMBERS

As part of the Stage One consultation process, engagement was undertaken with Elected **Members** of the Na Gleannta Municipal District. The purpose of this was to introduce the process to the members and discuss the challenges and opportunities within Na Gleannta. This consultation included a **Workshop** with members and which took place on 13th May 2025.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Community consultation, arguably the most important element of engagement, took place at key intervals throughout the process. The **first public engagement event** of the Na Gleannta Town Centre First Plan took place on 22nd May 2025. The drop-in session lasted from 3:30pm to 7:30pm. In addition to the drop-in consultation event, an **ongoing period of public consultation was facilitated** and which closed on 6th June 2025, supplemented by summary/presentation material, published on the **project website**. This proved to be a highly productive and engaging process. In terms of the key findings and outcomes of the community consultation, the following highlights were of particular relevance to the development of the Plan.

What do you think is great about Glenties?

- town's sense of place, community spirit and the friendly nature of its people
- walking track as being a great asset to the town
- the **Harvest Fair** brings people into the town with enjoyable activities held throughout this period
- local amenities and facilities such as the playground, public toilets, **community centre**, arts centre and GAA Club
- **location**... proximity to the coast and its scenic setting

What do you think are the top 3 things the town needs?

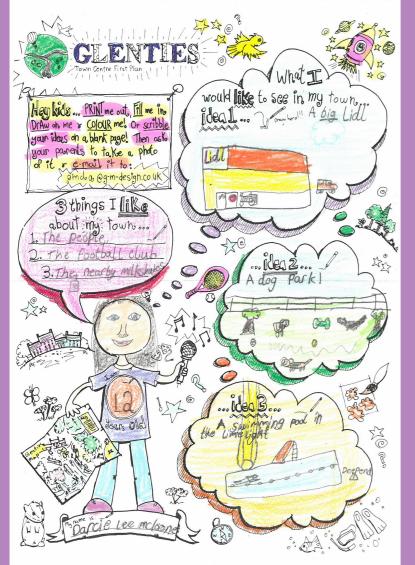
- address derelict and vacant buildings along Main Street, which are detracting from the visual appearance and potential of the town
- 'the Garden' has been neglected and needs attention
- lack of access to convenient parking
- need for a **new town park** and facilities or spaces for younger people to meet/play
- more shops and businesses along Main Street and the need for more housing for all ages

Other notable comments / feedback

"lack of formal crossing points along Main Street"

"a drop-In Centre for the Youth of Na Gleannta would be a great idea

potential for a **new 10km** trail, which could be developed in conjunction with the opening of the new Brian Friel Centre"

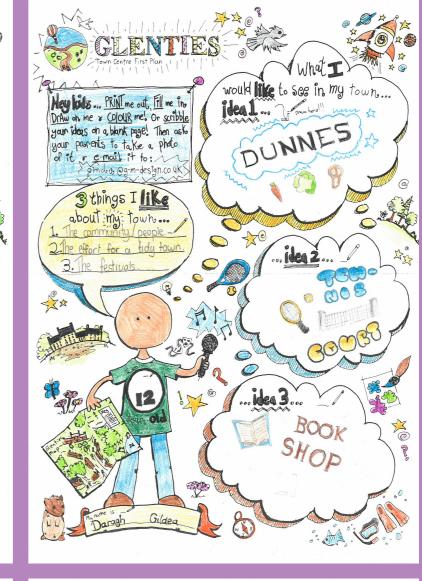


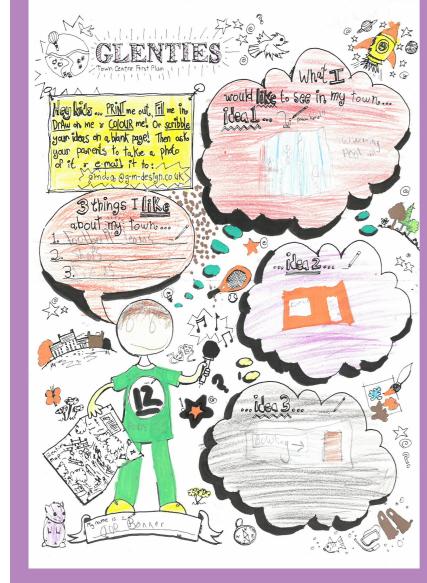








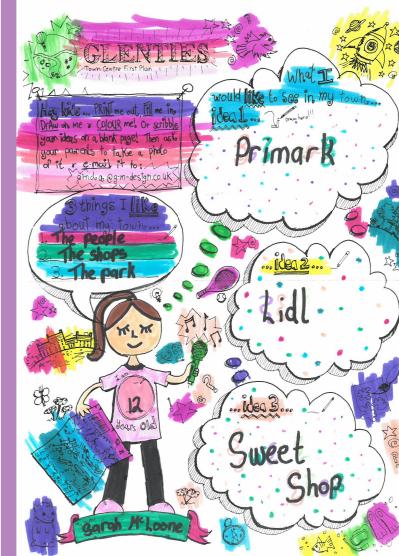












A SMALL SELECTION OF SOME OF THE AMAZING KIDS CONSULTATION ACTIVITY SHEETS









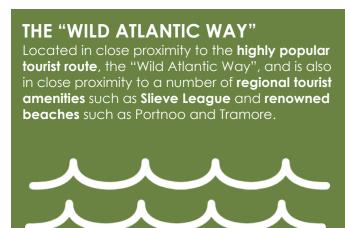
A SUMMARY OF STAGE 1 (cont'd)

A SCOT Analysis



BUILT & CULTURAL HERITAGE
Unique built heritage with examples of vernacular architecture and several buildings are contained on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage.







