



County Development Plan Review
Forward Planning
Planning Department
Galway County Council
Prospect Hill
Galway
H91 H6KX

Our Ref: 210639
Your Ref: N/A

BY EMAIL

22nd July 2021

Re: Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 – Draft Development Plan Submission on behalf of Creggs Rural Development Company

Dear Sir/Madam,

We note that Galway County Council has commenced a review of the current *Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021* and preparation of a new development plan for the period 2022-2028. Creggs Rural Development Company, respectfully ask that this submission, regarding the published Draft of the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 (hereafter referred to as the Draft Plan) be considered by Galway County Council.

Introduction

This submission will comment on the policies laid out in the Draft Plan, with particular reference to Chapter 4 which relates to Rural Living and Development and Chapter 7 which relates to Infrastructure, Utilities and Environmental Protection. The submission will outline the key issue facing Creggs regarding the lack of sewerage infrastructure in the village, which is regarded as the main constraint to the growth of the village. It is requested that this issue is addressed in the upcoming Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028. The submission will also comment on opportunities within Creggs for remote working and the policies that support this proposal. The submission also highlights the opportunity for residential growth in the centre of Creggs, which in turn can be complemented public realm improvements in the village. We respectfully request that the Planning Authority take cognisance of this submission with regard to these items.

At the outset, this submission would like to acknowledge the ongoing collaborative partnership between Creggs Rural Development Company and MKO. Published in February 2021, MKO produced a community-led Village Plan for Creggs (**see Appendix 1**), which set out to propose improvements and projects to enhance Creggs as an attractive place to live, work, and visit. MKO took a collaborative approach with groups including residents, local councilors, council officials, landowners, local businesses, staff and students of the Creggs National School and others with a shared interest in the future of Creggs Village. The findings of the community consultation process identified a number of signature projects, including the potential for a Co-working Space in the



village, the need for sewage infrastructure, adult disability services, and a public realm framework plan. The plan also identifies a number of supporting projects, including upgrades to Creggs RFC and Creggs GAA club, and the provision of an inclusive playground at Creggs National School. Finally, quick win projects include the delivery of designated community space, looped walkways, a community calendar, tourism accommodation, public lighting, and traffic calming measures.

The village of Creggs is located in east Galway, located close to the Roscommon border nearly 80km north-east of Galway City. Creggs Village is predominantly made up of agricultural lands, which many of the local residents own and work on. With a population of only 160, many of its residents travel outside of the village/county for work. As a rural village Creggs have a number of facilities within the village that cater for members of the immediate community and also for a wide hinterland. Some of these facilities include Creggs RFC, Creggs GAA, and Creggs National School. Existing facilities in the village range from educational, to historical/ cultural, recreational, food and drink and institutional.

In response to the Draft Plan as prepared, the content of our submission relates to the following most relevant items:

1. The Deficiency of Sewerage Infrastructure in Creggs
2. The Potential for a Remote Working Hub
3. Rural Housing and Development
4. Public Realm Improvements

1. The Deficiency of Sewerage Infrastructure in Creggs

It is widely accepted that the main constraint to the growth of the village is the lack of appropriate sewage infrastructure. This hinders village expansion and gives rise to environmental pollution of rivers. The village population is very low at 160, and this is linked to the lack of sewerage infrastructure and the barriers it creates to development in the village centre. The sewage system is based on septic tank storage, collection, and disposal with no water treatment facilities. It is accepted that for the village to grow, an improved sewage and treatment system will be required to serve the local community. Since 1 January 2014, Irish Water has statutory responsibility for all aspects of public water services planning, delivery, and operation at national, regional, and local levels.

This key piece of enabling infrastructure will require substantial investment and the support and backing of Irish water and Galway County Council. Work has begun on a €7 million scheme by Irish water and Galway County Council to upgrade the sewerage infrastructure in Glenamaddy; however, we are not aware of any similar plans to construct a wastewater treatment plant in Creggs.

It is noted that new development in Creggs must be prioritised at the centre of the village, as opposed to along approach roads or at the edges. This provides the opportunity to increase the density of population living within a walkable area, helping to support facilities, and adding life back onto the streets. Residents feel strongly that new development in the heart of Creggs must be provided to retain the function of the village and to support the many existing facilities within the village. However, the lack of sewerage infrastructure is a major barrier to development in the village, and in order to begin development in the village centre, public wastewater facilities must be implemented.



This project will be a longer-term project that will require support from a number of statutory stakeholders, with the most important being Irish water and Galway County Council. Irish Water note that they are happy to support Local Authorities who wish to seek funding for un-sewered villages through the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund of the NDP.

The current sewage system in Creggs is based on septic tank storage, collection, and disposal. Septic tanks are associated with negative impacts on the environment, as they have been identified as a source of pollution in rivers, due to excessive amounts of phosphorus and nitrogen. The River Suck lies a few kilometres to the east of Creggs village, as is designated as a Natural Heritage Area (NHA) and a Special Protection Area (SPA). It is clear that the use of septic tanks is not a sustainable sewage option in rural villages, such as the village of Creggs, which is highlighted in policy WS 8 of the Draft Plan. Therefore, the sustainable development of Creggs and the protection of its rivers is heavily reliant on the establishment of a public wastewater system in the village.

- **Policy WS 8 Proliferation of Septic Tanks:** Discourage the over-concentration/proliferation of individual septic tanks and treatment plants to minimise the risk of groundwater pollution.

It is highlighted in the Creggs Village Plan that new development in the village should be prioritised at the centre, which will help to increase the density of population living within a walkable area. Sustainable development within the village centre is heavily reliant on the establishment of a public wastewater system. If appropriate sewerage infrastructure is implemented, linear development can be avoided, as development will be focused within the centre. Therefore, we support Policy RH 14 of the Draft Plan.

- **Policy RH 14 Linear Development:** Discourage the extension of linear development (defined as five or more houses alongside 250 meters of road frontage). The Council will assess whether a given proposal will exacerbate such linear development, having regard to the site context.

We support Policy WS 1 of the Draft Plan and its aim to expand the capacity and delivery of water services. Creggs would benefit greatly from the timely delivery of appropriate water services to facilitate growth.

- **Policy WS 1: Enhancement of Water Supply Infrastructure:** Liaise with Irish Water, to maximise the potential of existing capacity and to facilitate the timely delivery of new water services infrastructure, to facilitate existing and future growth.

The Irish Water Investment Plan 2020-2024 sets out Irish Water budgetary plan from 2020-2024 in line with their strategic objectives as detailed in the Water Services Strategic Plan (WSSP). The nearest scheme to Creggs to date as part of the plan up to 2020 is the Glenamaddy Sewerage Scheme. Creggs unfortunately does not benefit from this scheme.

Where there is no public water scheme in place, which is evident in Creggs, the next option available to develop can incorporate a private water supply. It is evident in the Draft Plan that the council aims to support the provision of private water schemes in the absence of public water supply, which is supported.

- **Policy WS 5 Private Water Supply:** Support the provision of a private water supply in instances where there is no public water supply or where the existing supply does not have sufficient capacity to serve the proposed development. This will only be considered where it



can be demonstrated that the proposed water supply meets the standards set out in the EU and national legislation and guidance including adherence to Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive and would not be prejudicial to public health or would not significantly impact negatively on the source or yield of an existing supply.

The Draft Plan states that *“It is a policy objective of the Council to work in conjunction with Irish Water to protect existing wastewater infrastructure, to maximise the potential of existing capacity and to facilitate the timely delivery of new wastewater services infrastructure to facilitate future growth”.*

The Draft Plan outlines a number of proposed sewerage schemes that are due to commence over the next 3 years. Creggs is not included in any of these proposed schemes. Table 7.9 in the Draft Plan lists all of the towns and villages in County Galway that currently benefit from public wastewater schemes.

The following Policy Objectives relating to wastewater in the Draft Plan are supported:

- **Policy WW 1 Enhancement of Wastewater Supply Infrastructure:** Work in conjunction with Irish Water to maximise the potential of existing capacity and to facilitate the delivery of new wastewater services infrastructure, to facilitate future growth in the county.
- **Policy WW 2 Delivery of Wastewater Infrastructure:** Liaise and co-operate with Irish Water in the implementation and delivery of the Water Services Strategic Plan (2015) and the Irish Water Investment Plan 2020-2024 and other relevant investment works programmes of Irish Water in the delivery of infrastructure within the county.
- **Policy WW 4 Requirement to Liaise with Irish Water – Wastewater:** Ensure that new developments will only be permitted which are adequately serviced with sufficient capacity for appropriate collection, treatment, and disposal (in compliance with the Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plan) to the public sewer unless provided for otherwise by the plan. Developers shall liaise with Irish Water with regard to the waste water (and water) infrastructure to ensure sufficient capacity is available prior to the submission of a planning application.
- **Policy WW 5 Serviced Sites:** Support the servicing of small towns and villages including initiatives to provide an alternative to one-off housing in the countryside, in accordance with the National Planning Framework.
- **WW 6 Private Wastewater Treatment Plants:** Ensure that private wastewater treatment plants, where permitted, are operated in compliance with EPA’s Code of Practice Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (PE. ≤10) (EPA 2009), as may be amended.

It is noted that Policy Objective WW 5 in the existing 2015-2021 plan, “Waste Water Treatment Associated with Development in Un-Serviced Areas”, has not been included in the Draft Plan for 2022-2028. It would be beneficial to the village of Creggs that this policy be carried over to the new Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028.

Policy Objective WW 5: Permit development in un-serviced areas only where it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority that the proposed waste water treatment system is in accordance with the *Code of Practice Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single House EPA (2009)/EPA Wastewater Treatment Manuals – Treatment Systems for Small Communities, Business, Leisure Centres and Hotels (1999)* (or any superseding documents) and subject to complying with the provisions and objectives of the *EU Water Framework Directive*.



Supported National Planning Framework (NPF) Objectives:

The NPF recognises that “*Many smaller towns and villages do not benefit from public water service networks, either in terms of water supply or wastewater treatment*”.

- **National Policy Objective 18b:** Develop a programme for ‘new homes in small towns and villages’ with local authorities, public infrastructure agencies such as Irish Water and local communities to provide serviced sites with appropriate infrastructure to attract people to build their own homes and live in small towns and villages.
- **National Strategic Outcome 9 Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources:** Development of a new rural settlement investment approach, coordinating Irish Water, local authority, developer and community-led solutions to ensuring that sustainable water services solutions are progressively implemented.

Supported Regional Policy Objectives:

- **Regional Policy Objective 8.15:** Support investment for water and wastewater services in the first instance where existing facilities are insufficient to meet current demands.
- **Regional Policy Objective 8.17:** Provide quality water and wastewater services necessary for urban and rural economic development purposes.

2. The Potential for a Remote Working Hub

During the community consultation process throughout the production of the Creggs Village Plan, it emerged that there is great potential for the provision of a Co-Working Space in Creggs. Covid-19 has significantly changed the world of work. Prior to the pandemic, Creggs had a number of commuters on a daily basis to areas such as Dublin, Galway, Athenry and Athlone. The requirement to work from home where possible, for reasons of public health, has demonstrated how viable home, remote and blended working can be. The provision a Co-Working Space in Creggs may allow workers to live and work locally, thereby reducing long commutes and carbon emissions, while supporting the community and rural regeneration. It is clear that national policy on remote working will support the establishment of a co-working hub in the village.

Creggs benefits from full High-speed Fibre Broadband, giving the village great potential to be an attractive place to work remotely. The establishment of a remote working hub can be seen as a key driver for development in Creggs. The Creggs Village Plan outlines that an area within the Heritage Centre has been identified with the intention of re-purposing and utilising as a co-working space/evening study area. The operation of the co-working space will not impede nor hinder the operations of the heritage centre, as it will be a separate area. The proposal would also bring revenue to the Heritage Centre, as there would be a nominal fee to use this facility per individual in order to cover running costs. If this proved successful, there are opportunities to extend its use and facilitate a weekend study hub where third level students would be able to complete their assignments etc. Once set up, there may also be scope to move the co-working space to a larger facility within the village, however this would be dependent on the success of the pilot initiative run out of the heritage centre and based on the demand for spaces.

It is anticipated that the provision of a Co-working hub can promote Creggs an attractive place to live and work, making the potential for a hub a key driver for development. The provision of a co-



working hub would be supportive of a range of national policy objectives, which relate to economic growth, compact development, and climate resilience.

Supported NPF Objectives:

- **National Strategic Outcome 5 A Strong Economy:** Supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills. Supporting Entrepreneurialism.
- **National Strategic Outcome 1 Compact Growth:** Encouraging economic development and job creation. Building on existing assets
- **National Strategic Outcome 8 Transition to a Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Society:** Contributing to a national objective of achieving transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050.

National Remote Working Strategy:

As a result of the shift to remote working for many sectors during the pandemic, the Irish government have developed a National Strategy to facilitate the option of remote working as a permanent feature in the Irish workplace.

The strategy defines co-working as *“a shared office space where collaboration and networking outside of one’s team or organisation are encouraged”*.

It is outlined that mapping and investing in a network of remote working hubs across Ireland is a key aim within the strategy. Pillar Two: Develop and Leverage Remote Work Infrastructure is focused on making significant investment in remote work hubs and infrastructure in underserved areas to underpin the development of the national hubs network.

Remote working hubs are associated with a range of social, environment, and economic benefits. They can combat the risks of isolation and loneliness which have been highlighted during the Covid-19 pandemic. Hubs can reduce commuting times and can reduce traffic congestion and carbon emissions. They also offer employers a chance to reduce their business costs, improve staff retention.

It is noted that the Draft Plan supports the establishment of co-working hubs as either standalone facilities or ancillary to public buildings, libraries, or community facilities in settlements. Co-working hubs have the potential to stimulate local economies and accommodate for more flexible work options while also reducing commuting levels from towns and villages. Therefore, it is clear that the residents of Creggs, as well as the local economy of the village, will benefit greatly from the establishment of a Co-working hub in the village.

- **Policy CWH 1 Co-Working Hubs:** It is the Council’s policy objective to support and facilitate the establishment of co-working/ remote working hubs and creative hubs as either standalone facilities or ancillary to public buildings, libraries and community centres in towns and village centres as appropriate.
- **Policy RD 4 Remote Working:** To support remote working in the rural area, at an appropriate scale, for enterprise/businesses that do not require visiting members of the public, subject to normal planning considerations.



3. Rural Housing and Development

Creggs currently has a low population of 160 people. However, the village serves an extremely large hinterland, providing key services and facilities for its surrounding area. The village and its hinterland benefits from a range of facilities. These facilities consist of community facilities including Creggs RFC, Creggs GAA club and Creggs national school, cultural heritage including the Charles Stewart Parnell Heritage Centre and the Charles Stewart Parnell Monument, and natural amenities including the Suck Valley Way, Creggs Wildlife Park, woodlands, and peatlands. Creggs also benefits from high-speed broadband. The village has the opportunity to portray itself as an ideal location to live, and with the guidance of rural housing policies can look forward to future expansion and growth.

Supported NPF Objective:

- **National Strategic Outcome 3 Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities:** Implementation of the actions outlined in the Action Plan for Rural Development by strengthening Ireland’s rural fabric and supporting the communities who live there.

“Galway County Council recognises the important role that the rural area plays in the county from a housing, economic and social perspective”.

“With the changing work practices as more remote working there is an opportunity to provide rural villages as a real alternative for people wishing to live in a rural setting. There will be greater requirement to provide alternatives to living in large urban centres, but a balance is required in order to sustain the urban and rural areas. It is considered that the towns and villages now present an opportunity for people who would like to live in a rural area, but who do not comply with housing need criteria”.

4.5.2.2 Unserviced Villages

It is evident in the plan that the council recognises the deficiency in wastewater infrastructure in parts of the county and has set out policies to aid development in these areas. We support the strategy within the Draft Plan to support development on un-serviced lands, as the relevant policies are beneficial to Creggs.

“In addressing the villages that have a deficiency in wastewater infrastructure it is warranted to support the clustering of five houses or less on sites with individual waste water treatment plants in in certain circumstances to enhance the viability and attractiveness of these areas and to provide a viable alternative to the single house in the countryside”.

It is evident in policy RC 3 of the Draft Plan that the council aims to work with Irish Water to provide water services for new homes in small towns and villages. Creggs would benefit greatly from this policy and therefore supports it.

- **Policy RC 3 Small Towns and Villages:** To support the development of a “New Homes in Small Towns and Villages” initiative in consultation with Irish Water and other stakeholders through the provision of water services and serviced sites within the existing footprint of rural villages.

We support policy RC 5 of the Draft plan, as it can give Creggs the potential to begin development of the village through clustering, without the requirement of a public sewerage system. While it is a key goal for the village to gain access to public wastewater facilities, growth within the village is critical,



and has the potential to be achieved through this policy. We also support policy RC 6, which can facilitate development in the village footprint.

- **Policy RC 5 Rural Clustering on un-services lands in Villages:** Support the development of clusters of five houses or less within the footprint of existing villages with individual wastewater treatment plants in accordance with the most up to date EPA Code of Practice for Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems serving single houses. All proposals shall ensure that there is the provision of safe water supply. Proposals for development in these villages shall include an assessment undertaken by a qualified hydrologist, that demonstrates that the outfall from the septic tank will not, in combination with other septic tanks within the village and wider area, contribute towards any surface or ground water body not meeting the objective of the water group under the Waste Framework Directive.
- **Policy RC 6 Residential Development Potential of Villages:** Within the footprint of villages, development will be considered where it involves multi-house developments, subject to services, siting, design, protection of residential amenities and normal Development Management criteria as outlined in Chapter 3 Place Making, Regeneration and Urban Living and Chapter 15 Development Management Standards.

Policy RH 11 Wastewater Treatment Provision: Provide for sustainable rural housing in the county in accordance with the EPA Code of Practice: Wastewater Treatment Systems for Single Houses (2009).

Creggs is located within a Structurally Weak Area, within Zone 4 – Landscape Sensitivity Category 1 (pg. 75 and 76 of Draft Plan).

4. Public Realm Improvements

Through community engagement during the production of the Creggs Village Plan, it became apparent that there were many concerns about the everyday experience of the village. A number of issues and concerns such as cobble repairs, gully maintenance and street lighting fall within the realm of public realm maintenance. A public realm framework, as outlined in the Creggs Village Plan, has the potential to bring spatial order to the village and can improve the character of the village further through targeted action, while creating a framework for future development. This public realm framework consists of a main street upgrade, creation of public space, community connectivity and enhancing amenity and biodiversity. Detailed plans for the Public Realm Framework Plan are outlined in the Creggs Village Plan (**Appendix 1**).

The NPF outlines that growth and development of rural towns and villages can be facilitated through factors including regeneration, public realm improvements, and adaptation of built heritage. Improvements to public realm can help to create a sense of place in towns and villages, making them an attractive place to live.

- **National Policy Objective 18a:** Support the proportionate growth of and appropriately designed development in rural towns that will contribute to their regeneration and renewal, including interventions in the public realm, the provision of amenities, the acquisition of sites and the provision of services.



Supported NPF Objective:

- **National Strategic Outcome 7 Enhanced Amenities and Heritage:** Enhancing recreational spaces and attractiveness from a cultural, tourism and promotional perspective.

If the village gains access to appropriate sewerage infrastructure the population of the village would be expected to increase, as a result of the potential to develop within the village centre. An increased village population can benefit significantly from public realm improvements, making the village an enjoyable place to live. We support the policies that are outlined in the Draft Plan relating to public realm.

We support policy CGR 9 of the Draft Plan, as this policy can give Creggs the opportunity to implement high-quality public realm facilities in the village, which can contribute to quality of life for residents of Creggs.

- **Policy CGR 9 Delivering Improved Public Realm:** Provide for a high-quality public realm and public spaces in towns and villages by promoting quality design that accommodates creative patterns of use having regard to the physical, cultural, and social identities of individual settlements.
- **Policy CGR 10 Public Realm Strategy:** Consider the preparation of a Public Realm Strategy for County Galway within the lifetime of the Development Plan as resources permit.