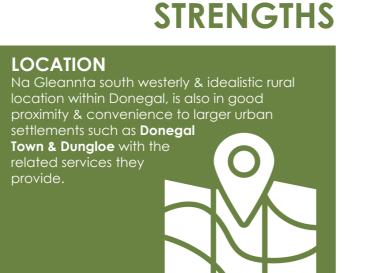
THE "HARVEST FAIR"

A long-standing, annual festival, celebrated in September, attracting in the region of 30,000 visitors. Generally a week-long event filled with traditional markets, live music, parades, & family activities, celebrating the region's agricultural & cultural heritage.

Known for its vibrant atmosphere & draws large crowds, incl. locals & visitors.



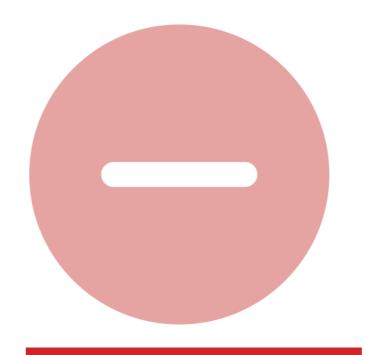
























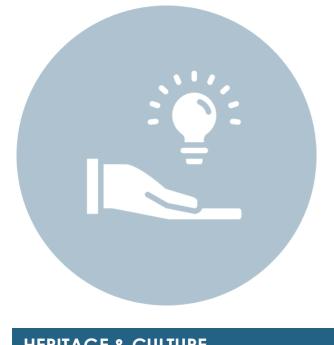










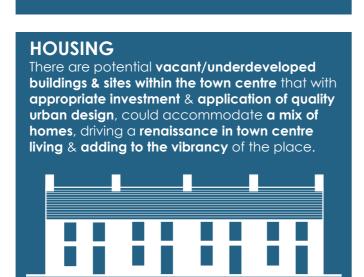


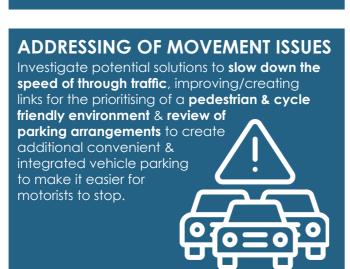


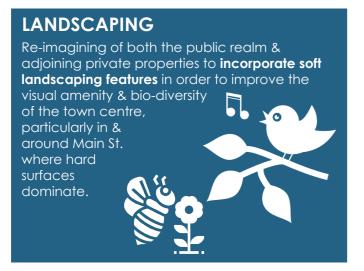












OPPORTUNITIES



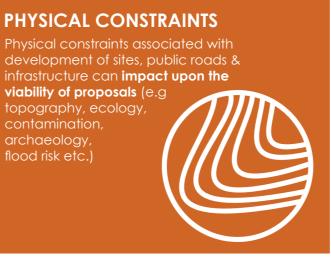




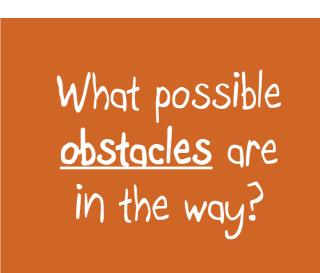












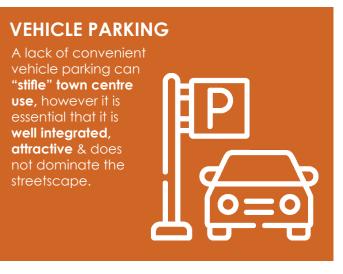




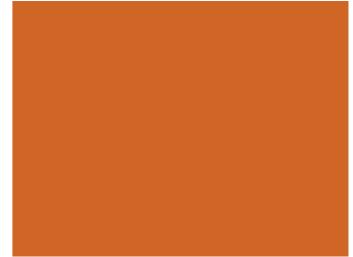




THREATS







..... this provided us with a basis to develop a Stage 2 Draft Illustrative Plan...











A DRAFT ILLUSTRATIVE PLAN

Areas of focus & potential actions



"Utilise the town's unique location, particularly it's setting between the two Glens & on the River Stracashel/Owenea, as well as it's standing as an important settlement in the Western Donegal Gaeltacht.'

inclusiveness.'