Conclusion

Creggs Rural Development Company welcomes the opportunity to engage in the statutory review of the current *Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021* and the preparation of a new development plan for the period 2022-2028.

This submission has addressed the key issue in Creggs regarding the deficiency in sewerage infrastructure. The submission has also highlighted the opportunity for a remote working hub in Creggs, and how this can be supported by national and local planning policy. It is noted that there is great potential for growth in the village of Creggs, and we support the policies outlined in the Draft Plan that can assist the growth of Creggs despite issues regarding sewerage infrastructure. Improvements to the public realm of Creggs have the opportunity to assist the growth of the village, making Creggs a desirable place to live with a high quality of life. We respectfully ask that the local authority give due consideration to these matters in the preparation of the upcoming plan.

If you require any further detail or discussion relating to the enclosed submission, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,



Orla McCafferty
Graduate Planner
MKO



Appendix 1



MKO, Tuam Road, Galway, Ireland. H91 VW84

+353 (0)91 735611 | info@mkoireland.ie | www.mkoireland.ie | [@mkoireland](https://twitter.com/mkoireland)

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CREGGS VILLAGE PLAN

CREGGS COLLABORATIVE WORKSHOP & VILLAGE PLAN URBAN DESIGN

FINAL REPORT
FEBRUARY 2021



Prepared by MKO Ireland
*Planning & Environmental
Consultants*

Approved by Pamela Harty
Senior Planner,
MKO,
Tuam Road,
Galway,
Ireland.

Contact Pamela Harty

Telephone number +353 (0)91 735611

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1

Project Overview

Introduction

Project Methodology

Baseline & Policy Context

Creggs Village Introduction

Local Amenities

Village Setting & Structure

Heritage Trails & Circulation Analysis

INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS A VILLAGE PLAN?

The purpose of the Creggs Village Plan is to propose improvements and projects, which will enhance Creggs as an attractive place in which to live, work and visit. The plan will set out a future framework for the village based on the aspirations and feedback from the community received during public consultation.

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES OF THE PLAN:

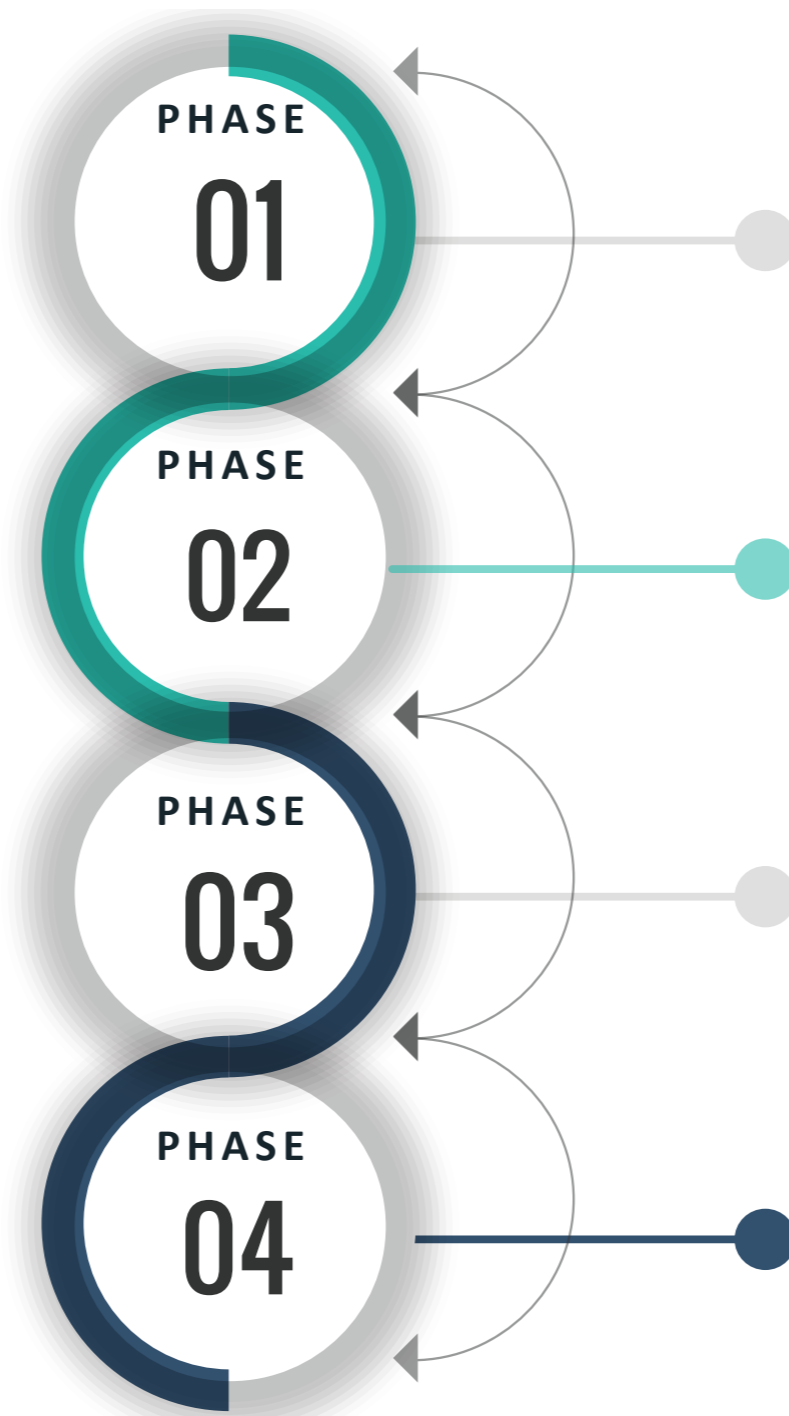
- The plan will be a community-led process which will seek to gather, organise and set out in a plan and report the community's vision for the future of the village.
- The plan will take cognisance of enabling legislation with regards to planning, environmental, climate change, heritage etc. It will identify and liaise with key organisations and groups who have the potential to become involved in the delivery of various actions and projects.
- The plan, when complete, will also propose a range of costed projects which could be implemented over the short, medium, and long term.

Village plans are opportunities for the villages or townlands to come together and decide on how best to develop the area over the next few years. They provide an excellent opportunity to showcase the village, its natural, built and cultural heritage, accomplishments, aesthetics and aspirations.

The Village Plan will provide guidance to a number of different stakeholders in different ways:

Local Authority Planners & Architects - Assist local authority planners, architects, and others in determining future development policy by providing local knowledge and guidance.

VILLAGE PLAN WORK-FLOW:



ENGAGEMENT

Understanding the aims and objectives of the project. Engagement with the Community and Galway County Council

DRIVERS

Identified several initial ideas and priorities for the village arising from feedback received. Undertook urban analysis of the village and environs.

CREGGS VISION

Initial finding will be presented to the community. Surveys and further consultation will be conducted to determine support for key projects and ideas will be further refined.

KEY PROJECTS

Further developing and refining the framework vision for the village which will be presented in the Final Plan. Identifying and prioritizing key projects.

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS PUBLISHED

FINAL REPORT PUBLISHED

Developers – Inform appropriate design solutions and ensure that future developments and changes add to local distinctiveness and character.

Community – Raise community awareness about their surrounding landscape and heritage assets and provide a basis for community led projects and initiatives.

PROJECT METHODOLOGY

HOW WAS THIS VILLAGE PLAN PRODUCED?

A village plan will identify where there are problems in the village, where there are opportunities, and where the community would want to see improvements and changes to take place. MKO Planning and Environmental Consultants have acted as facilitators helping the community to interpret their local environment and enhance their understanding of heritage management, planning and design principles/ concepts.

A Steering Group of local community representatives was established in association with the Creggs Rural Development Company Ltd to oversee the project. In September 2020, MKO were appointed to work with the Steering group and other residents of the community to develop this plan.

The Village Plan has been produced through an extensive community consultation programme combined with village visits and desk-based study. The project began with a full review of the baseline information including a review of existing reports, studies and initiatives that have already been undertaken in Creggs. The baseline evidence and potential opportunities within the Village were then discussed and consulted with the Steering Group through a series of presentations and workshops. Further consultation also took place with the wider community through series of phone call and emails along with engagement with Creggs National School. This enabled residents, community groups and organisations to engage and contribute to identifying areas of opportunity, and to provide crucial local knowledge to the baseline evidence.

The desktop research, site appraisal and community engagement resulted in the preparation of a draft report culminating the initial findings of the community engagement process. The next step in the process was to go back to the community to validate the draft findings of the project, and in doing so, to work towards creating a Shared Vision for Creggs.



CREGGS VILLAGE PLAN PHASES

The summary findings of the Preliminary Findings report were presented on Consultation Boards which were erected in a public space in the village over the Christmas 2020 period and invited further engagement from the local community and interested stakeholders. The Consultation Boards were also uploaded to an online platform and shared through local social media pages. In parallel, a community questionnaire to assess the demand for one of our proposed Signature Projects, - the Remote Working Hub / Co-Working Space, was designed and distributed. Further feedback was received and work then began on refining and providing further detail on the Action Plan. The Creggs Village Plan was formally launched in February 2021.

COMMUNITY-LED VILLAGE STATEMENTS

The project methodology has had regard to 'The Community-Led Village Design Statement Toolkit' launched by The Heritage Council in 2012 which sets out a step-by-step guide to undertaking a Community-led Village Design Statement.

"Project objectives should be SMART- Specific, Measurable Achievable, Realistic and Time-Dependent..." Village Design Statement Toolkit, The Heritage Council 2012

This Community-led Village Design Statement Toolkit has been developed by the Heritage Council in partnership with the village communities in Julianstown (County Meath) and Sandymount (Dublin City), along with Meath County Council and Dublin City Council. This Toolkit sets out a Step by Step Guide to undertaking a community-led Village Design Statement (VDS) in Ireland. This toolkit has been used as a best practice guide for The Creggs Village Plan.

WHO ARE CREGGS RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED?

Creggs Rural Development Company Limited is to act as a voluntary community development group to implement this project.

Creggs Rural Development Association (CRDA) was established in 1999. One of the main activities of the association is to participate in the Tidy Towns competition, which it has done every year since it was set up. While the initial focus was on tidying the village and presentation, improving the natural amenities of the village has become a high priority, and protecting and enhancing the natural heritage of the area. Creggs has increased the marks it receives in the Tidy Towns competition dramatically from the early years and continues to go from strength to strength, particularly in the Wildlife and Natural Amenities section.

COMMUNITY-LED VILLAGE STATEMENT

This Community-led Village Design Statement Toolkit has been developed by the Heritage Council in partnership with the village communities in Julianstown (County Meath) and Sandymount (Dublin City), along with Meath County Council and Dublin City Council. This Toolkit sets out a Step by Step Guide to undertaking a community-led Village Design Statement (VDS) in Ireland. This toolkit has been used as a best practice guide for The Creggs Village Plan.



**PROJECT OBJECTIVES SHOULD BE SMART-
SPECIFIC, MEASURABLE
ACHIEVABLE, REALISTIC AND
TIME-DEPENDENT**

**VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENTS TOOLKIT,
THE HERITAGE COUNCIL. 2012**



BASELINE & POLICY CONTEXT

The Creggs Village Plan is a non-statutory local development framework, to establish the community's vision for the future development of their village. It is essential that the current national, regional and local planning framework for the future development of the village is fully understood and implemented. The Village Plan needs to complement this policy framework so that any national and local resources that are available can be used as to deliver ambitions of the community. The Village Plan will be used by the community to as an empirical evidence base to support funding opportunities, to undertake projects and fulfil community aspirations.



PARNELL MONUMENT LOCATED TO THE NORTH WESTERN END OF CREGGS VILLAGE.



BRIDGE CROSSING THE DERRYHIPPO RIVER IN CREGGS WILDLIFE PARK.



CHARLES STUART PARNELL HERITAGE CENTRE LOCATED ALONG THE MAIN STREET OF CREGGS VILLAGE.

Planning Policy	Hierarchy
National	
National Planning Framework (NPF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High level Aims and Objectives National Focus
Regional	
Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policies of Regional Significance and Focus for Co-operation and implementation
Local	
Galway County Development Plan (GCDP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed objectives and locally devised approaches

GALWAY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN (GCDP) – REVIEW PROCESS

The Galway County Development Plan sets out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the functional area of Galway County Council. The GCDP 2015-2021 is currently up for review now that the plan has reached the end of its timeline. The process of developing the GCDP 2022-2028 is currently underway. Public participation in the Development Plan making process is strongly encouraged. Public interaction in preparing development plans is critical to the public's awareness of and ownership of the plans that will shape their communities.

SETTLEMENT HIERARCHY

The Settlement Strategy forms the basic framework for the development of the County by identifying an integrated network of service centres where population growth should take place. The position of a settlement within the hierarchy sets out an indication of the potential scale of population growth permissible within the lifetime of the plan and therefore aligns closely with the Core Strategy population allocations.

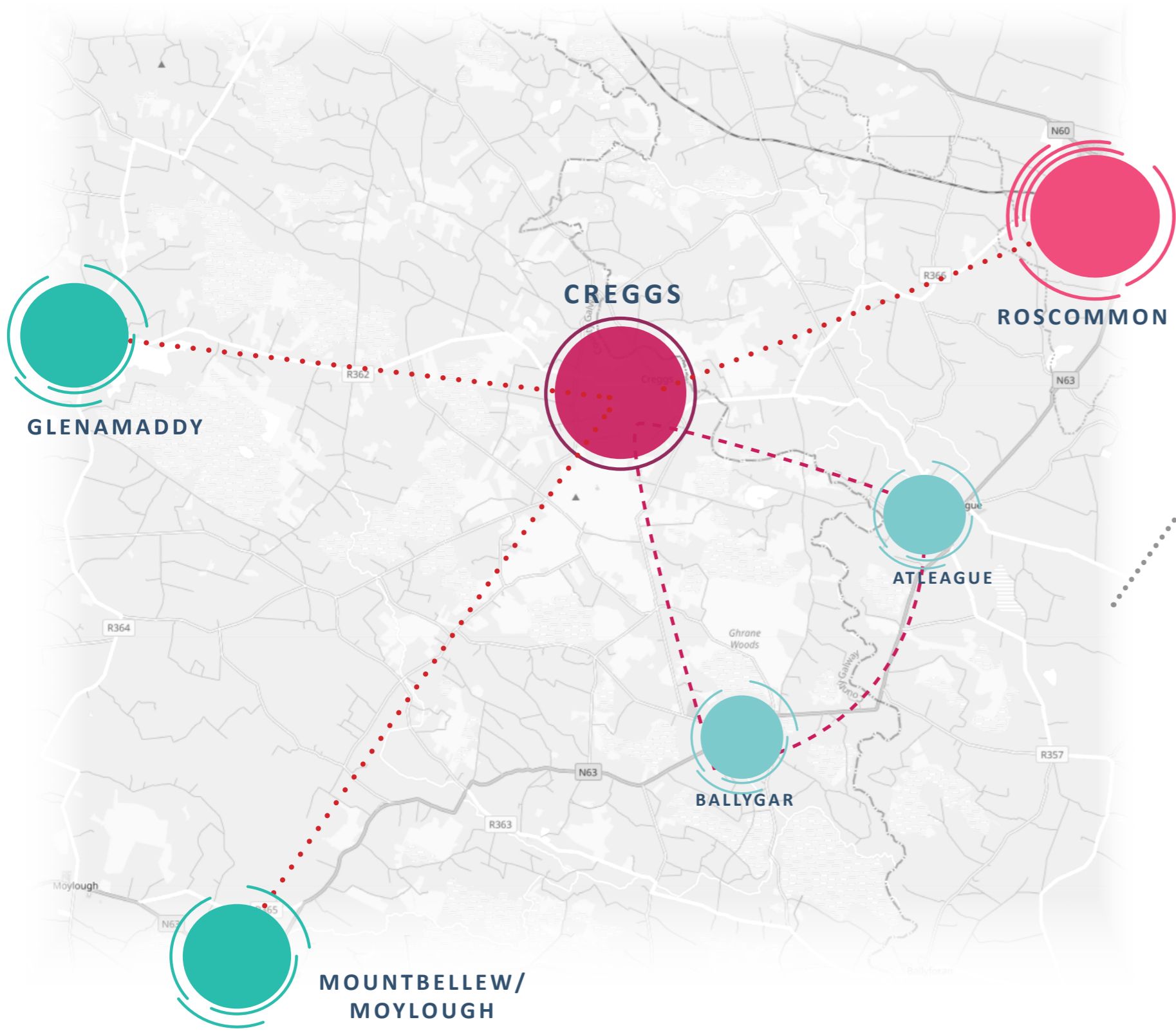
It is noted that Creggs is not listed within the settlement hierarchy of the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021 and the current development review process should be used to establish the position of Creggs within the County.

RURAL PLACE MAKING AND THE COUNTRYSIDE

The forthcoming Galway County Development will also have a specific chapter dedicated to Rural Place Making and Countryside.

"The County Development Plan will try to balance the need to accommodate rural generated residential development for a growing population, support communities and increased rural based commercial activities against the equally important need to protect its countryside from excessive and inappropriate development."

Key Questions in relation to this Chapter include the following; *How should the countryside be enhanced through better design? How can the County Development Plan promote improvement in the quality of the built environment in rural areas? How can the County Development Plan ensure that development is appropriate to its location? How can rural housing be designed to a high standard? How can the new County Development Plan support development within the smaller settlements that do not have zoning plans?*



“ We live in a very historic area and it is important that we have an awareness of the wealth of built, natural and cultural heritage that is on our doorstep. ”

CARMEL O'ROURKE 2019
CREGGS TIDY TOWNS

COMMUNITY SPIRIT



CREGGS CO. GALWAY AN INTRODUCTION...

The village of Creggs is located in east Galway, located close to the Roscommon border nearly 80km north-east of Galway City, 42km north-east of Tuam, 37km north-west of Athlone and 16km south-west of Roscommon Town. Creggs, is an old village at the foot of Mount-Mary, County Galway, it lies between the forks of the Derryhippo River which is a tributary of the River Suck. Being in the central position to many other villages including Glenamaddy, Glinsk, Athleague, Ballygar and Mount Bellew/Moylough, it was a thriving market town famous for its fairs and dances. Historically it had a flourishing iron works industry, due to its close proximity to surrounding rivers and lakes. Nowadays, Creggs Village it predominantly made up of agricultural lands, which many of the local residents own and work on. With a population of only 160, many of its residents travel outside of the village/county for work.

RICH HERITAGE



“...We planted Spring Bulbs in Autumn and they are in full bloom right now. Our daffodils are taking pride of place inside the school wall. Our latest project is the setting-up of a polytunnel.”

”

FIONA BRANDON 2019
CREGGS NATIONAL SCHOOL

COMMUNITY OF PURPOSE



A GLIMPSE INTO COMMUNITY LIFE IN CREGGS, CO. GALWAY



Creggs RFC is a well renowned club in Connacht, producing a high standard of rugby throughout all age groups in the club. Being established in 1974 and with a growing member base of over 250, the club currently has 4 full sized pitches, two of which are facilitated with full floodlighting, and one is noted to be the only World Rugby Approved 4G artificial all-weather pitch in Connacht and the region.



A defined settlement of Creggs comprises a population of 160 persons (CSO Census of Population 2016), although the services and functions of Creggs extend beyond the village boundary and serve a substantial rural hinterland.



Creggs Central National School was established on its current site in 1852. Since then, there has been a number of jobs carried out on the building, including reconstruction works and extensions, most recently, in 2009, a state of the art community centre/gymnasium was constructed on the grounds allowing for additional activities to take place for its pupils and local residents.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

As a rural village Creggs have number of facilities within the village that cater for members of the immediate community and also for a wide hinterland.