Objective: "Deliver a series of integrated high-quality multi-functional public spaces, including at **key areas along Main St.** These spaces should

be designed with a **high level of pedestrian**

priority & with a focus on improving aesthetics,

biodiversity, amenity, recreation & civic

Transport & movement

Objective: "Prioritise a pedestrian & cyclist friendly environment; improve public transport facilities; ensure the essential needs of car drivers & passengers are sensitively provided for; & strengthen links & physical connections between the town centre/Main St. & the wider area & features, in particular existing & - Built & cultural

Objective:

"Capitalise on & enhance the town's unique historic Market Town features & other cultural heritage through building conservation/ revitalisation & developing the town's cultural interpretation & related activities/events."



& assist the development & enhancement of new & existing businesses & tourism uses, capitalising on particular opportunities related to the Wild Atlantic Way, & the Western

Donegal Gaeltacht"



"Nurture & strengthen the strong community spirit, & high levels of participation/activity through the provision of quality services, facilities, environmental enhancements, & appropriate town centre housing in a sustainable way that will improve the people of Na Gleannta quality of life."



"The commercial

core' Main St. (south); & the junction with Mill Rd./the R243.













opportunities at

gables facing the river

future parking

at backlands?

7

(As a number of the

building/lands are privately owned, progress beyond

conceptual stages can only be made

by working with/the

co-operation of the

owner(s)).

KEY AREA 2

bus stop

Potential future

connections between

the "public buildings

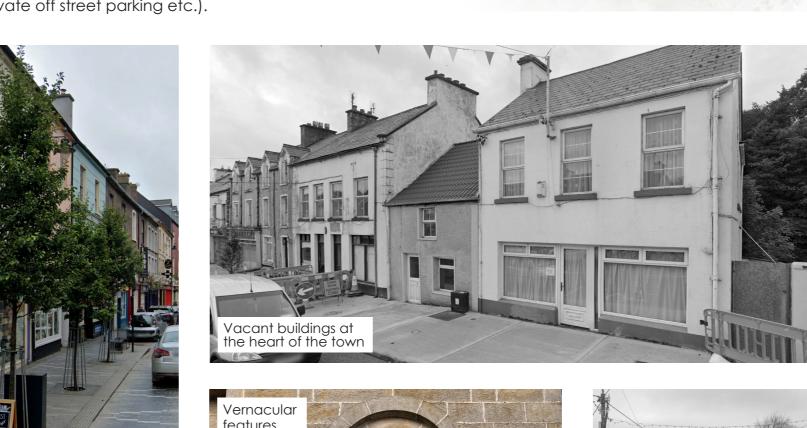
cluster"/hotel & the

pedestrian

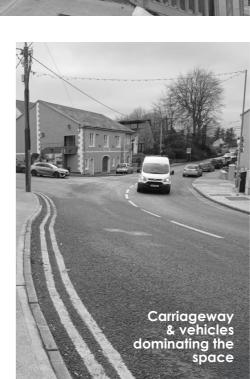
The town centre, home to most commercial activity, retains a human-scale linear form but many buildings and public spaces are tired or inappropriately altered and need revitalization; limited convenient parking and access may be hindering current and future growth

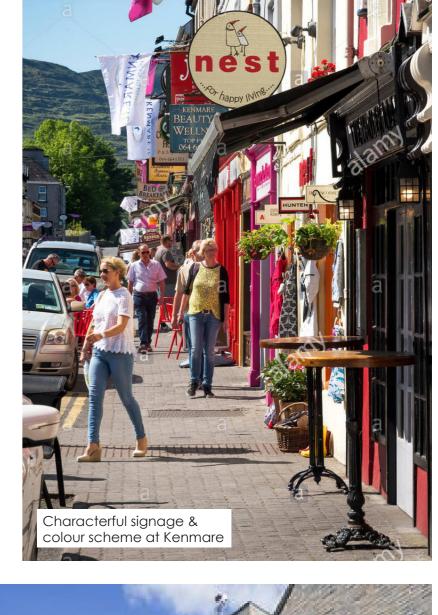
The aim of the potential actions are to "improve movement, parking & public realm, creating an attractive civic space, & also address vacancy, in doing so, generating opportunities for new & enhanced town centre living, working & play".