CREGGS RFC

Creggs RFC is a well renowned club in Connacht, producing a high standard of rugby throughout all age groups in the club. Being established in 1974 and with a growing member base of over 250, the club currently has 4 full sized pitches, two of which are facilitated with full floodlighting, and one is noted to be the only World Rugby Approved 4G artificial all-weather pitch in Connacht and the region. The club is heavily supported by the village community and has a range of supporters and players that come from outside of the area to play and support. With the clubhouse located on the main street of Creggs, this rugby club is a life source of the community. The club also provides an amenity walkway of c.1km in length around the pitches. Developments improvement works are also on-going at Creggs RFC.

CREGGS GAA

Established over 100 years ago, Creggs GAA club has enjoyed a successful history at all levels of competition in Galway/Roscommon. The club's grounds are located on Milford Road, an ideal location for the club's future expansion and development. Having a high percentage of players overlapping with the rugby club, Creggs GAA has a large following from both inside the village and from other towns/villages outside of Creggs. Development improvement works are also on-going at Creggs GAA.

CREGGS NATIONAL SCHOOL

The present day Creggs National School stands on the site of a school built in 1852 and reconstructed in the 1930s. The 1897 school replaced an earlier school which stood closer to the River, where the Wildlife Park is located today. The present-day building was constructed in 1979/80. Since then, there has been a number of jobs carried out on the building, including reconstruction works and extensions, most recently, in 2009, a state of the art community centre/gymnasium was constructed on the grounds allowing for additional activities to take place for its pupils and local residents. Creggs NS has an abundance of amenities and services to offer the community, including a flood lit AstroTurf pitch, a hydrotherapy pool and a range of community events that are hosted every year by the school. Development improvement works are also on-going at Creggs National School.

HISTORICAL & CULTURAL HERITAGE

As a rural village Creggs have number of facilities within the village that cater for members of the immediate community and also for a wide hinterland.

HERITAGE CENTRE

The Charles Stewart Parnell Heritage Centre is located in a cut stone building which was owned by the Southwell or Shadwell family when they operated an iron working forge here in the 19th century. The building has been renovated by the local community and developed to house an interpretive display of local history interests. Features of the interpretation include written and photographic descriptions of the Land Wars and Parnell's address at Creggs, historic and natural heritage features within the greater region, O'Sullivan Beare's route through the area on his epic march and displays of heritage artefacts found in the locality.

CHARLES STEWART PARNELL MONUMENT

The free-standing ashlar limestone monument to Charles Stewart Parnell in Creggs Village was unveiled on December 29, 1946 by Taoiseach Éamon DeValera, to commemorate Parnell's visit to the village, where he addressed a public meeting. This was Parnell's last public address as he died shortly afterwards. The monument is a protected structure under the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH Reg No 30402002) and the County Galway Record of Protected Structures. It is comprised of a pair of piers supporting a lintel capped by a stepped pyramid top incorporating an Irish Harp carving. A framed portrait sculpture of Parnell is inserted into a recessed area between the piers with the words 'Ireland a Nation' and 'Let my love be conveyed to my colleagues and to the Irish people' inscribed. This plaque is the work of the Dublin artist Des Broe. The surrounding monument was produced by the monumental sculptors M. Murphy of Glenamaddy

LOCAL AMENITIES



NATURAL AMENITIES

SUCK VALLEY WAY

The Suck Valley Way, a 105-kilometer circular walking route, passes through Galway and Roscommon. Walkers have the opportunity to take in 'The Nine Friendly Villages', Ballygar, Creggs, Glinsk, Ballymoe, Ballintubber, Dunamon, Castlecoote, Athleague and Mount Talbot at frequent intervals throughout the way. This walking route is a contributor to the tourism that is seen by Creggs Village.

FRESH WATER

The River Suck lies a few kilometres to the east of Creggs village. It is designated as a Natural Heritage Area (NHA) and Special Protection Area (SPA) due to the presence of extensive callows, a type of wet grassland found in river floodplains, other wetland habitats, and important bird populations including Whooper Swan, Wigeon, Golden Plover and Lapwing.

The Derryhippoo River, rises to the south west of Creggs and flows through the village before joining the River Suck in the north east at Dunamon. It is joined by a number of small streams between its source and the village of Creggs and spreads out to form Lough Ouver to the north-west of Creggs. Just south of its entry point to the Suck it again spreads out to form two small lakes - Lough Nasaggart and Lough Linbaun, or Stoneham's Lough as it is known locally

To the south east of Creggs the Gortnalavey River flows into the River Suck and a small stream draining Ballydacker Lough flows into the Gortnalavey river. Access to the lakes in the Creggs district is facilitated by the amenities provided by Inland Fisheries Ireland for the purposes of recreational fishing. This resource also provides good public access for other visitors to observe the natural ecology of the freshwater ecosystem.

WOODLANDS

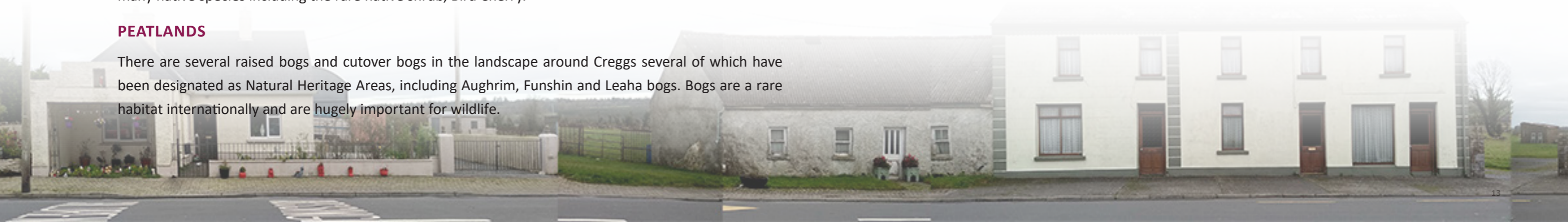
There are many commercial forestry plantations and small woods in and around the Creggs parish. The majority of the woodland consist of coniferous forestry plantations both privately and publicly owned, with the dominant tree type Sitka Spruce, followed by Lodge Pole Pine and Norway Spruce. The largest area covered by forestry is in the south-west on the higher ground around Mount Mary. The Suck Valley Way runs through this woodland around Mount Mary. Dereen Wood at Rosmoylan, a few kilometres north of Creggs village, is an area of native woodland located on an edge of a raised bog that includes many native species including the rare native shrub, Bird Cherry.

PEATLANDS

There are several raised bogs and cutover bogs in the landscape around Creggs several of which have been designated as Natural Heritage Areas, including Auhgrim, Funshin and Leaha bogs. Bogs are a rare habitat internationally and are hugely important for wildlife.

CREGGS WILDLIFE PARK

The Wildlife Park in Creggs Village has been developed by the local community adjacent to the Derryhippoo River as a public amenity area for school children, residents and visitors. The park is located adjoining Creggs National School and is regularly used by the pupils as an educational resource.. Projects they have completed within the Park include: Planting and maintenance of native trees and shrubs, construction of seating using natural materials, development of a butterfly garden and interpretive signage. Wildlife experts are regularly invited to the school and this has led to the identification of mayfly, shrimp and crayfish in the river through kick sampling and Daubenton bats roosting beneath the old stone bridge.

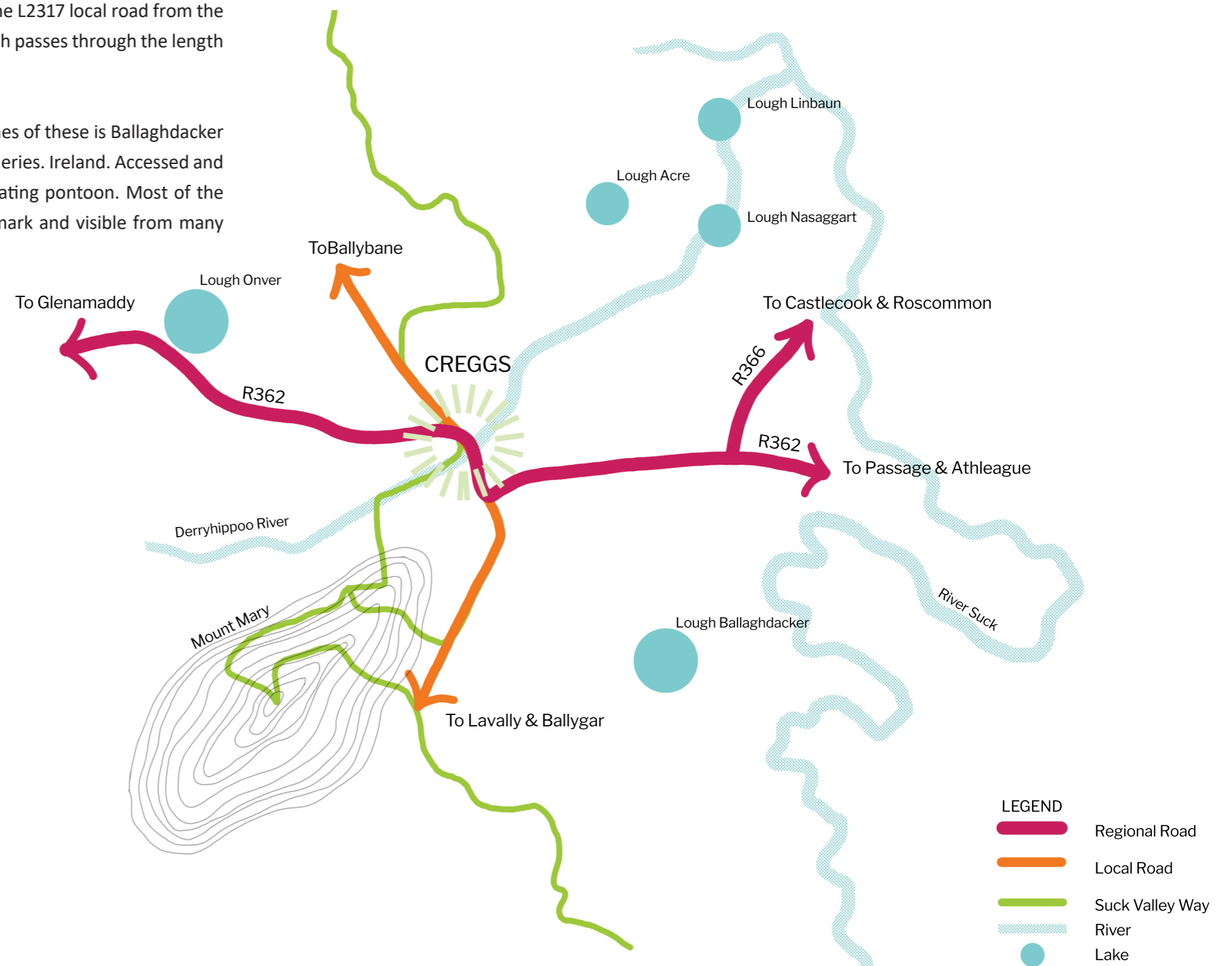
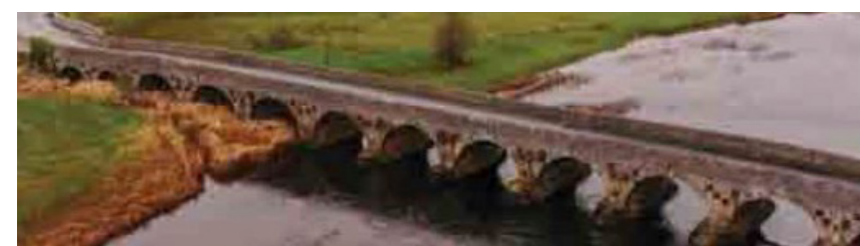


VILLAGE SETTING AND STRUCTURE

LOCATION/CONTEXT

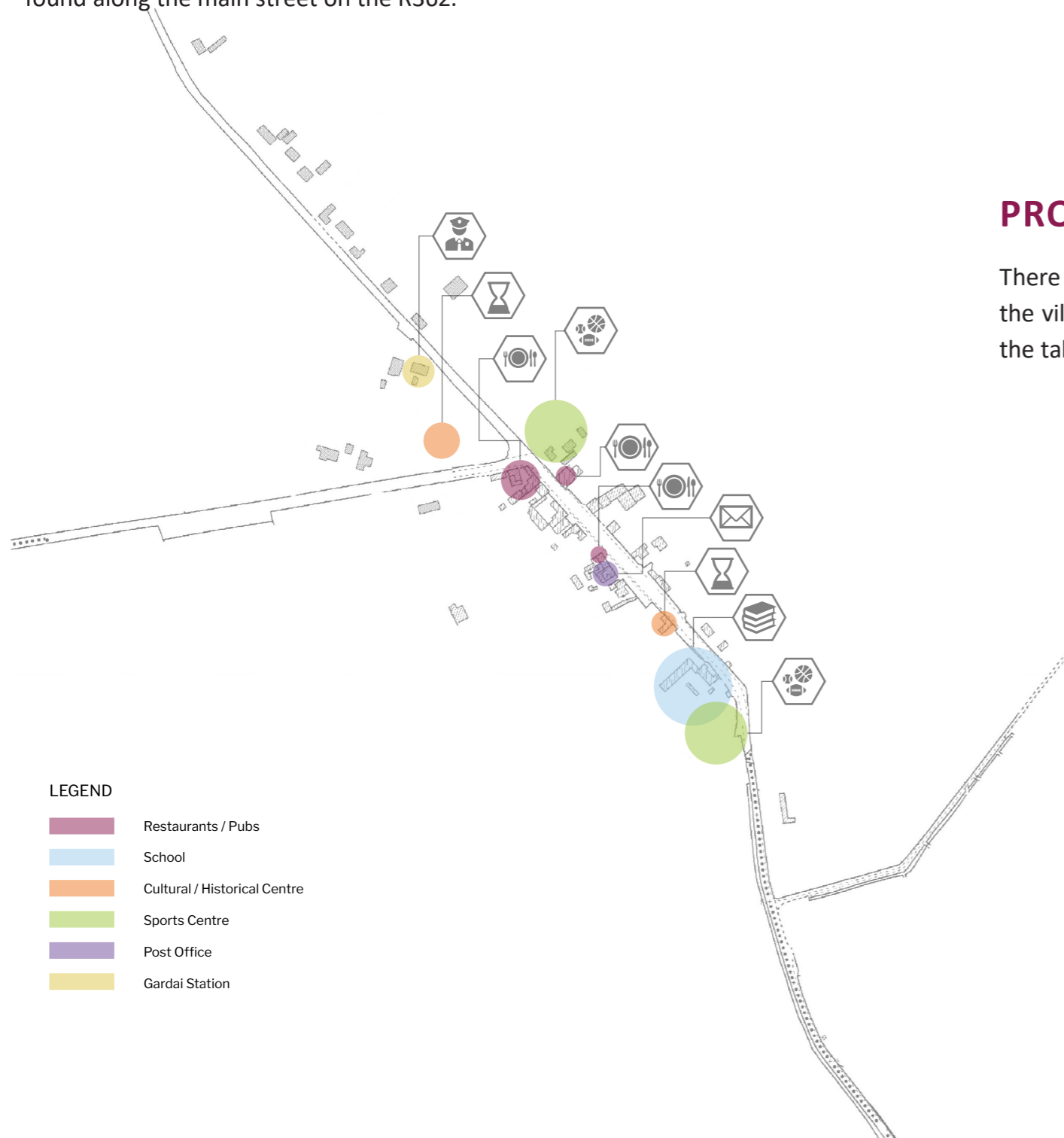
Creggs is situated in the River Suck valley within a landscape of farmland, bogs, lakes callows, and woods. The village is access by the R362 regional road to the west and south and by the L2317 local road from the north-west. On foot Creggs can also be accessed via the Suck Valley Way, which passes through the length of the village.

There are also a number of lakes surrounding the village, the most notable ones of these is Ballaghacker Lough to the south-east of the village. This lough was developed by Inland Fisheries. Ireland. Accessed and facilities have been provided including a stand on the south road with a floating pontoon. Most of the surrounding landscape is flat, hence Mount Mary is a significant local landmark and visible from many parts of the village.



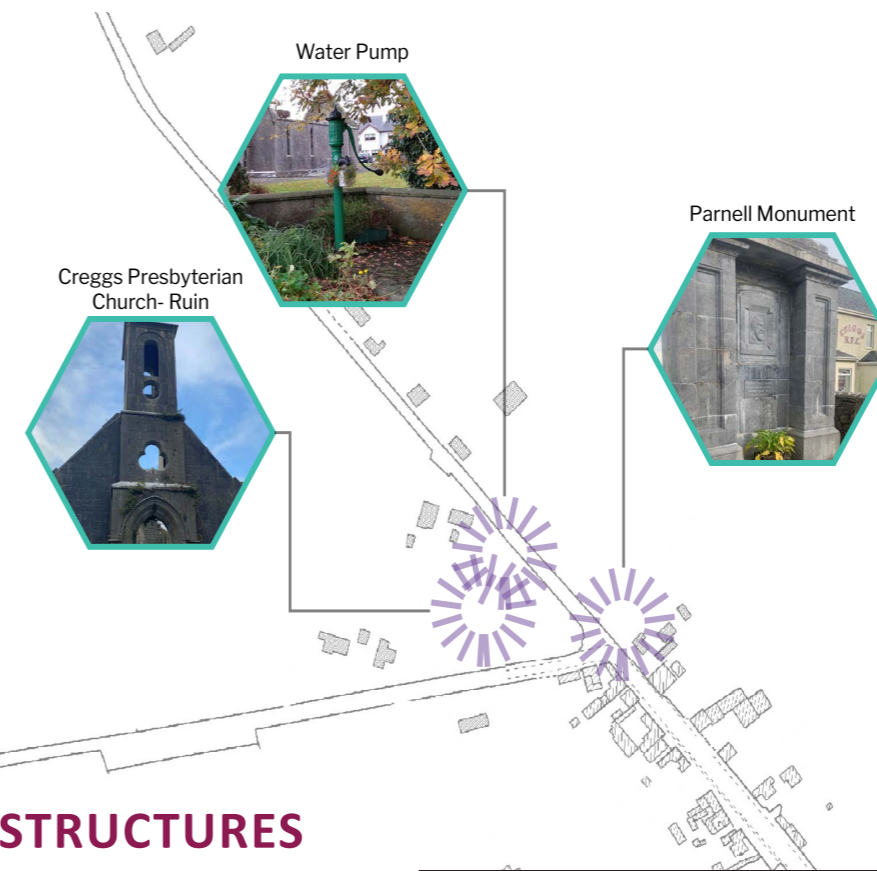
EXISTING FACILITIES

Existing facilities in the village, shown in the map below range from educational, to historical/cultural, recreational, food and drink and institutional. The majority of the existing facilities are found along the main street on the R362.



LEGEND

- Restaurants / Pubs
- School
- Cultural / Historical Centre
- Sports Centre
- Post Office
- Gardai Station



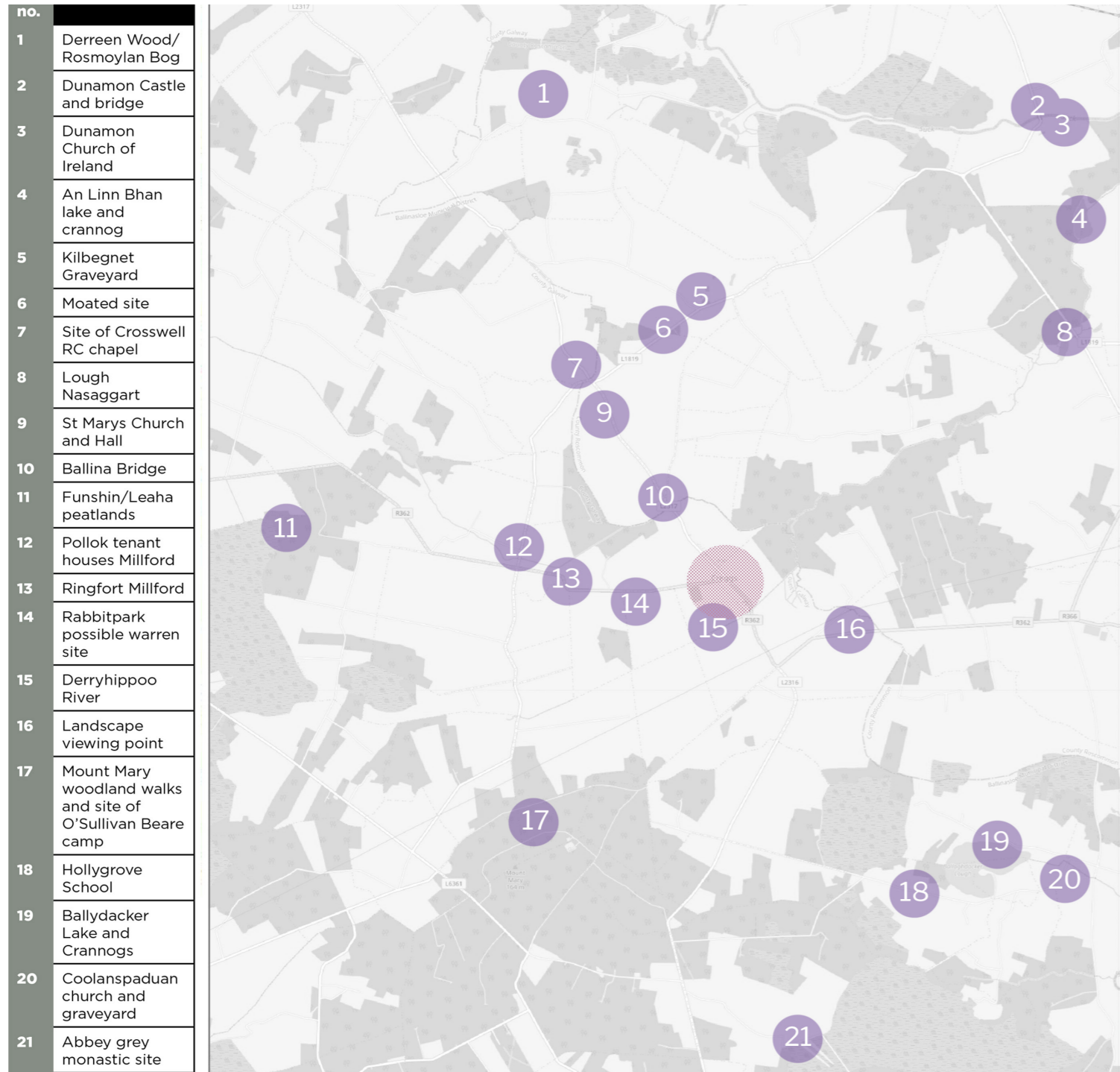
PROTECTED STRUCTURES

There are three protected structures within the village. Information on each is provided in the table below.

RPS No.	NIAH No.	Name	Building	Appraisal
1	30402 001	Creggs Presbyterian Church	Gothic style, single-cell church with three-storey tower, c1860. Built of random squared limestone with cut stone dressings. Ruinous condition. Interior contains headstone moved from graveyard. Set within enclosed site at cross-roads.	Regional value because of its quality of architectural design and detail, rare example of a Presbyterian church in the County and the contribution it makes to the village streetscape.
2	30402 002	Parnell Monument	Freestanding ashlar limestone monument to Charles Stewart Parnell, erected c.1895, in form of aedicule framing portrait sculpture of Parnell. Aedicule made up of piers which resemble jambs and support lintel capped by stepped pyramid. Portrait framed with words 'Ireland a Nation' and 'Let my love be conveyed to my colleagues and to the Irish people'	This monument was presumably erected after the death of Parnell and is a strong political statement in support of the great patriot and his cause. The monument is undated and unsigned though the portrait must be by a well-known sculptor of the period. Monuments to Parnell are rare and would have been politically contentious when erected. This is a significant artistic, historical and political monument.
3	30402 008	Creggs water Pump	Freestanding cast-iron water pump, erected c.1870, with fluted shaft, spout with bucket grip, banding above spout, fluted neck with attached cow's tail pumping handle & fluted conical cap with pointed finial.	This water pump is in excellent condition and stands prominently at the north end of the village of Creggs, next to the former Church of Ireland church

HERITAGE TRAILS

HERITAGE TRAILS

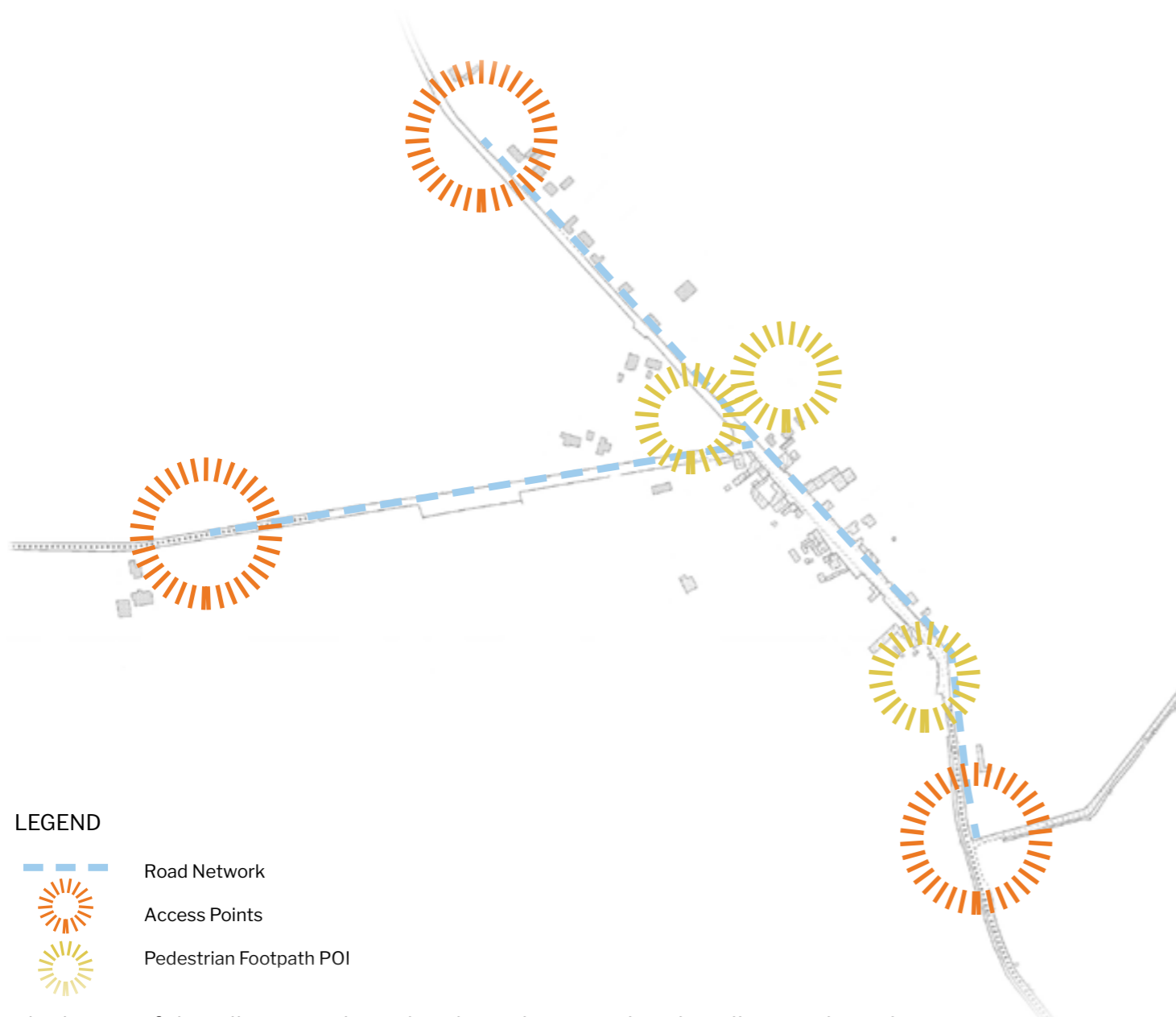


The Creggs & District Heritage Audit has successfully identified a wide scope of heritage resources, which in terms of accessibility and intrinsic interest, have the potential for promotion for general visitor interest and educational purposes.

One of the recommendations from the report include the development of two heritage trails starting from Creggs Heritage Centre using the data collected in the audit.

- A driving heritage trail of the district: the 21 no. suggested points of interest are provided in the map and table on this page.
- A looped walking trail of the features of interest in Creggs Village. 13 no. suggested points are interest are included in the map and table on this page

CIRCULATION



The layout of the village is Y-shaped and circulation within the village is along the main transport routes by vehicle or by foot on the pavements lining the both sides of the R362 and the eastern side of the L2317 within the village.

Apart from vehicular traffic, pedestrian Points of Interest (POI) have been identified and include the paths around the RFC pitch, the church ruin and small park in the north, and the Wildlife Park. These identified areas are where people associate with leisure and recreational activities. Apart from these locations, there are very limited pedestrian friendly sites.

PARKING



The parking areas are shown in the figure to the right. There are a series of large parking areas in the north of the village, on the grounds of the rugby club as well as adjacent restaurants and pubs. Along the main village street there is public on-street parallel parking in nearly all areas. Parking on pavements was also observed. In the south of the village there are a row of public parking spaces between the school and heritage center on the R362 regional road as well as a medium-sized parking area associated with the school, adjacent to the Wildlife Park.

2

Consultation

Collaborative Process

Engagement Methodology

Co-Working Space - Survey

Community Engagement

COLLABORATIVE PROCESS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

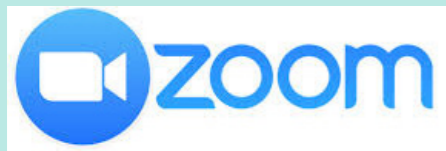
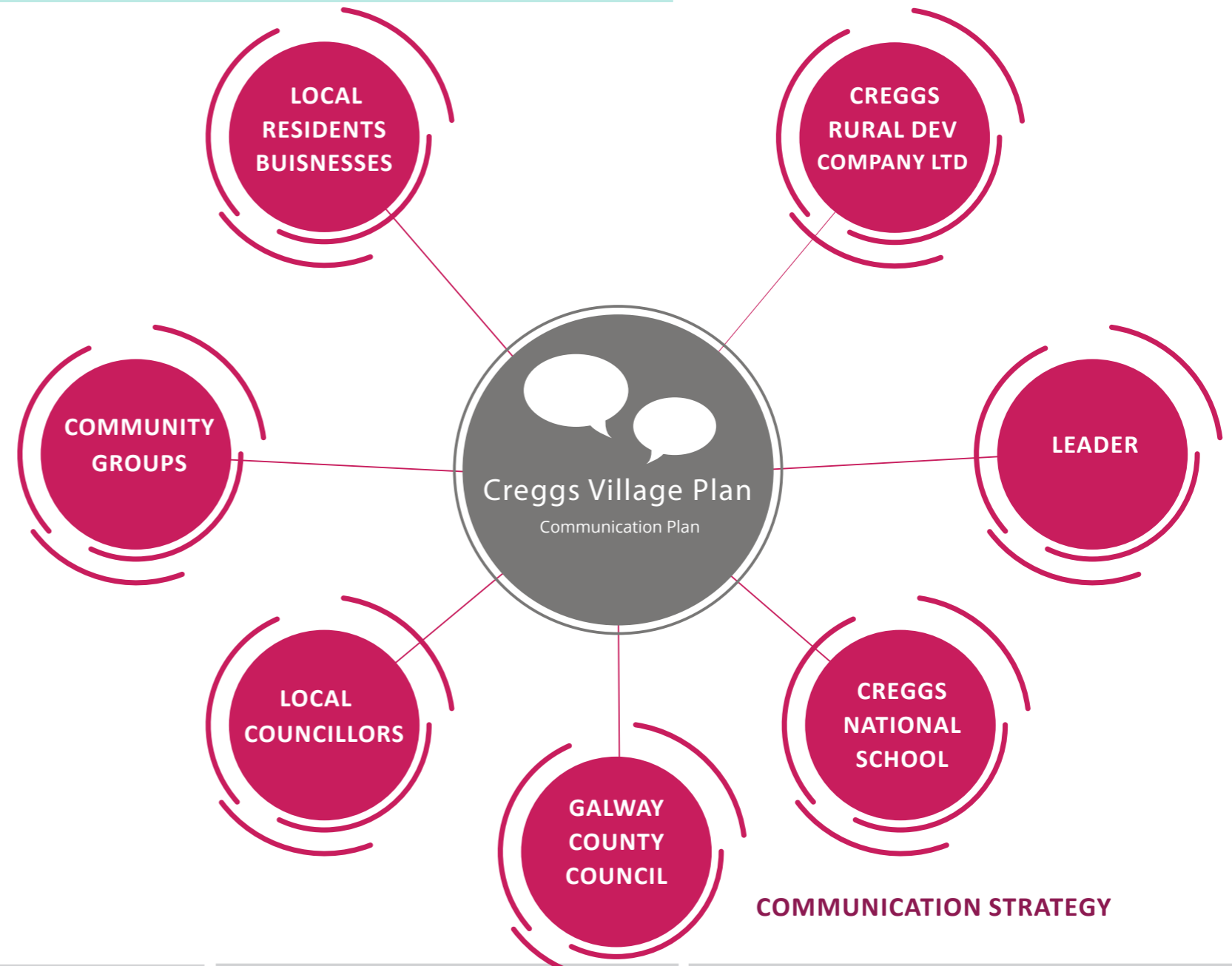
A wide range of people have had direct involvement in the shaping of this preliminary findings report. Persons and groups involved have included local residents, local councillors, council officials, landowners, local businesses, staff and students of the Creggs National School and others with a shared interest in the future of Creggs Village.

PARTICIPATION & A PANDEMIC

Regular zoom calls have been undertaken with the Creggs Rural Development Group which have pro steering group. A 'Have Your Say' leaflet was distributed to the local community which advertised the consultation process. Further to this numerous phone calls and emails were received by MKO with all feedback documented. A virtual consultation also took place with numerous officers of Galway County Council. Officers in Roscommon County Council were also engaged with.

Students of Creggs National School carried out a number of exercises about the village including describing Creggs in the year 2050, drawing village maps and hanging tags on a 'wishing tree' which contained their wish for the future of Creggs.

The preparation of the Creggs Plan coincided with the Covid-19 Pandemic. The original engagement strategy was revised in response to Irish Government Guidance, and also with what the team felt was appropriate with regards to the constraints of social distancing alongside the requirement of comprehensive social inclusion.



The 'New Norm' for public participation and engagement is working quite well, with tools like Zoom, Microsoft Teams and SurveyMonkey, the team were able to engage with the steering group on a regular basis.



ENGAGEMENT METHODOLOGY

METHODOLOGY

The Village Plan has been produced through an extensive community consultation programme combined with village visits and desk-based study. The project began with a full review of the baseline information including a review of existing reports, studies and initiatives that have already been undertaken in Creggs. The baseline evidence and potential opportunities within the Village were then discussed and consulted with the Steering Group through a series of presentations and workshops. Further consultation also took place with the wider community following a leaflet drop, through a series of phone calls and emails. This enabled residents, community groups and organisations to engage and contribute to identifying areas of opportunity, and to provide crucial local knowledge to the baseline evidence.

The desktop research, site appraisal and community engagement resulted in the preparation of a draft report culminating the initial findings of the community engagement process. The next step in the process was to go back to the community to validate the draft findings of the project, and in doing so, to work towards creating a Shared Vision for Creggs. The summary findings of the Preliminary Findings report were presented on Consultation Boards which were erected in a public space in the village over the Christmas 2020 period and invited further engagement from the local community and interested stakeholders. The Consultation Boards were also uploaded to an online platform and shared through local social media pages.



Through our steering group consultations with the community, a project which repeatedly appeared was the idea of a remote working hub for the village of Creggs. The online platform, Survey-Monkey was used to gather data on the community's interest in the idea. A 'Drop-Box' was also set up in the local shop for people to respond to the survey.



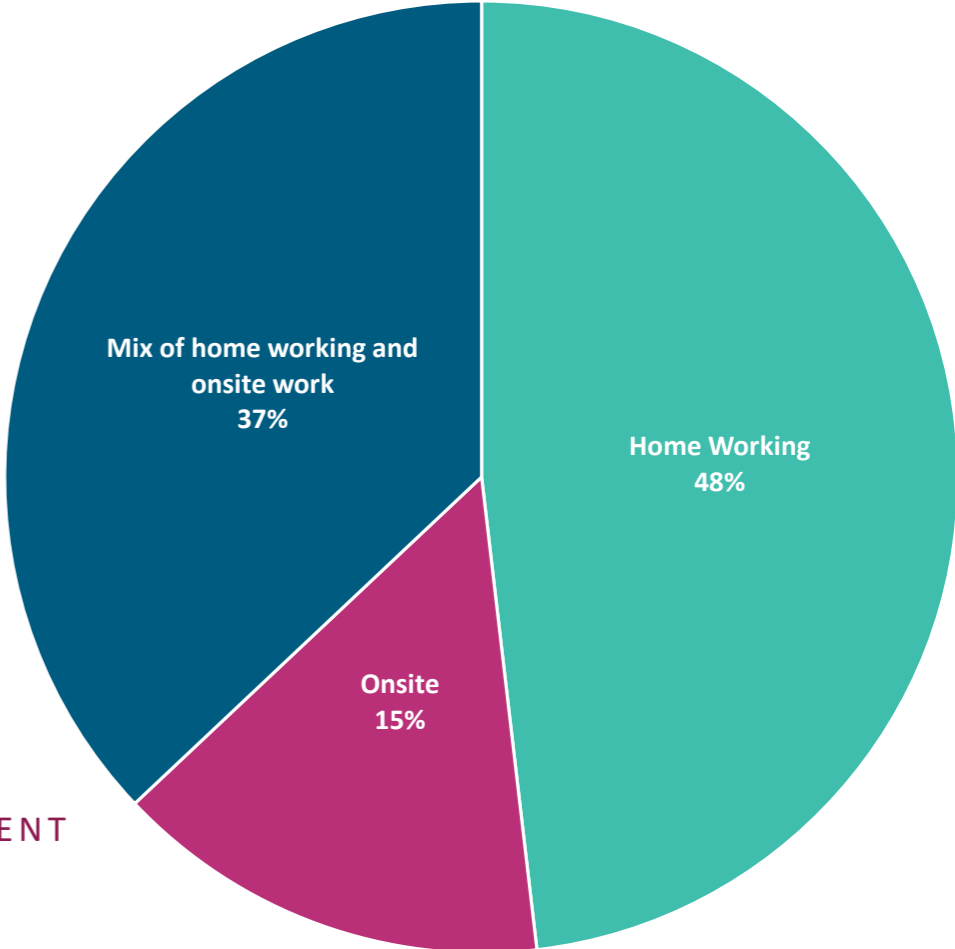
CO-WORKING SPACE - SURVEY

CO-WORKING SPACE

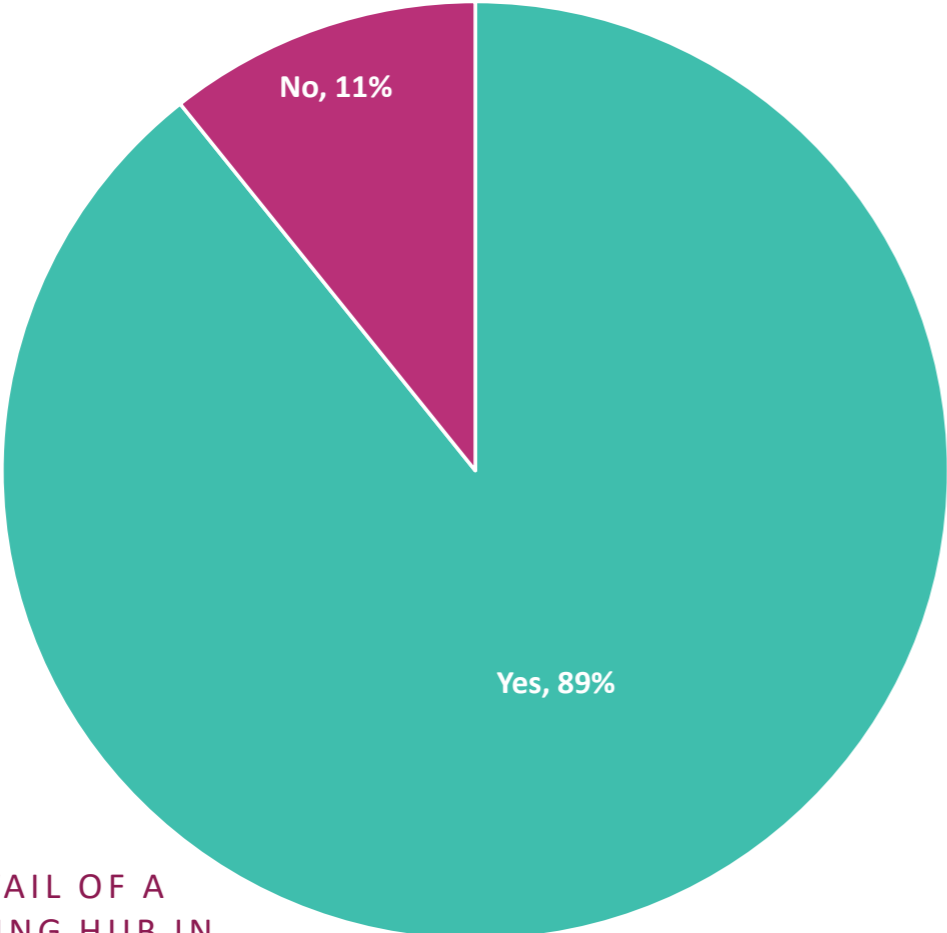
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Following consultation with the community, one emerging project repeatedly suggested by the local community was the provision of a Co-Working Space in the village. Our world of work has been changed forever by Covid-19. The provision a Co-Working Space in Creggs may allow workers to live and work locally, thereby reducing long commutes and carbon emissions, while supporting the community and rural regeneration. A short online survey to test the viability of a Co-Working Space for the Creggs community.