- Public realm improvements A: Along Main St. (south); & the junction with Mill Rd./the R243. Potential to improve the southern end of Main St. to create an enhanced civic space. There is potential for carriage/footway resurfacing; improved pedestrian crossings; traffic calming; review & definition of on-street parking; green infrastructure enhancements; updating street furniture, way-finding, public art; & enhancement of bus stop facilities.
- Vehicle parking opportunities at Main St. (south) & its backlands. Se PI Cn He Ec Cm There is demand for more convenient parking & better management of existing spaces to support local businesses. Underused backlands northeast & southwest of Main St. could provide new parking areas, connected by improved pedestrian links.
- Historic & vernacular building improvements A: The Market Hall. Se PI Cn He Ec Cm A key heritage & community building where enhancements could improve use, facilities, energy efficiency, & aesthetics, while creating synergy with the adjacent Courthouse redevelopment (Action no.4).
- Historic & vernacular building improvements B: The former "Courthouse". Se PI Cn He Ec Cm The Brian Friel Trust et al. is commendably enhancing this important heritage building into a cultural centre & community/tourist hub. There is opportunity for further intervention such as improved public realm, signage, & parking (linked to Actions 1 & 2), & could strengthen its potential success.
- Potential enhancements to St.Connell's Cultural & Heritage Museum. Se PI Cn He Ec Cm An existing tourism & cultural facility where there is an opportunity to explore how it can be improved & also avail of the ongoing enhancements to the adjacent courthouse & its future uses, creating synergy & a well rounded visitor experience.
- Regeneration Opportunity A: Brennan's B&B etc. Se Pl Cn He Ec Cm Currently for sale & in a prime central location, offers particular redevelopment potential. Options could include mixed uses with ground-floor commercial, residential above, & possible family housing/innovation space/or parking to the rear. Also an access/ connection to/from Main St. & potential a "pocket" car-park at the west of the River could be created via this site.
- Regeneration Opportunity B / Historic & vernacular building improvements C: "Brennan's" shop etc. Se PI Cn He Ec Cm The site offers potential for a comprehensive redevelopment, possibly mixed-use with ground-floor commercial & residential units, including family & over-55's provision, or as a Digital/Remote Working Hub. As a listed NIAH building, 'Brennan's" should be appropriately refurbished, with the massing, form, scale, & character of the terrace row retained where possible.
- Shop frontage & other building facade remediation & improvements. Se PI Cn He Ec Cm Explore traditional enhancements to restore the street's historic character and charm, including aesthetic and functional improvements such as heritage shopfront upgrades in line with Donegal County Council guidance (e.g., better proportions, natural materials, appropriate signage, reinstated heritage windows, lime render, authentic eaves, and rainwater goods.
- Identify & progress town centre "Right Size Housing" / "Bring Back Housing" opportunities. Se PI Cn He Ec Cm There is potential to identify a number of existing terraces &/or vacant commercial units which could accommodate residential uses but are currently inappropriate for modern family living. Explore proposals for improvements/adaptation in order to make premises more attractive to the market (e.g. the combining of units creating larger, comfortable spaces; adjustments to internal layouts to create better flow; creating connection between the living & gardens; & provision of private off street parking etc.).









The "commercial core" area & potential

actions map (not to scale).

future parking at backlands?

KEY AREA 1

mural

pportunity at gable

buildings cluster"

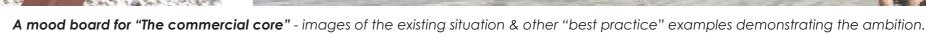
Future access

to backlands?





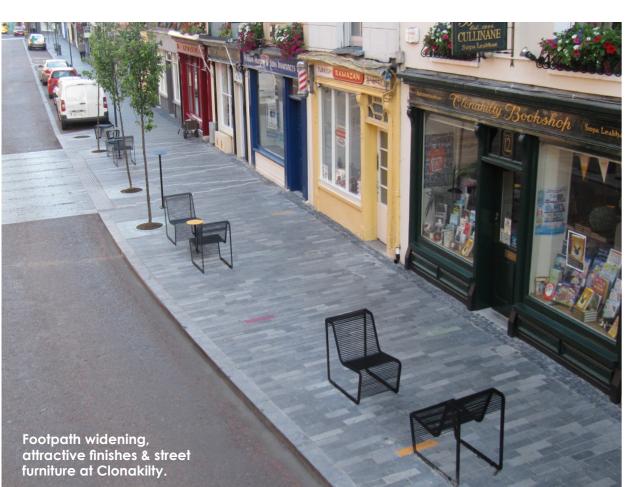


















"The central area north of Stracashel River" - Main St. (north), & the junction with the R250

Main St. (north) is more residential than commercial, with a quieter feel, except around school times. Commercial units are mostly small, with some vacant. Older terrace housing in the area can often be poorly laid out for modern living, making it less attractive to younger families. While parking pressures are lower than the south of Main St., the area is still dominated by road and hard surfacing, & the public realm is "tired" & in need of enhancement.

The aim of the potential actions are to "improve movement for all & public realm, creating an attractive area, & also addressing vacancy, in doing so, generating opportunities for predominately new & enhanced town centre living, but also working & play".