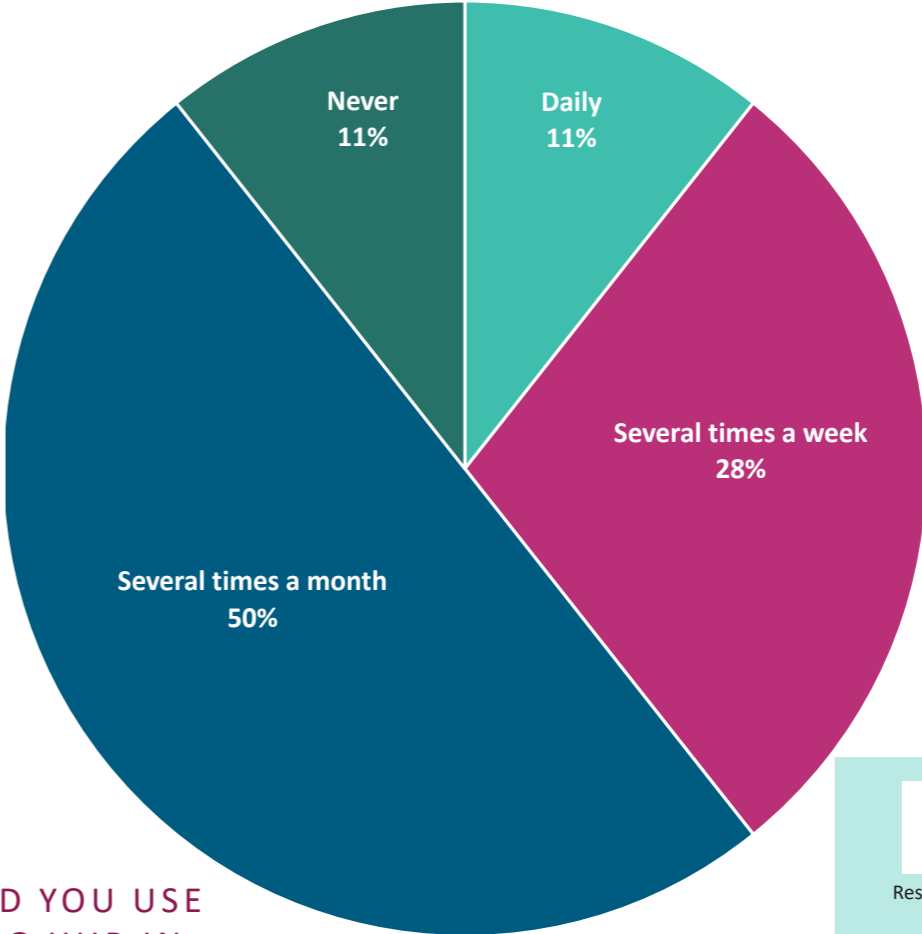
In summary, 28 people responded to the survey. Over 85% of participants were either Home Working or experiencing a mix of Home Working and On-site Working at the time of responding. 89% of respondents said they would avail of a remote working hub in Creggs.



QUESTION 1
WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT WORK SITUATION?

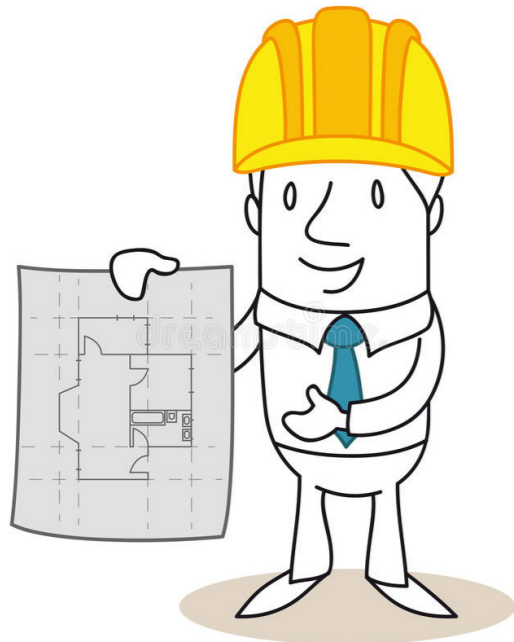


QUESTION 2
WOULD YOU AVAIL OF A REMOTE WORKING HUB IN CREGGS?



QUESTION 3
HOW OFTEN WOULD YOU USE A REMOTE WORKING HUB IN CREGGS?

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



MKO Planning and Environmental Consultants

Let's get to work...I need your help in knowing what you **NEED** and **WANT** in your village. What would make Creggs the best village in **THE WORLD!**

I need you to create 3 proposals for your village and show me where you would put them.

Planner O'Dowd Tip - Skyscraper, Cinema, Playground, Roller-Coaster, Skate-park, Starbucks, McDonalds, Creggs Airport. This plan is yours, create the perfect village...but remember to think about where it all should go in relation to your school and house.

MKO Planning and Environmental Consultants

The Wishing Tree...

Your activity pack includes a colourful tag. There are two tasks I need help with. **1.** I want you to write your wish for the future of Creggs on the Tag. **2.** As a class group, I would like you to nominate a particular tree in the village to become 'The Wishing Tree'...The school will then pick the tree based off of these nominations!

Your school community and wider village community will all be given a tag to write their individual wish for creggs village to appear on the tree.

Last one, and then you can enjoy retirement!

Planner O'Dowd Tip - Examples of village wishes - I see Creggs as a vibrant Shopping Village or I see Creggs as a great hurling village with an amazing sports facility.

Keep an eye out, my team of specially trained planning elves will be back in a few weeks to place your tags on the wishing tree

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT DURING A PANDEMIC

Students of Creggs National School carried out a number of exercises about the village including describing Creggs in the year 2050, drawing village maps and hanging tags on a 'wishing tree' which contained their wish for the future of Creggs. Examples of their work can be seen on this spread. 73 packs filled with inspiring ideas and observations were returned from Creggs National School.





Legend	
⛪ = Church	🦋 = Wild life
🏠 = house	🚗 = Garage
🍷 = Rabby Pich	🏪 = Shop
🔥 = Hot and tasty	🎓 = School
🍷 = His	🌸 = flower
🍷 = Pub	



3

Analysis &

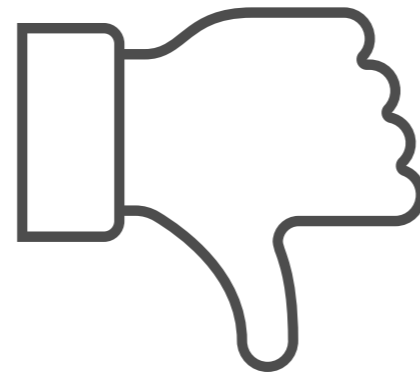
S.W.O.T Analysis
Emerging Themes
Design Guidance

S . W . O . T . ANALYSIS



STRENGTHS

- Diversity and abundance of village facilities.
- Excellent Broadband
- Connections to the Suck Valley Way.
- Informative signage and Creggs Heritage Center educate visitors of history and culture of the village.
- Conservation elements such as the stone walls and old church add aesthetic character to the village.
- Known in County Galway for rugby with excellent facilities
- Dramatic mature trees form a good setting around the church ruin
- Access to great secondary schools such as Roscommon to Ballygar and Glenamaddy, all of which have very high percentage of students proceeding to third level
- 35 minute drive to M6 Motorway in Athlone linking to Dublin and Galway
- Access to railway station in Roscommon 15 minutes from Creggs.



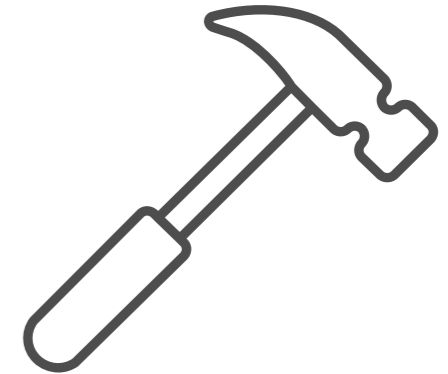
WEAKNESSES

- Lack of character and aesthetic on some buildings within the main street.
- Limited available spaces for public gatherings (where do people gather after watching a match at the RFC pitch?).
- Limited sense of arrival.
- Under use of public spaces
- Problems with concrete paving stones coming up in pavements
- Accessibility issues for mobility impaired



OPPORTUNITIES

- RFC and GAA bring people from Galway and Roscommon.
- Planned improvements to GAA and RFC grounds will benefit the community
- Accessibility to the Suck Valley Way trail to attract visitors to the village (Way Marked trail).
- Small village but in an ideal location as it is on the border with Counties Galway and Roscommon
- Collaborative opportunities with surrounding villages
- Outdoor Social Hubs - e.g. playground
- Indoor Social Hubs - e.g. mother and toddler group, activities for the actively retired, men's shed, café
- Additional facilities - e.g. adult disability center, child care facility, tourist accommodation, allotments or vegetable patches, 'hot desks' work spaces for remote working, public car park, cooking and toilet facilities for users of Suck Valley Way
- Promote natural heritage such as crayfish in local river and fishing in local lakes
- Improvements to village landscape through adding planting areas, improvements to street furniture, rebuilding the wall around the church, planting avenue trees at village entrances and street trees in village center.



THREATS

- Limited public gathering spaces- make the village a short-term stay/drive through village.
- Road safety - traffic speed and no pedestrian crossings in village
- Lack of sewerage system hinders village expansion and gives rise to environmental pollution of rivers
- Flooding issues near Gardai Station

EMERGING THEMES

Enabling Infrastructure Examples

- Sewerage System
- Utilise high quality broadband
- Remote workspaces/hot desks
- Demand for housing but constrained



Natural & Built Heritage Examples

- Tourist Accommodation
- Local circular walkways
- Utilise surrounding woodlands/ivers
- Utilise Heritage further
- Cray fishing in the local rivers
- Introduce public toilets and kitchen facilities for walkers passing through the village
- Improve accessibility to local lakes



Public Realm Examples

- Increase street furniture
- Additional soft landscaping
- Additional tree planting
- Public Realm accessible for all
- Improved paths
- Traffic calming measures
- Public toilets and bins



Social Inclusion & Amenity Examples

- Circular walkways
- Indoor Social Hub (e.g. Cafe)
- Outdoor social hubs (e.g. Playground)
- Vegetable Patch/community garden
- Seasonal markets
- Local activity centre
- Men's shed
- Social Inclusion –Retired people, Mothers and toddlers, people with disabilities



Engagement

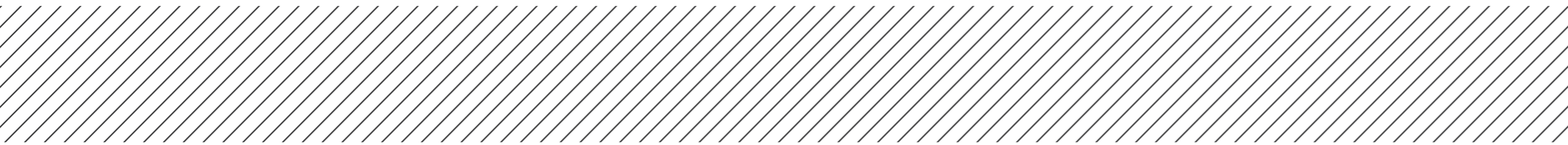
Creggs Village Plan
Community & Steering
Group



Climate Resilience

- Support Creggs Biodiversity & Pollinator Plan
- Seek Grant Fundings to improve the energy efficiency & the village public buildings
- Promote Walking & Cycling

The issues and aspirations which came to light during the engagement process can be loosely categorised under the 5 main themes. Examples of the types of projects relating to each of these themes are also listed.



EMERGING THEMES	DESCRIPTION/RATIONALE
<p>CREATING A LOW CARBON AND CLIMATE RESILIENT</p>	<p>Climate action and sustainability will form a guiding principle within this community-led Village Plan. Project Ireland 2040 and the Climate Action Plan 2019 have set out the scale of the climate change challenge with decarbonisation as a priority for all new developments. Creating a low-carbon society and circular economy will require significant changes in how we plan and develop our villages and rural areas; and how we work, live, travel and access services.</p> <p>The National Planning Framework (NPF) emphasises that the plan-making process places a key role in the implementation and integration of climate action objectives. The Village Plan will build on the existing planning framework to prioritise national and local objectives. The plan will seek to set out a pathway for this transition in Creggs through the delivery of a series of collaborative and integrated projects. Projects will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of a Remote Working Hub which may enable residents to avoid long commutes. • Opportunities to seek grant funding to improve the energy efficiency of the Village’s public buildings will be investigated. • The proposed public realm and landscaping proposals will endeavour to incorporate best practice in low-carbon placemaking and design and the enhancement of bio-diversity in the town through green infrastructure development and pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure.
<p>ENABLING INFRASTRUCTURE</p>	<p>Setting the Creggs Village Plan in motion will require a number of enabling projects. These are essential investments, without which further development of the village will be constrained.</p> <p>One of the critical pieces of essential infrastructure that the village is lacking is the provision of appropriate sewerage infrastructure. This key piece of enabling infrastructure will require substantial investment and the support and backing of Irish water and Galway County Council. Work has begun on a €7 million scheme by Irish water and Galway County Council to upgrade the sewerage infrastructure in Glenamaddy; however, we are not aware of any similar plans to construct a wastewater treatment plant in Creggs. This project will be a longer-term project that will require support from a number of statutory stakeholders such as Irish water and Galway County Council.</p> <p>The village benefits from excellent broadband connectivity and opportunities exist to deploy this infrastructure to greater use through the provision of an accessible Broadband Connection Point (BCP) in the village and ultimately the development of a Remote Working Hub. The Village Plan will devise a strategy for the under-utilised and vacant properties in the village centre.</p>
<p>SOCIAL INCLUSION & AMENITY</p>	<p>All of the proposals contained within the Village Plan will contribute directly or indirectly to the village’s sense of community. By providing better facilities, connections between them and a more attractive place in which to live, pride and community cohesion all stand to benefit. The community told us the Village Plan needs to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redress the lack of facilities for adults with disabilities and develop inclusive facilities. • Establish an annual calendar of events or festival in the village. Examples include a pop-up cinema and seasonal markets. • Identify a location for a playground facility and promote the enhancement of the village’s open spaces and public walks.
<p>NATURAL & BUILT HERITAGE</p>	<p>Creggs benefits from a wealth of built, natural and cultural heritage assets. The community engagement programme revealed a deep appreciation of the village’s distinctive character, as documented in the Heritage Audit of Creggs & District 2018 which was prepared by Zena Hctor and Dr Christy Cunniffe, with support from the Heritage Council and Galway County Council. The audit process has successfully identified a wide scope of heritage resources, which in terms of accessibility and intrinsic interest, have the potential for promotion for general visitor interest and educational purposes. The Village Plan will build on the groundwork already undertaken and will endeavour to highlight a number of key projects to be implemented over the short, medium and longer term.</p>
<p>PUBLIC REALM</p>	<p>The Village Plan will provide a public realm design guide to provide a framework for all future development within the village and build on the projects and proposals already adopted by the Tidy Towns committee and various stakeholders.</p>

DESIGN GUIDANCE

NEW DEVELOPMENT

New development in Creggs must be prioritised at the centre of the village, as opposed to along approach roads or at the edges. This provides the opportunity to increase the density of population living within a walkable area, helping to support facilities and adding life back onto the streets. Residents feel strongly that new development in the heart of Creggs must be provided to retain the function of the village and to support the many existing facilities within the village.

New development must be sited and designed in a manner that encourages residents to walk as much as possible, as opposed to be entirely structured for car use. This will therefore require the prioritisation of housing within a walking distance of the centre of the village.

The National Planning Framework notes that in rural Ireland, many people seek the opportunity to build their own homes but find it difficult to do so in smaller settlements because of a lack of available sites and services. In order to assist this, local authorities will be supported in undertaking the necessary land acquisition, site preparation and local infrastructure provision to deliver self-build development options in smaller towns/villages.

In this regard National Policy Objective 18b outlines the following;

“National Policy Objective 18b

Develop a programme for ‘new homes in small towns and villages’ with local authorities, public infrastructure agencies such as Irish Water and local communities to provide serviced sites with appropriate infrastructure to attract people to build their own homes and live in small towns and villages.”

The Programme for Government also seeks to *“Provide seed capital to local authorities to provide serviced sites at cost in towns and villages, to allow individuals and families to build homes.”*



AERIAL OF CREGGS VILLAGE

In terms of the most logical place for new development in Creggs it is considered that the opening up of back lands may provide some development opportunities. Plans are in place for an adult disability centre behind heritage centre and this in turn may open up further lands in this area with the possibility of creating a link road back towards the Milford Road near the GAA pitch.

All development in Creggs must positively contribute to the hierarchy of defined streets and spaces, in line with urban design best practice. Development must contribute positively to the creation of good public realm. Buildings should front onto streets and public spaces and be activated by doors and windows. Blank walls, back gardens and service areas should be kept to the rear of properties, away from public areas. Areas of paving and landscape must be designed to a high standard and the street layouts and details should be appropriate to a small village.



4

Public Realm
Strategy

PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY

Creggs is a well-known village in East Galway, with a wealth of heritage and amenity ingrained within the fabric and spirit of the village. It has an active and vibrant community who are eager to see the village realize its full potential. Through community engagement, it became apparent that there were many concerns about the everyday experience of the village. This public realm framework aims to bring spatial order to the village, while creating a framework for future development.

Main Street Upgrade

Creggs main street runs in a northwest to southeast orientation. The main street is accessed to the north and south by the R362, locally known as the Glenamaddy Road. There is also a second access from the north by a local road (L2317) Aside from Creggs RFC Grounds to the northern entrance and the National School with neighbouring wildlife park to the southern entrance, there are no nodes or opportunities given to the pedestrian to linger along the main street. The Main Street public realm strategy aims to provide a spatial hierarchy for the main street, providing an allocation of space for public realm interventions. The interventions could be a simple bench, a pop-up market space or a street park-let with a coffee dock. Crossing points, surface treatments and a main-street planting scheme are also suggested within the strategy.

Public Space Creation

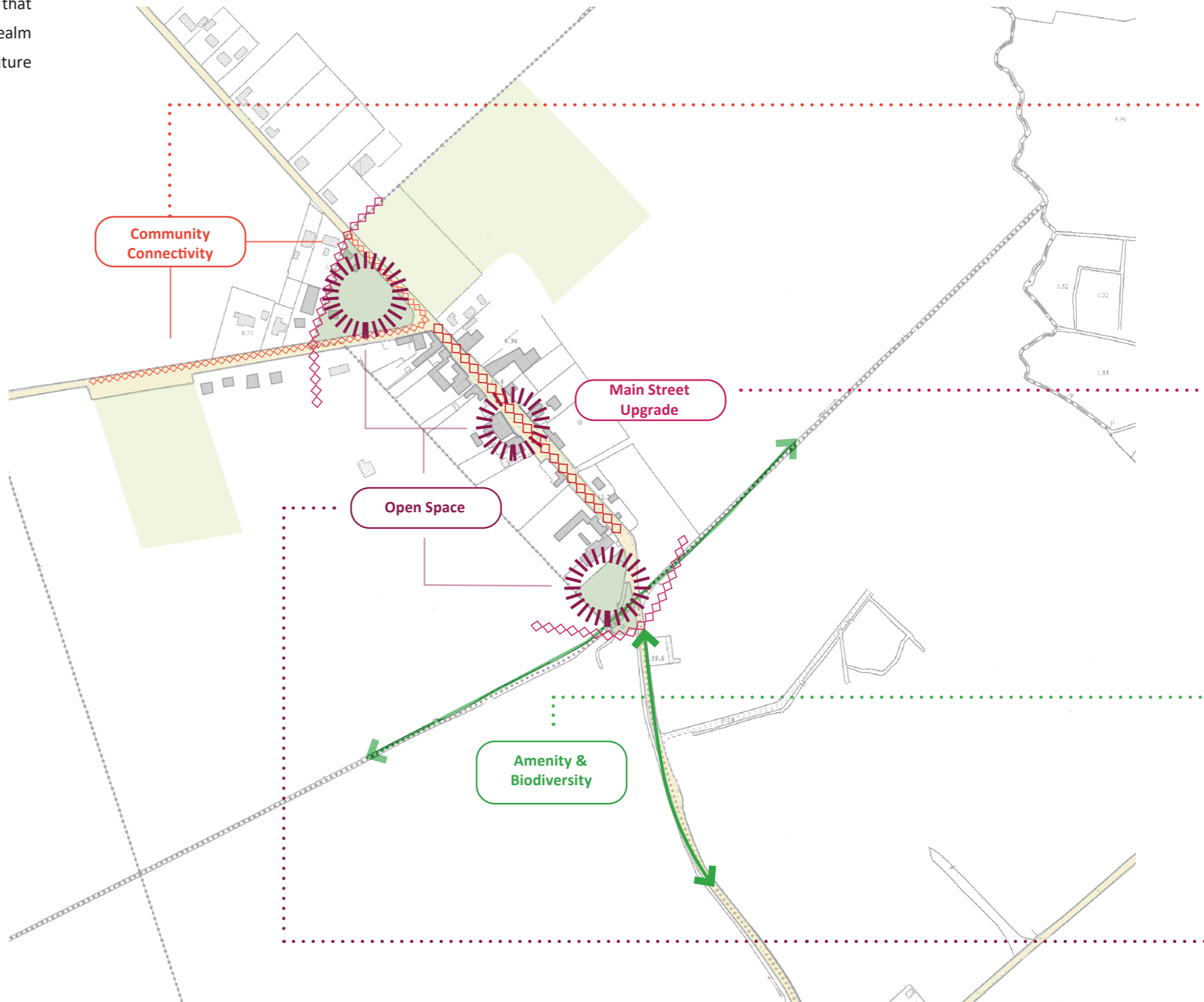
As previously stated in the Main Street strategy, currently there are very few points of interest along the main street of Creggs. The allocation of space not only provides opportunities for interactions, but also acts as a magnet into the village core. Allowing people to stay and interact with the village and the passers-by. The strategy aims to strengthen the existing public spaces, and add a series of small interventions along the street to create this spatial network.

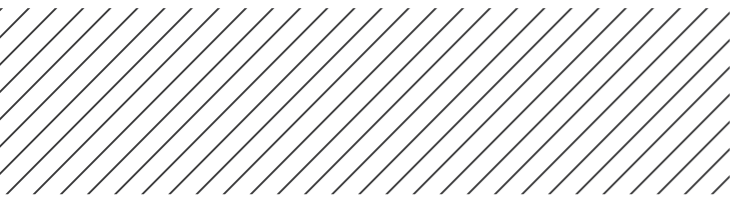
Community Connectivity

The spatial strategy designates a specific treatment for the secondary routes, leading to the main street. The difference in treatments will add to the sense of arrival into Creggs Village and dramatize crossing the threshold into the village. The treatments of the secondary routes will also provide a linkage to these routes from the main street.

Amenity & Biodiversity

Surrounding Creggs is a network of Green Infrastructure. The village has already successfully established a wildlife park and has a biodiversity plan. This strategy will help Creggs to further refine the strategies and suggest opportunities for new linkages to a wider green network.





Street Treatments - Creating



Community Connectivity

Main Street Upgrade

COBBLES REPAIR BINS
STREET LIGHTING BENCHES
GULLY UPGRADE SIGNAGE ARRIVAL
STREET TREES

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
During the Community Engagement process, a number of public realm issues were identified. A number of issues and concerns such as cobble repairs, gully maintenance and street lighting fall within the realm of public realm maintenance. Concerns which arose on numerous occasions are identified below in text. Wishes & aspirations for the public realm were also captured, with text also included for these aspects.

Space Making - Creating Spaces for Interaction



Amenity & Biodiversity

WALKS WAY-FINDING
BIODIVERSITY PLAN GREENWAY
SENSORY GARDEN
PLAYGROUND

Building Upon Existing Green Infrastructure



Open Space



Allocation of Space for Community Engagement & Interaction

MAIN STREET UPGRADE



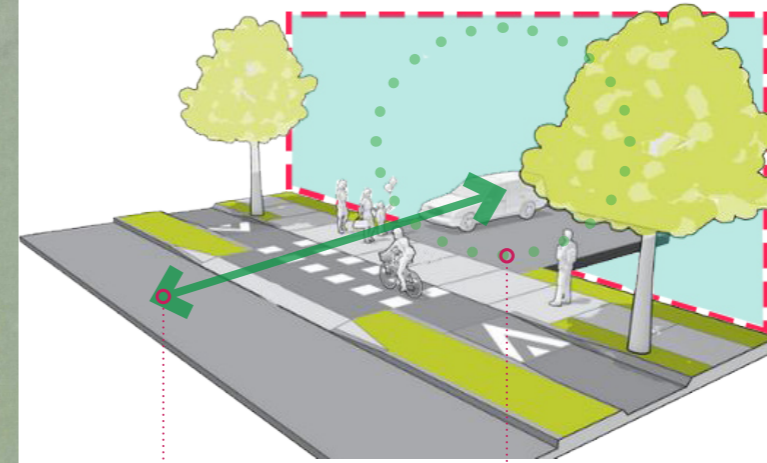
Feature Tree's Creating Identity and Seasonal Interest

Pinch Points to Slow Cars

Village Entrance

Using a double row of trees on the entrance to the village will indicate to a vehicle driver they are approaching an area where there maybe pedestrians present. A pinch point or narrowing of the road through islands of on street parking will also slow the driver. The double row of trees at this entrance will also add an identity and seasonal interest to the village.

Road Layout Hierarchy

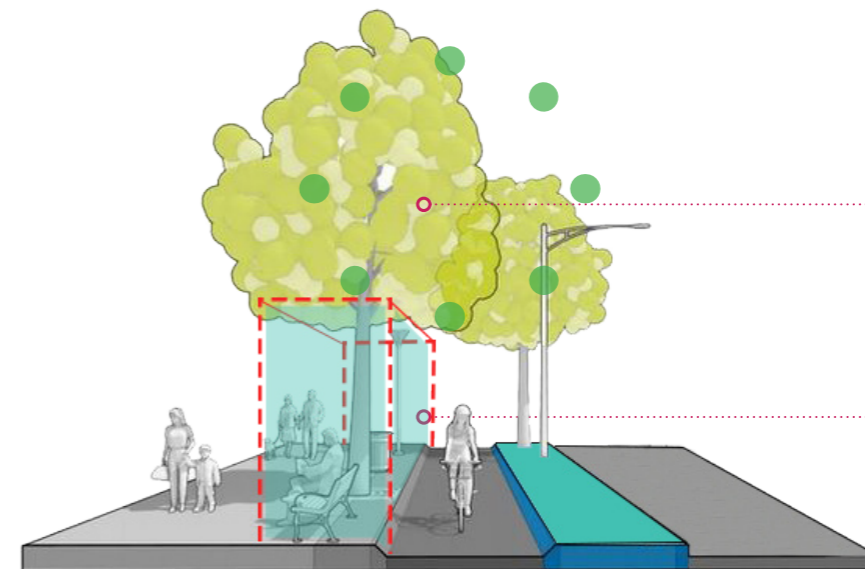


Creating a Movement Strategy

Opening Space Previously Underutilized

The section to the left is a schematic illustration of a road layout hierarchy for Creggs. Creating crossing points where there are breaks in built form, such as outside the rugby grounds creates a dominant spatial zone. The wideness at this point creates an awareness of space, the crossing point also creates a magnet for the pedestrian to cross at this point. Clever allocations of space near this zone will create points of interaction. A coffee dock beside the crossing with a bench will give the pedestrian an option to pause, sit or interact with the space.

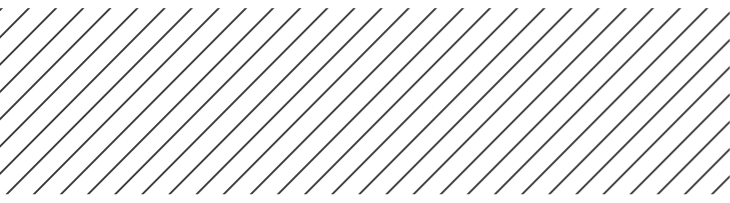
New Public Realm



Feature Tree's Creating Identity and Seasonal Interest

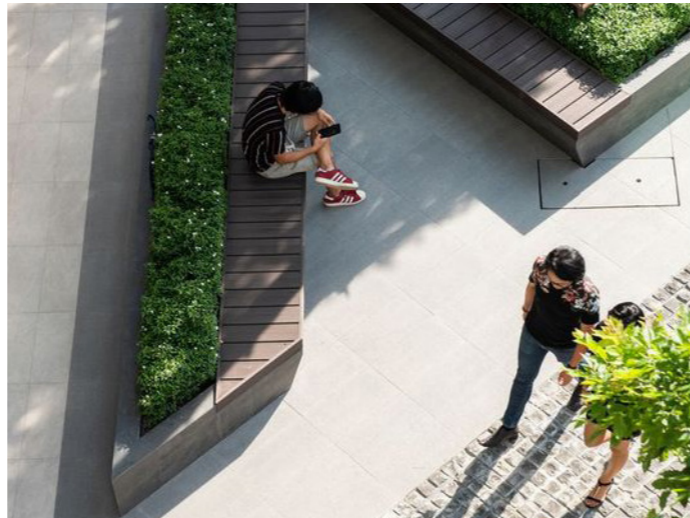
Space Creation Under Tree Canopy

As seen in the section above, the seating placed beneath the trees creates a spatial room along the street. The trees provide a ceiling with the cycle-lane providing a barrier between the allocated seating and the main-roadway. The main street of Creggs is currently car dominated, by dividing the space into allocated sections of space with different functions, it takes the emphasis away from the roadway.



Material Strategy

While movement and circulation strategies are important within a village, material language is also key in delivering a successful public realm. Material strategies can add to the identity of the village and help to deliver the strategies set out within our public realm plan for Creggs. The material pallet seen to the right seeks to define a public realm language of that is of appropriate scale, form and material quality to complement the existing village of Creggs. It is the intent not to create a pastiche of the existing village, but to utilize existing materials and recognizable forms to create a contemporary streetscape extension.



PRECEDENT PROJECT

Dún Laoghaire village public realm enhancement was completed in 2020. This scheme used small interventions along the existing main street to create areas of seating. The scheme created more space for pedestrians to enjoy the village by narrowing the roadway & reallocating parking spaces for the use of people & local business.



PUBLIC SPACE CREATION



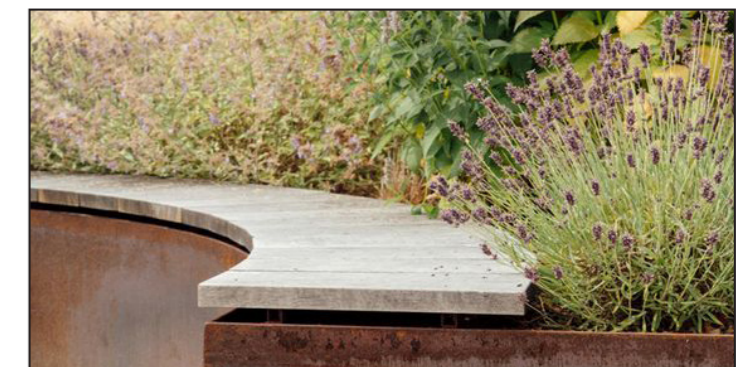
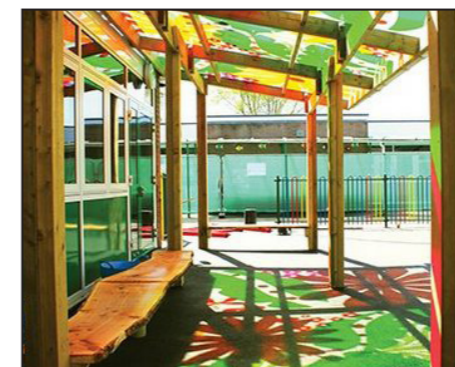
Street Parklets

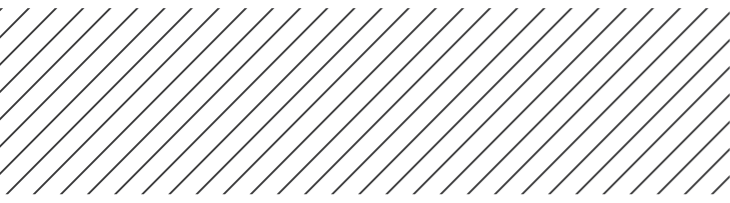
The intervention of parklets along the main street of Creggs will create a more active and enjoyable public realm. Given the width of the street the space is there to add this intervention. The purpose of a parklet is the repurposing of space to create small-scale parks and extra seating, which has become popular during the Covid-19 pandemic, as businesses had to expand their seating outdoors to attend to social distancing guidelines, and people sought out more greenspace. By including greenery, such as planter boxes and integrating plants into the parklet's walls, a more attractive and inviting space can be created.



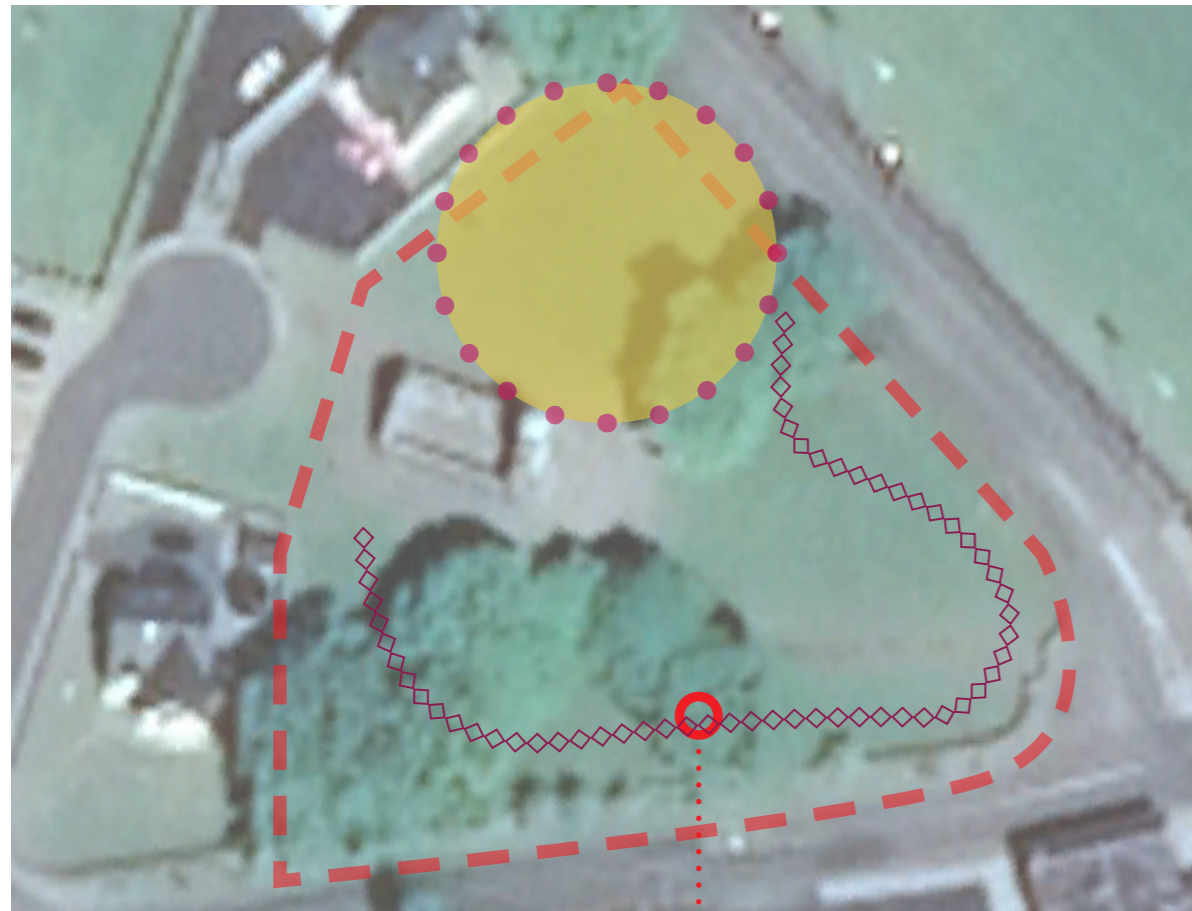
Sensory Garden

Creggs Wildlife Park is already abundant with nature, with different species of trees and flowers providing seasonal interest. With the sound of the river, and the rustle of the established trees, this area would be the perfect spot to add a couple of additional sensory elements to create a sensory garden





Playground & Adult Exercise Circuit



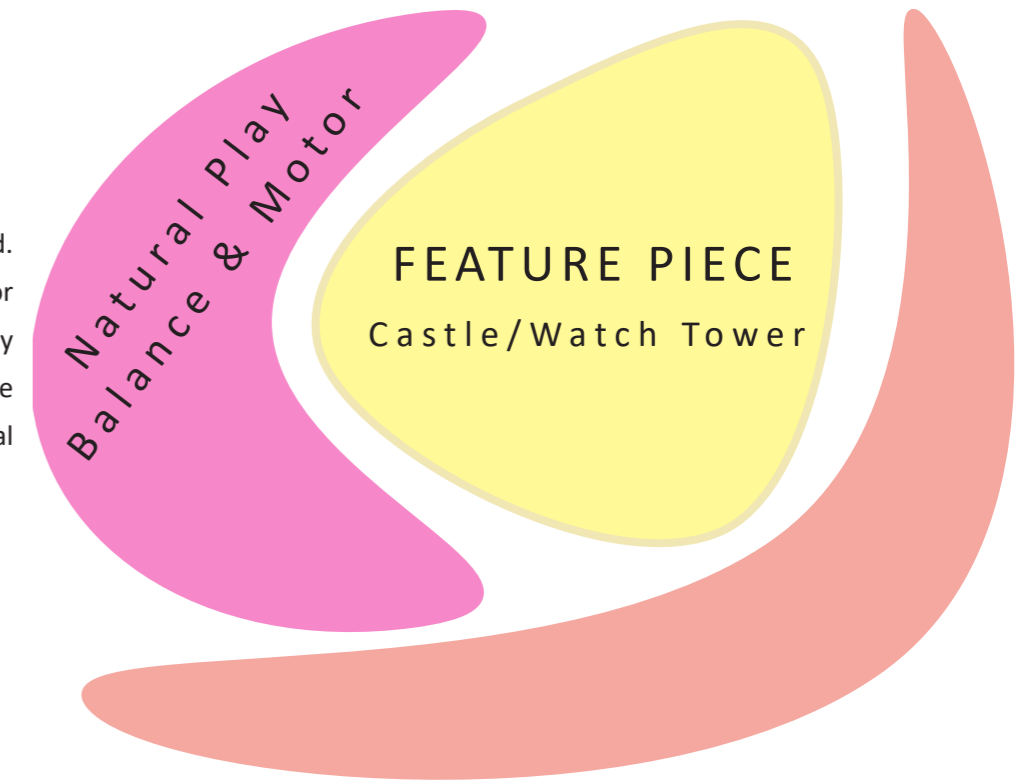
Adult Activity Circuit

A fitness trail has been allocated space within this park. The circuit will have equipment around the park with instructions and discovery signage to help the fitness fanatic navigate their way through their outdoor workout.