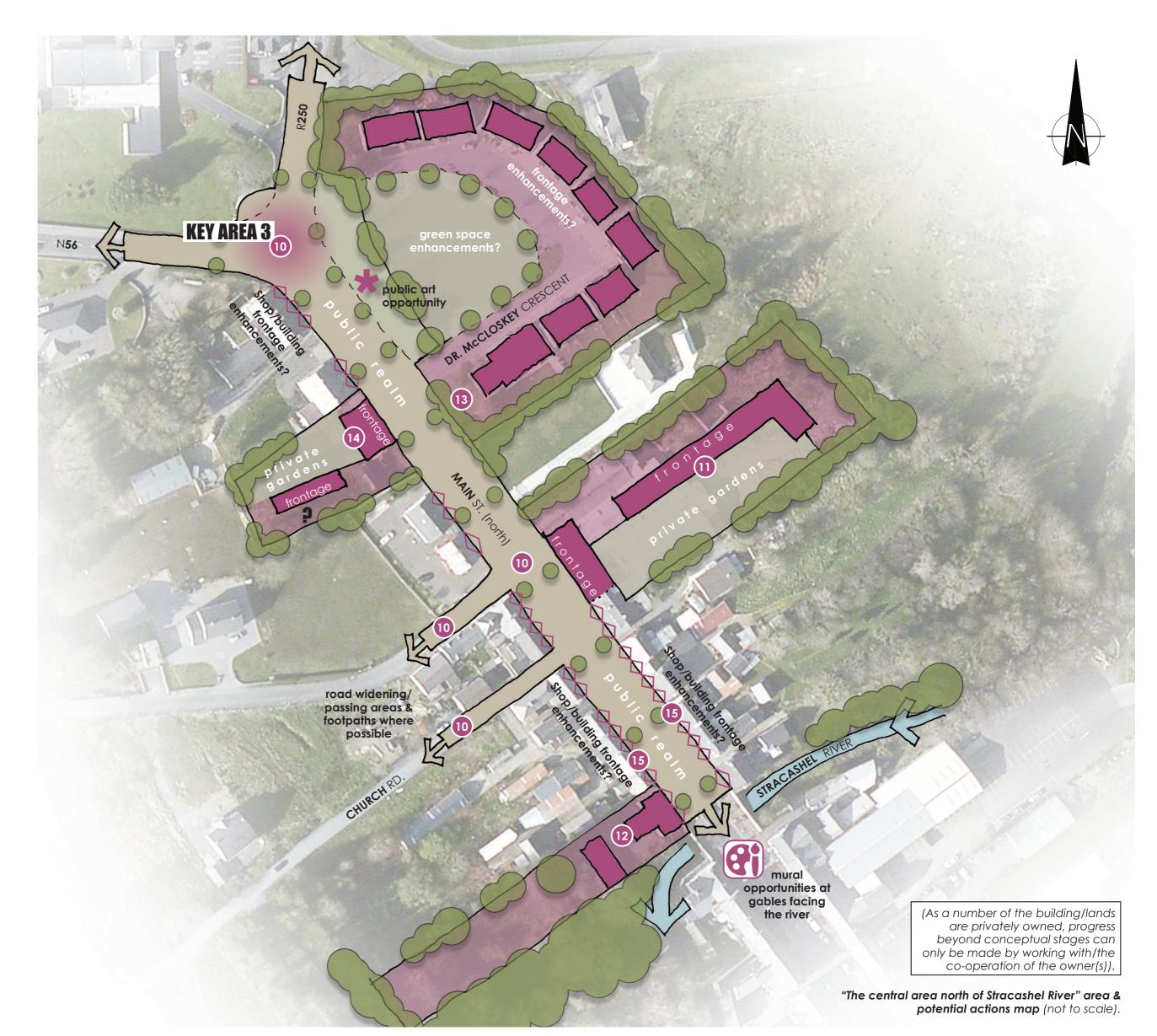
Public realm improvements B: Along Main St. (north); the junction (R250); & adjoining streets. Se PI Cn He Ec Cm

Potential to enhance the northern end of Main St., improving aesthetics & functionality through resurfacing, upgraded pedestrian crossings, traffic calming, defining on-street parking arrangements, green infrastructure (including the adjacent "park"), updated street furniture, wayfinding, & public art.

- Regeneration Opportunity C: The former "Limelight" nightclub. Se Pl Cn He Ec Cm A prominent derelict building on Main St. offers potential for comprehensive redevelopment, such as a town-centre residential scheme with family homes, gardens, & parking, to get more people living in the area to bring vitality & assisting with particular issues in shortages of quality housing.
- Regeneration Opportunity D / Historic & vernacular building improvements D: "Ballybeg" House. Se PI Cn He Ec Cm

Potential for the enhancement of & review the opportunities related to this prominent & central property. For example the creating of frontage to the river & potentially assisting in opening up public access to it, & also better utilisation of it's extensive backlands.