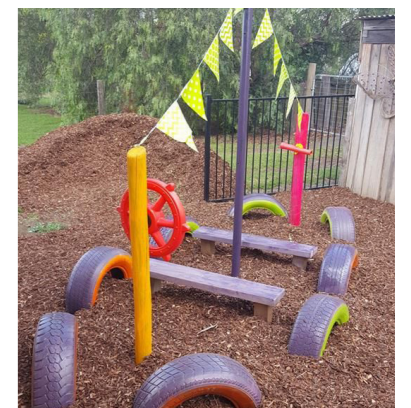


Playground Concept

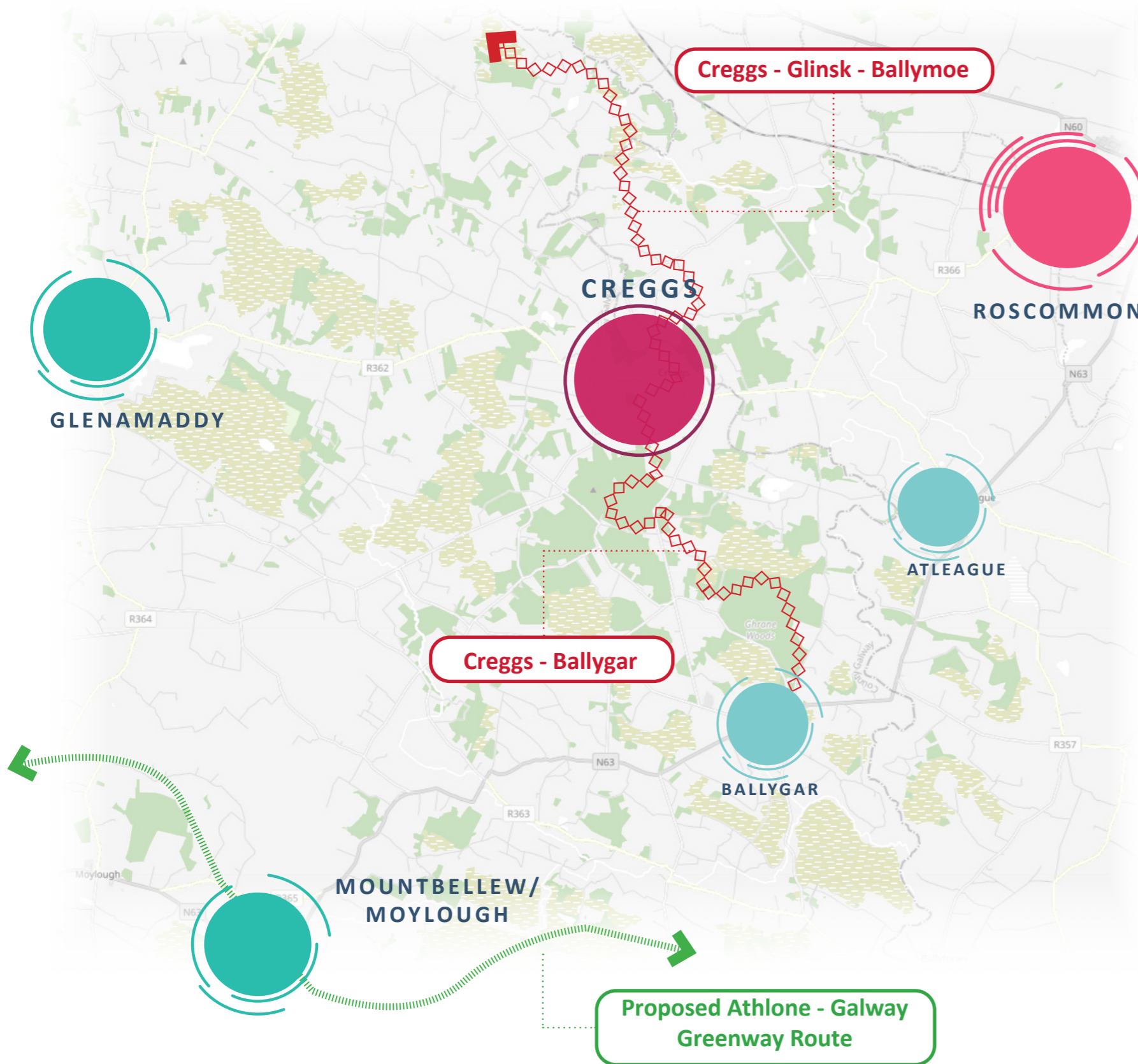
Pairc an Tempaill, has been allocated as a space for a playground. With the ruins of an old church as a motif for the concept design for Castle and Fort playground. Divided into three zones, the community can create this playground in phases. With one feature piece, the castle and watchtower in the center, surrounded by two natural play zones or *Motte's* in the child's eyes!



Material Pallet



CONNECTIVITY & BIODIVERSITY



GREENWAY NETWORK & POTENTIAL ROUTE CONNECTION

Creggs is located on a variety of amenity routes including two significant greenways. The proposed Athlone to Galway route runs to the south of Creggs, crossing through Mountbellew hinterland. This proposed route could be an opportunity for Creggs. The two existing routes are mentioned below:

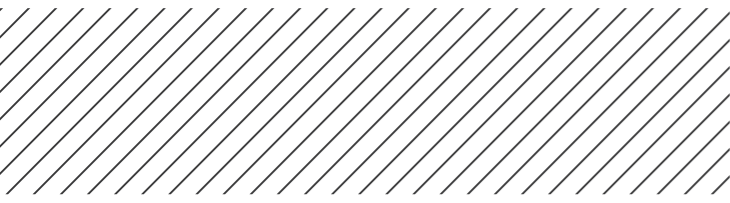
BALLYGAR TO CREGGS TIME: 3 HOURS 30 MINUTES

The Ballygar to Creggs Trail from the centre of Ballygar village winds through the picturesque Aghrane Forest on its 16km route. Around the 5km mark, you'll find the monastery, Abbey Grey, before arriving at Mount Mary, part of the Beara Breifne Way. Mount Mary is where Donal Cam O' Sullivan Beare and his army camped during their fourteen-night march in 1603.

CREGGS TO GLINSK TO BALLYMOE TIME: 4-5 HOURS

Travel along winding lanes and paths on the 22km Creggs to Glinsk to Ballymoe walk. The village of Kilbegnet is worth a stop where you'll find graves dating back to the Great Famine of 1846 – 1848. From there, the trail moves to open fields with ringforts dotted along Rosmoyle Bog. Lough Loung is a noteworthy mention as a footbridge allows for a breathtaking vantage point over the lough. Next is Glinsk Island, a forest area filled with silver birch and known as one of the most enthralling sections of the Suck Valley Way.

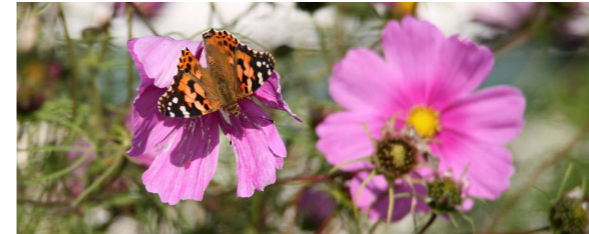




CREGGS BIODIVERSITY PLAN

A Biodiversity Plan was prepared on behalf of Creggs Tidy Towns, Creggs National School and the Heritage Office, Galway County Council. The aim of the report is to promote increase and enhance biodiversity within the village. This plan is also an answer to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP). The report contains suggested recommendations of biodiversity and pollinator action which can be implemented in Creggs village and National School.

This report makes reference to planter for the village, pollinators which should be used and tree species along the main street. This report along with the public realm strategy is a fantastic guide for the community to decide on tree species and the location of different biodiversity interventions. On this spread shows an example of the planting suggested within the Biodiversity Plan.



POLLINATOR PLAN

An All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP) was published in September 2015. Ireland became one of the first countries in Europe to address this issue – in order to ensure the sustainability of our food, avoid additional economic impacts on agriculture, and protect the health of the environment. Creggs has created a Biodiversity plan to help in this initiative.

Biodiversity and Pollinator Plan

CREGGS, CO. GALWAY

Sheila Murphy
B.Sc. M.Sc. ACIEM | THE SALAD PROJECT | DECEMBER 2019



All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020

5

KEY PROJECTS

Village Collaboration Opportunities

Funding

Key Projects

VILLAGE COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITY

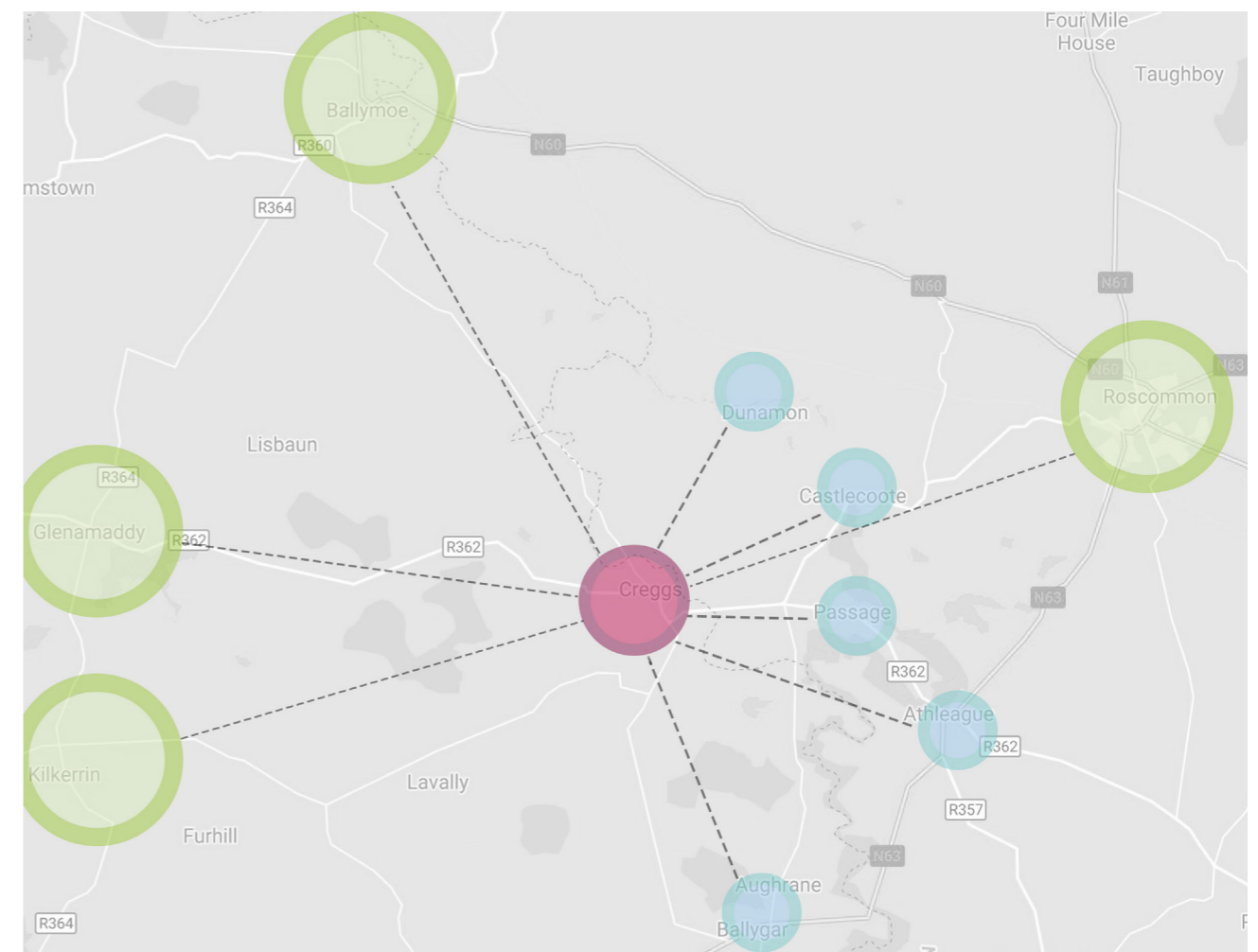
It is recognised that many people wish to live in rural areas in our Counties, and also that in order to thrive, our local villages need people to live in them. Collaboration between rural towns and their hinterlands and utilizing the synergies and interdependencies that already exist, can be a useful way to generate economic activity, improve development opportunities and gain funding supports.

The collaboration between rural towns and villages can help address the challenge of urban scale and existing operating conditions, while leveraging the inherent quality of life characteristics associated with the area. The scale of natural and built heritage, and sporting amenity provided in Creggs, together with the proximity of other rural towns and villages, each with their own unique assets and amenities, could combine to create a very desirable socio-cultural and economic base.

Creggs has previously benefited from the Rural Economic Development Zones (REDZ) initiative, as Part of the Glenamaddy REDZ area. Rural Economic Development Zones (REDZ) are functional, rather than administrative geographic, areas that reflect the spatial patterns of local economic activities and development processes. The REDZ initiative provided funding to stimulate economic development in rural towns and their hinterlands and is just one example of the benefits of collaboration between rural towns and villages.

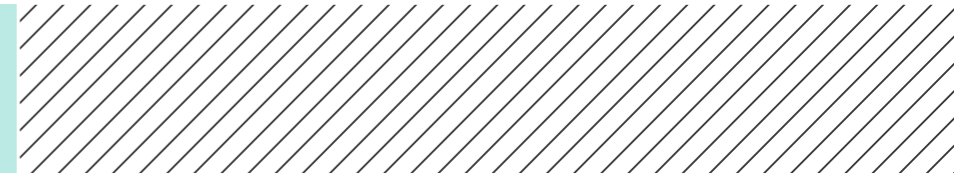
Collaboration with other rural towns and villages is not limited to those within the County Galway administrative area. Creggs location in east Galway, on the Roscommon border presents opportunities for cross county initiatives. Creggs RFC is a useful example to show the span of the geographic area that uses facilities in Creggs. While an integral resource to the immediate community, Creggs RFC also draws players, spectators and volunteers from across County Galway, County Roscommon and South Mayo.

New cohort of workers are choosing to live and work locally, accessing the digital hubs and supporting community and rural regeneration. While this may be a desirable project for Creggs supporting infrastructure would also need to be in place. An example of supporting infrastructure may include childcare facilities giving workers the choice to utilise such a facility. At present there is no dedicated childcare facility in the village, thereby leaving Creggs dependent on its neighbouring village of Glinsk for childcare facilities.



CREGGS IS SURROUNDED BY VILLAGES AND MAJOR SETTLEMENTS WITHIN EAST GALWAY

FUNDING



Town and Village Renewal Scheme

The Town and Village Renewal Scheme was first introduced in 2016. It is managed on behalf of the Department by the local authorities, and the programme 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, under the Department of Rural & Community Development's Rural Development Investment Programme

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund

The Rural Regeneration and Development Fund is a commitment of €1 billion 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 with a population of less than 10,000, and outlying areas.

Outdoor Recreation and Infrastructure Scheme

Established in 2016, the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) provides funding for the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure. This scheme helps to make use of the resources of the countryside that contribute to healthy active lifestyles. It supports the economic and tourism potential of the area for both local communities and tourist visitors alike.

LEADER

Since its launch in 1991, LEADER programme has helped rural communities across the European Union to actively engage and to direct the local development of their area, through community-led local development.

The LEADER Programme accepts applications based on projects which improve:

- rural tourism
- enterprise development
- broadband
- basic services targeted at hard-to-reach communities
- rural youth
- protection and sustainable use of water resources
- local biodiversity
- renewable energy

CLÁR

(Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais) funds small scale infrastructural projects in rural areas that have suffered greatest levels of population decline. Funding is in conjunction with local funding on the basis of locally identified priorities. The CLÁR programme is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and is delivered, for the most part, by the Local Authorities in consultation with local communities.

REDZ

Rural Economic Development Zones (REDZ) are defined as sub county zones within which most people live and work. REDZ are functional geographic areas that reflect how local economic activities and development are spread throughout a region. The REDZ scheme was relaunched in 2016 and 47 projects (€6.142 million) were approved. The scheme has been inactive for the past number of years however it is expected to be renewed in the short term.

FUNDING

Support and funding for projects and initiatives within this Plan should come from as many sources of as possible including the local authority, the Heritage Council, LEADER companies, and rural and urban regeneration programmes. A brief list of potential funding streams are listed on this spread.

Community Heritage Scheme

The aim of the Scheme is to support community groups and organisations to undertake projects that will gather information, help to appropriately manage and promote an awareness and appreciation of our heritage. The scheme will support capital projects that improve access and inclusion to heritage sites; that apply good heritage practice to the management of places, collections or objects (including buildings). The scheme also supports the purchase of essential equipment. This scheme is intended to enable communities and heritage non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to continue their work in this area or to start new initiatives.

GSI Grant

Geological Survey Ireland offers a number of small grants each year to support the sustainable development, promotion and recognition of Ireland's geoheritage. These grants are aimed at local community-driven outreach and development initiatives with a geoheritage theme. The grants are made through an open competitive application process. Suitable projects could be the publication of a popular book, map or flyer; trail or signage installation; geoheritage related site preparation; product launch, innovative media concepts, online content, etc., that promotes the geology/geoheritage of the area.

SEAI Grant

Better Energy Communities is a national retrofit initiative with grant support of up to €28 million for 2021. We support new approaches to achieving energy efficiency in Irish communities. Upgrades can take place across building types to reduce energy use and costs throughout the community. The aim is to deliver energy savings to homeowners, communities, and private sector organisations. All projects should be community oriented with a cross-sectoral approach, and must show that the proposed project can be sustainably financed.

Sports Capital Programme

The Sports Capital Programme (SCP) is operated by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and provides grants to assist in the development or refurbishment of sports facilities and the provision of sports equipment. It is part funded from the proceeds of the National Lottery. The programme assists voluntary organisations to develop sports facilities.