- Improvements to the setting of Dr. McCloskey's Crescent. Se PI Cn He Ec Cm Potential to enhance the privacy & functioning of the area & the dwellings, e.g. realignment of some fencing, inclusion of some screen planting to the rears of properties, & the creation of usable front gardens & defensible spaces.
- Regeneration Opportunity E / Historic & vernacular building improvements E: Dwelling house & adjoining lands opposite Dr. McCloskey's Crescent. Se Pl Cn He Ec Cm A sizable dwelling not on the NIAH, but does have particular vernacular form. The site may offer potential for comprehensive redevelopment, such as a town centre residential scheme of family homes with gardens & parking, supporting increased town centre vitality. It would be desirable if the massing, form, scale & vernacular character of the complex is in some way enhanced or sensitively replicated.
- Building facade remediation & improvements Se PI Cn He Ec Cm Enhance the northern end of the street by restoring its historic character and charm. Improvements could include heritage building and shopfront upgrades in line with best practice—better proportions, natural materials, authentic colours, heritage windows, lime render, appropriate signage, reinstated eaves, and traditional rainwater goods.



















A mood board for "The central area north of Stracashel River" - images of the existing situation and other "best practice" examples demonstrating the ambition.





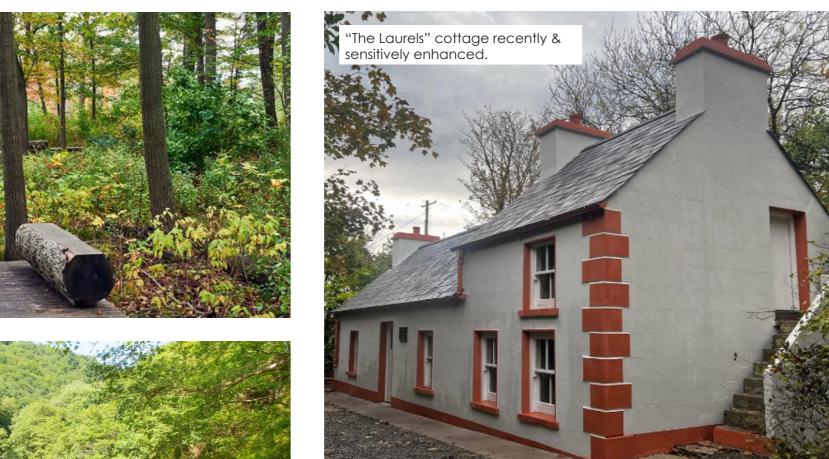




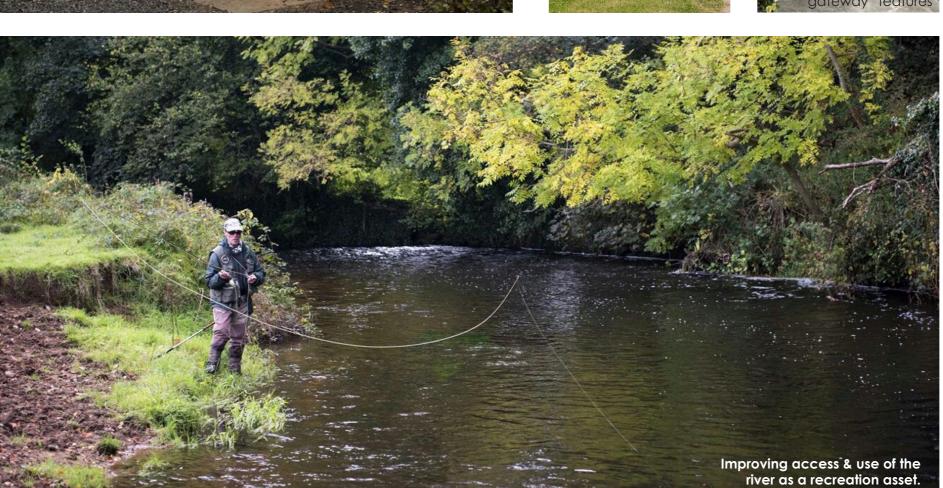
The wider community, though outside the town centre, relies on and supports its facilities. Enhancements should therefore extend beyond the core to strengthen the town as a whole.

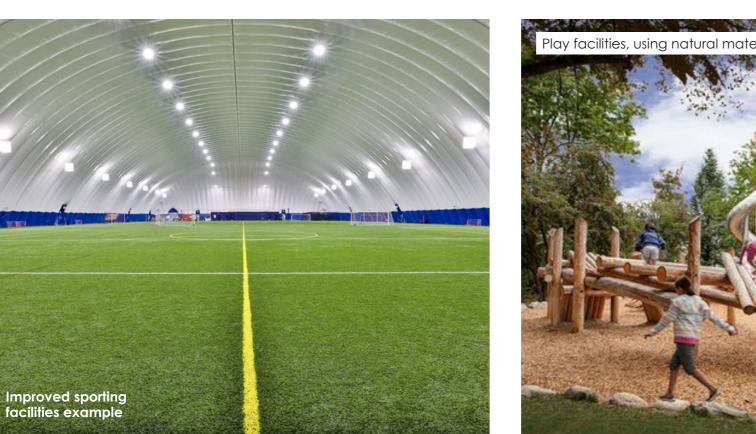
The aim of the potential actions are to "facilitate appropriate uses & facilities that would benefit the town centre, however due to their nature, maybe cannot be located within it".

- Enhancement of the Na Gleannta Community Park & adjoining facilities. Se Pl Cn He Ec Cm Improve this central recreational space, respecting the adjacent Parochial House, with redesigned play & fitness areas, incidental play features, upgraded picnic zones, improved paths & cycleways, enhanced landscaping, a sensory/community garden, sculptural or wildlife trails, & redeveloped public facilities.
- Enhancements at the Stracashel/Owenea River. Se PI Cn He Ec Cm Explore opportunities to better connect the river & town centre through a "light touch" walking/cycle trail from Main St. in both directions, linking to nearby roads, with defined paths, subtle landscaping, seating, signage, & information panels etc.
- Enhancement to the setting of St. Conall's Church. Se PI Cn He Ec Cm An important heritage & community building with potential for setting enhancements, including landscaping, softened of the south western views, reduced car park impact, improved signage, & safer pedestrian links to the town centre.
- Historic & vernacular building improvements F: "The Laurels" Cottage & its setting. Se PI Cn He Ec Cm Opportunity to protect & enhance this key cultural site linked to Brian Friel's "Dancing at Lughnasa", supporting The Brian Friel Trust's ongoing work through improved access, signage, wayfinding, & addressing unauthorised adjacent development.
- Regeneration Opportunity F: The former "Firestation" site. Se PI Cn He Ec Cm A small but prominent derelict former fire station at The Rock/R253 which offers redevelopment potential. A social housing scheme is in the process of design, though the site could alternatively be integrated with the adjacent park (see Action 11) to create a landscaped block, more green space, & an improved streetscape, subject to timing.
- Enhancements to the "Garden" along the N56 at the north. Se PI Cn He Ec Cm Potential to physically improve this community green space, with replacement planting & other features. Also to create a longer term management stategy for the facility.
- Enhancement of sporting & recreational facilities & buildings. Se PI Cn He Ec Cm There are number of outdoor pitches & buildings/hall associated with Naomh Conaill CLCG & St. Columba's School. There could be potential to improve the overall facilities at each to help serve the communites recreational needs, e.g. pavillion building(s), handball, gym, a sizable covered/indoor facility; improved walking tracks; access to river; storage facilities etc.
- Managing the potential expansion of the town/housing lands. Se PI Cn He Ec Cm Opportunity to ensure that the focus of future regeneration & expansion radiates from the town centre outwards; & that wider expansion does not contribute to "urban sprawl" & is designed & implemented to the highest urban design principles.
- Enhanced town "gateways" & improved branding / marketing of the town Se PI Cn He Ec Cm Na Gleannta, at the heart of the Western Donegal Gaeltacht, hosts several attractions. Improved promotion & gateway enhancements could draw greater interest & boost visitor numbers.
- Improved wider walking routes. Se PI Cn He Ec Cm Residents have highlighted popular local routes, often along rural roads lacking facilities. These could be enhanced in phases, e.g., MacGill's homeplace or Drumnasillagh graveyards, through footpaths, lighting, & signage. Future greenways should connect to the town centre, while completing the "Brian Friel Walk" which would provide a key cultural & tourist attraction.

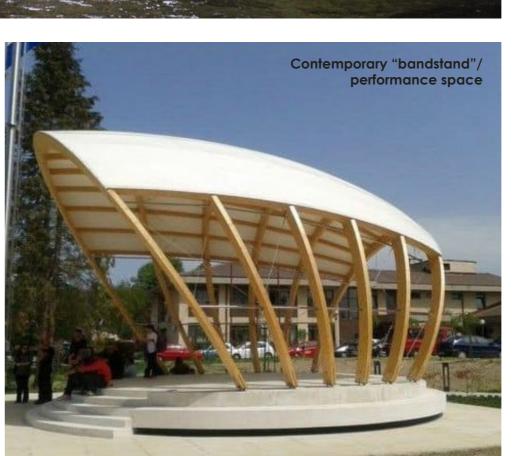














Lack of identifiable &/ or quality "gateway"

to the town









A mood board for "The wider area" - images of the existing situation and other "best practice" examples demonstrating the ambition.



Woodland/river trail examples with various features such as boardwalks,

seating, wayfinding etc. ↓↑

Poor pedestrian access &

intervisibility at St. Conall's Church.





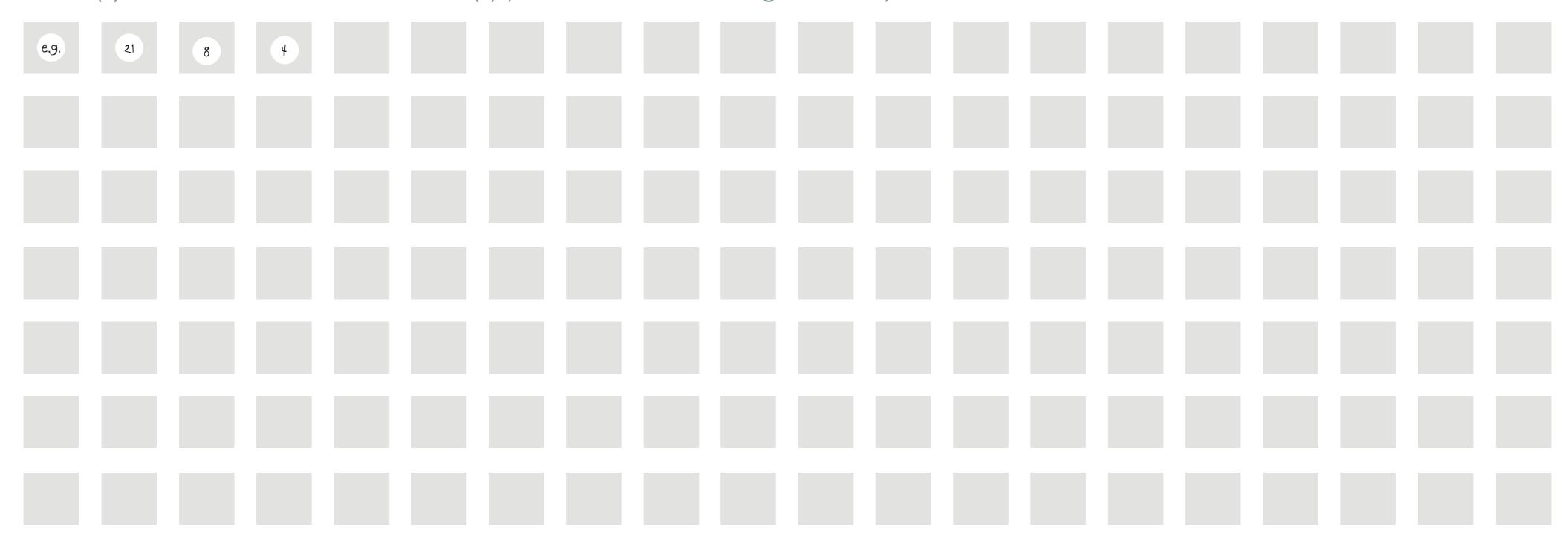


HAVE YOUR SAY!

What are your views on the Town Centre First Plan?

We would like to hear what should be a priority going forward.....

In relation to the list of "Potential Actions" on the draft "Illustrative Plan" (boards 3 to 6, & as summarised below) please place a sticker(s) with the number of the action(s) you consider to be "Higher Priority" in the boxes below:



(a summary of the "Potential Actions")

- 1 Public realm improvements A: Along Main St. (south); & the junction with Mill Rd./the R243.
- Vehicle parking opportunities at Main St. (south) & its backlands.
- 3 Historic & vernacular building improvements A: The Market Hall.
- 4 Historic & vernacular building improvements B: The former "Courthouse".
- 5 Potential enhancements to St.Connell's Cultural & Heritage Museum.

- 6 Regeneration Opportunity A:
 Brennan's B&B etc.
- Regeneration Opportunity B /
 Historic & vernacular building
 improvements C: "Brennan's"
 shop etc.
- 8 Shop frontage & other building facade remediation & improvements.
- Identify & progress town centre "Right Size Housing" / "Bring Back Housing" opportunities.
- 10 Public realm improvements
 B: Along Main St. (north); the
 junction (R250); & adjoining
 streets.

- Regeneration Opportunity
 C: The former "Limelight"
 nightclub.
- Regeneration Opportunity D / Historic & vernacular building improvements D: "Ballybeg" House.
- Improvements to the setting of Dr. McCloskey's Crescent.
- Regeneration Opportunity E /
 Historic & vernacular building
 improvements E: Dwelling
 house & adjoining lands
 opposite Dr.McCloskey's Cres.
- Building facade remediation & improvements.

- Enhancement of the Na Gleannta Community Park & adjoining facilities.
- 17) Enhancements at the Stracashel/Owenea River.
- Enhancement to the setting of St. Conall's Church.
- Historic & vernacular building improvements F: "The Laurels" Cottage & its setting.
- 20 Regeneration Opportunity F: The former "Firestation" site.

- ©1) Enhancements to the "Garden" along the N56 at the north.
- 22) Enhancement of sporting & recreational facilities & buildings.
- 23 Managing the potential expansion of the town/housing lands.
- Enhanced town "gateways"
 improved branding /
 marketing of the town.
- 25) Improved wider walking routes.

How do I communicate any other views?

Ask us questions & discuss, we are here today to listen:



Jonny & Mark from GM Design; or staff from Donegal CC. Complete our Questionnaire:
... on the day: ... at home:





Send comments via e-mail/post:

email:

gmda@g-m-design.co.uk write:

GM Design, 22 Lodge Rd, C'raine, Co.Derry, BT52 1NB

To view these boards, please visit

www.glentiestowncentrefirst.com