Just Transition Fund

The Just Transition Fund (JTF) is a key pillar of the government's just transition plan for the Midlands region. The objective is to fund innovative projects that contribute to the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the Wider Midlands region and which have employment and enterprise potential. It will support projects that take a whole-of-Midlands strategic approach and complement other sources of public funding.

Support Scheme for Cultural Development

- Arts Act Grants: the aim of this category is to provide financial assistance to voluntary arts groups/organisations to carry out an arts activity or project within the community.
- Heritage Grants: the aim of this category is to support voluntary community and heritage groups/organisations to undertake heritage activities, events and projects, which will be of benefit to the community.
- Irish Language Promotional Activities: the aim of this category is to encourage non-profit Groups and Organisations to organize activities, projects, workshops or classes, which will a) increase the knowledge of Irish, b) create opportunities for the use of Irish and c) foster positive attitudes towards its use.

Community Support Schemes

Established in 2016, the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) provides funding for the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure. This scheme helps to make use of the resources of the countryside that contribute to healthy active lifestyles. It supports the economic and tourism potential of the area for both local communities and tourist visitors alike.

Support Scheme for Economic Development

- Festivals and Participative Events: the aim of this category is to support non-profit community & voluntary organisations to deliver a diverse range of high-quality, innovative, and ambitious festivals and participative events, with social, cultural, tourism and economic benefits to the county.
- Economic Development Initiatives: the aim of this category is to support non-profit Groups and Business Representative Groups/ Chambers of Commerce who are carrying out local initiatives to create new business opportunities or works to enhance the visitor and retail experience.

Support Scheme for Community Development

- Community Facilities: the aim of this category is the renovation, refurbishment or upgrading of community facilities involving adapting facilities for universal access, fire safety improvements or energy efficiency upgrades.
- Community Amenities & Tidy Towns Activities: the aim of this category is to enhance the appearance of outdoor amenity areas and public spaces through development works and projects.
- Social Inclusion & Community Safety Measures: the aim of this category is to provide support for community and voluntary groups to increase activities or services in their area to support disadvantaged, vulnerable or socially excluded groups.

KEY PROJECTS

The following section sets out identified project proposals for the village of Creggs drawn from the community consultation process and visual assessment of the village. The proposals address issues highlighted by the community and seek to provide design solutions that enable them to take a lead in driving the projects forward to meet their aspirations for Creggs.

Priorities for village projects and improvement often change over time. The proposals set out in this Plan represent a 'snapshot' of project aspirations as expressed by the community in 2021. Initiatives for village enhancement should continue to be community led and met with a flexible response to aid new ideas, collaborations, phasing of development and changing funding opportunities. The proposals are not a schedule of detailed project works, but a framework for further dialogue between the community, local authority and other relevant agencies.

Further details of each project proposal can be found in the Project Action Plan table including, target time scale for project delivery, potential stakeholders and possible sources of funding.

SIGNATURE PROJECTS

Co-Working Space



Our world of work has been changed forever by Covid-19. Prior to Covid-19, Creggs had a number of commuters on a daily basis to areas such as Dublin, Galway, Athenry and Athlone. The requirement to work from home where possible, for reasons of public health, has demonstrated how viable home, remote and blended working can be. The provision a Co-Working Space in Creggs may allow workers to live and work locally, thereby reducing long commutes and carbon emissions, while supporting the community and rural regeneration. Plans are also in place for legislation to allow employees the right to request remote working.

Creggs benefits from full High-speed Fibre Broadband. An area within the Heritage Centre has been identified with the intention of re-purposing and utilising as a co-working space/evening study area. The operation of the co-working space will not impede nor hinder the operations of the heritage centre, as it will be a separate area. It is intended to set up a number of remote working desk spaces where workers can work at a safe 2m distance area. A booking system will be managed by the Heritage Centre. The proposal would also bring revenue to the Heritage Centre, as there would be a nominal fee to use this facility per individual in order to cover running costs. If this proved successful, there are opportunities to extend its use and facilitate a weekend study hub where third level students would be able to complete their assignments etc. Once set up, there may also be scope to move the co-working space to a larger facility within the village, however this would be dependent on the success of the pilot initiative run out of the heritage centre and based on the demand for spaces.



Policy Alignment

NSO 5 A Strong Economy

Supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills. Supporting Entrepreneurialism.

NSO 1 Compact Growth

Encouraging economic development and job creation. Building on existing assets

NSO 8 Transition to a Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Society

Contributing to a national objective of achieving transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050.

Sewage Infrastructure

Policy Alignment

NSO 3 Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities

Implementation of the actions outlined in the Action Plan for Rural Development by strengthening Ireland's rural fabric and supporting the communities who live there

NSO 9 Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources

Development of a new rural settlement investment approach, coordinating Irish Water, local authority, developer and community-led solutions to ensuring that sustainable water services solutions are progressively implemented

Background

It is widely accepted that the main constraint to the growth of the village is the lack of a proper sewage infrastructure. The sewage system is based on septic tank storage, collection and disposal with no water treatment facilities. It is accepted that for the village to grow, an improved sewage and treatment system will be required to serve the local community. Since 1 January 2014, Irish Water has statutory responsibility for all aspects of public water services planning, delivery and operation at national, regional and local levels.

The Programme for Government commits to supporting the take-up of Irish Water's Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme which is intended to provide water and wastewater growth capacity in smaller settlements which would not otherwise be provided for in its Capital Investment Plan.

Small town and Village Growth Programmes

"Small Towns & Villages Growth Programme seeks to support a number of the National Policy Objectives and National Strategic Outcomes under the NPF (e.g. development of a new rural settlement investment approach under National Strategic Outcome 9 of the NPF). The Small Towns & Villages Growth Programme is intended to provide WWTP and WTP growth capacity in smaller settlements which would not otherwise be provided for in the Investment Plan. Irish Water will work with Local Authorities across the country in ensuring that the investment is made appropriately in accordance with the relevant county development plan"

Irish Water Investment Plan 2020 to 2024

The Irish Water Investment Plan 2020 to 2040 notes that *"Regarding suggestions to use the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme to provide wastewater capacity in un-sewered villages, it may be more appropriate to fund these from the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund of the NDP. IW as a regulated utility has funding constraints and needs to prioritise investment."*

In this regard Irish Water note that they are happy to support Local Authorities who wish to seek funding for un-sewered villages through the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund of the NDP.

Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme

This Programme supports investment in community based Group Schemes as well as supports for the improvement of wells and septic tanks. The current investment programme is based on recommendations from the Working Group established in April 2018 to conduct a review of rural water services.

Rural water services account for a significant portion of our overall water services. Based on the most recent Census figures, 9% of people have their drinking water supplied by group water schemes. A further 10% of people get their drinking water from private wells. A total of 29% of households are not connected to public wastewater services and depend on either a septic tank, group wastewater treatment or other systems for treating their waste water.

In April 2018 the Minister established a Working Group to conduct a review of the wider investment needs relating to rural water services. Minister Quote Dec 2020:

"There is a two-stand approach to the consideration of the Working Group. Strand 1 considered the composition and distribution of funding for under the Rural Water Programme, while Strand 2 is considered the long-term future resourcing of the rural water sector more generally. The issue of wastewater infrastructure in villages not serviced by Irish Water is a matter which the Working Group will consider as part of its work. My Department expects a further report from the Group in 2021"

As outlined above, Irish Water and Galway County Council are the two most important stakeholders with regards to the provision of Sewage Infrastructure. The Local Community are encouraged to engage with both Galway County Council and Irish Water and actively co-ordinate submissions on plans which are issued for consultation from both agencies. As a priority the local community are encouraged to engage in the Galway County Plan review process. The submissions prepared should emphasise the need to support the growth of Creggs and to safeguard the future of the existing well-established community facilities within the village.

KEY PROJECTS

SIGNATURE PROJECTS

Adult Disability



The Sunshine Class in Creggs National school is a special needs facility for children with severe to profound learning needs. The class provides interactive and an integrated setting to maximise the learning potential of every single child. The envisioned project to provide a centre for adults with disability and care needs, allows for the extension of services provided for children into adulthood. The proposed centre is envisioned to be located in a back-land area adjoining the heritage centre/school. The proposal will provide another unique facility offering in Creggs. Users or the facility will greatly benefit from such a proposal. The proposal will further enhance the reputation of Creggs as a leading facility provider and promote its image as an inclusive community. The proposal provides a complimentary facility to the existing provisions within the school. Further consultation with the community, land owners and key stakeholders would need to be undertaken to progress this project. Additionally, statutory approvals and necessary funding would need to be secured.

NSO 3 Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities

Implementation of the actions outlined in the Action Plan for Rural Development by strengthening Ireland's rural fabric and supporting the communities who live there

NSO7 Enhanced Amenity and Heritage

Encouraging greater Village Centre Living and vibrancy, enhanced recreational spaces and attractiveness from a cultural, tourism and promotional perspective

Policy Alignment

Public Realm Framework Plan



Creggs is also fortunate to have a particularly active Tidy Towns and Pride of Place group. A Public Realm Framework Plan will help improve the character of the village further through targeted action.

An improved village landscape can be created through the introduction of additional soft planting, and tree planting. The potential for some sensitive new tree planting on approach roads and in the village centre to enhance the village environment and improve the appearance of approaches is considered as part of the Framework. The provision of street furniture is proposed creating places for people to dwell outside is also being considered. A street furniture palette, provides a consistent style and placement through a co-ordinated approach. Improvements to footpath are also proposed as the cobble has become loose and damaged. and rebuilding the church wall. The framework seeks to improve street accessibility for all residents, particularly those who have disabilities. Consider appropriate materials and dropped curbing. More disabled parking spaces throughout the village.



Another community facility lacking in Creggs is a play/exercise area. Located at the centre of the village, this would provide a much needed place for children to play in safety. Designed and equipped to a high standard, the facility would also attract families to visit the village. Appropriate exercise equipment could also be provided for all ages in the space. an opportunity for older members the opportunity to exercise in the comfort of the outdoors, private setting and in small numbers or very often alone. It could also be used by all the local groups, schools etc. as an outdoor activity area. Improvements to footpath are also proposed as the cobble has become loose and damaged. and rebuilding the church wall. The framework seeks to improve street accessibility for all residents, particularly those who have disabilities. Consider appropriate materials and dropped curbing. More disabled parking spaces throughout the village.

SUPPORTING PROJECTS

Creggs village has become the 'hub' of the parish of Creggs and its surrounding areas and with the community seeking to continuously improve the facilities and services offered.

Creggs RFC Upgrade

The provision of a community garden/growing schemes should be considered. Community garden schemes can enable social cohesion and encourage interactions, improving people's mental health and their sense of belonging whilst generating civic pride in an area. Fruit and veg grown could possibly be sold at a village market in summer and autumn.

Policy Alignment

NSO 7 Enhanced Amenities and Heritage

Enhancing recreational spaces and attractiveness from a cultural, tourism and promotional perspective



The facilities at Creggs RFC are some of the most impressive sporting facilities in the wider Connacht region. The club having a considerable support base in the immediate community and wider region. Current project to upgrade facilities at the Creggs RFC will benefit the community. Plans are in place for additional dressing rooms with a particular focus on improving facilities for the ladies' team. Plans are also in place for a gym that will allow for membership from the wider community. Planning permission has recently been secured for those works. The scale of the facilities at Creggs and the crowds drawn to Creggs to support both the home and away teams should be acknowledged and capitalised on. It is important to ensure community facilities in the village retain their function and vitality, supporting the existing community but also attracting new residents to the village.

Policy Alignment

NSO 7 Enhanced Amenity and Heritage

Encouraging greater Village Centre Living and vibrancy, enhanced recreational spaces and attractiveness from a cultural, tourism and promotional perspective.

NSO 3 Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities

Implementation of the actions outlined in the Action Plan for Rural Development by strengthening Ireland's rural fabric and supporting the communities who live there.

GAA Upgrade Works

Policy Alignment

The GAA is an integral part of the community and provides the area with an important leisure and sporting facility. Planned projects to upgrade facilities at Creggs GAA will benefit the community. Plans are in place for a walkway, draining, levelling, and resurfacing of pitch, additional small training area, new scoreboard, and covered spectator stands with disabled access. It is important to ensure community facilities in the village retain their function and vitality, supporting the existing community but also attracting new residents to the village.

KEY PROJECTS

SUPPORTING PROJECTS

Creggs National School Inclusive Playground



The facilities at Creggs National School are already at a very high level. The school caters for a special class, the "Sunshine" Class. The school has an existing hydrotherapy pool and the most recent addition to their facilities is a 40m x 25m fully floodlit Astroturf pitch. Plans are envisioned for an all-inclusive play facility to bring fun to children of all ages and abilities. The envisioned playground is inclusive for all children, where they can meet, play, interact and have fun. Such a facility would be physically challenging, educational and mentally stimulating for the children and would promote emotional and physical wellbeing regardless of their abilities.

Policy Alignment

NSO 3 Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities

Implementation of the actions outlined in the Action Plan for Rural Development by strengthening Ireland's rural fabric and supporting the communities who live there.

NSO 7 Enhanced Amenity and Heritage

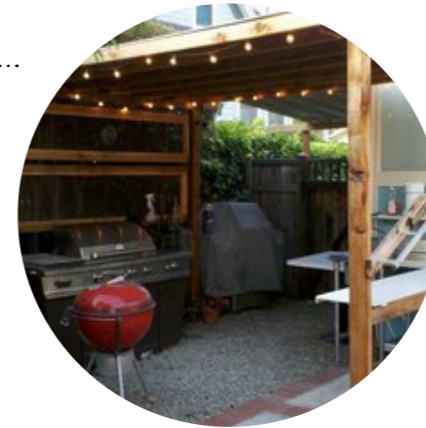
Encouraging greater Village Centre Living and vibrancy, enhanced recreational spaces and attractiveness from a cultural, tourism and promotional perspective.

QUICK WIN PROJECTS

Local Activity Centre/Community Toilet/ kitchen Facility



The community are in broad agreement with the need to deliver a designated community space within Creggs. The delivery of a designated community space could reuse an existing space within the village or develop upon vacant / underused land within the area. The project would aim to explore the potential to deliver a designated community space to include necessary community facilities and amenities such as meeting rooms, activity / event space and potential catering services. This project would offer a substantial asset for the future development of the community, settlement and immediate rural area. A Community Toilet/Kitchen Facility could be provided within the space for walkers passing through the village to utilise. Such a facility could also promote social inclusion through use of the space for mends sheds, active retirement groups, baby and toddler groups etc. In order to successfully implement this project, further consultation with the community, land owners and key stakeholders would need to be undertaken. Furthermore, detailed design and feasibility studies would need carried out within the village to assess the relevant issues. Additionally, statutory approvals and necessary funding would need to be secured.



Policy Alignment

NSO 1 Compact Growth

Building on existing assets, enhancing the attractiveness, viability, and vibrancy of smaller towns/villages

NSO 7 Enhanced Amenities and Heritage

Enhancing recreational spaces and attractiveness from a cultural, tourism and promotional perspective

Circular/Looped Walkways



The community are in broad agreement that the river has great potential to be enjoyed more fully by locals and visitors alike. This must, however, be in balance with its natural ecosystem and designation as a Natural Heritage Area (NHA) & Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Development of river paths, boardwalks and a heritage trail should be comprehensively designed using a landscape masterplan, followed by phased implementation of sections.

The need for such a project is evident due to the absence and lack of designated, safe and attractive walking routes within the catchment of the village area. The benefits of this project would harness improved levels of physical, mental and social well-being throughout the community by creating a safe and attractive walking trail to improve levels of physical activity throughout Creggs. In order to successfully implement this project, further consultation with the community and key stakeholders would need to be undertaken. Furthermore, detailed design and feasibility studies would need carried out within the village to assess the relevant issues. Additionally, statutory approvals and necessary funding would need to be secured.

NSO 3 Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities

Implementation of the actions outlined in the Action Plan for Rural Development by strengthening Ireland's rural fabric and supporting the communities who live there

NSO 7 Enhanced Amenities and Heritage

Enhancing recreational spaces and attractiveness from a cultural, tourism and promotional perspective

Policy Alignment

Community Calendar



It is proposed to establish an annual event or festival in the village, taking place around the same time each year. The events should be based on a theme with relevance to Creggs and be programmed to complement and not compete with similar activities elsewhere. This would help to bring people of the village together and provide an attraction to visitors.

An Outdoor/drive through cinema is now accepted as an outdoor recreation activity for all ages. The concept has been an important focus for the Creggs Rural Development Group as outlined in their recent Town and Village Renewal Scheme application. Outdoor/drive through cinema can help target quality of life, social inclusion and rural isolation for all ages and abilities and could become a focal point for Community Calendar.

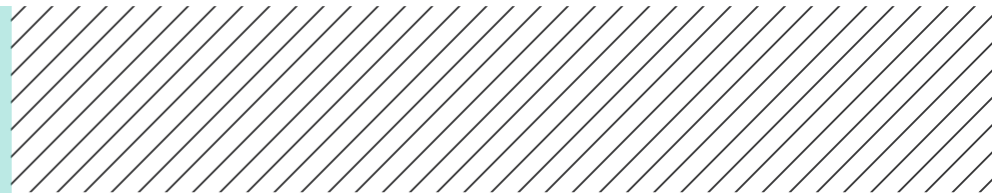
Walking events, heritage cycling events, sporting events, traditional music, field events and many more activities should be considered throughout the year to engage the local community and to attract visitors.

NSO 7 Enhanced Amenity and Heritage

Encouraging greater Village Centre Living and vibrancy, enhanced recreational spaces and attractiveness from a cultural, tourism and promotional perspective

Policy Alignment

KEY PROJECTS



QUICK WIN PROJECTS

Tourism Accommodation



The community also feel that tourism is an aspect with great potential in Creggs. Centred on the natural amenities such as the Suck Valley Way, surrounding Rivers and Lakes and other historic features, increased numbers of visitors can contribute directly to the economic sustainability of the village. At present there is no accommodation offering for tourists passing through Creggs. Small scale accommodation offerings such as B&Bs and Air B&B options should be considered, particularly for walkers undertaking the Suck Valley Way.

Policy Alignment

NSO 1 Compact Growth

Building on existing assets
Enhancing the attractiveness, viability, and vibrancy of smaller towns/villages

NSO 7 Enhanced Amenities and Heritage

Enhancing recreational spaces and attractiveness from a cultural, tourism and promotional perspective

Traffic Calming Road Safety



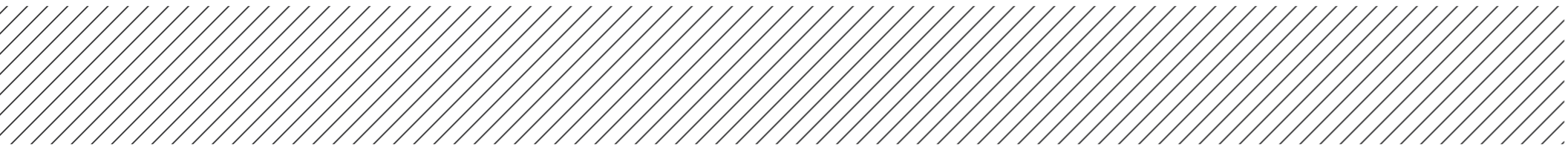
It is proposed to provide discreet traffic calming measures and to create a pedestrian safe and friendly village centre where visitors and locals alike will choose to stop and walk through the village rather than drive. As a defined village structure is not clearly apparent from the approaches to the village, Creggs suffers from the problem of motorists speeding through it.

Efforts are needed to readdress the balance between motorised vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians. It is suggested that Creggs seeks to turn its road into a street, helping it to become the focus of the village, while also encouraging drivers to pass through with more care (or even stop off). Traffic can be naturally calmed by various measures, from simply being able to see the village in advance, by narrowing the road through the use of planting. Additional signage at the approach to the village can also help reduce speed.

Policy Alignment

NSO 3 Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities

Implementation of the actions outlined in the Action Plan for Rural Development by strengthening Ireland's rural fabric and supporting the communities who live there.



Public Lighting

Increase public lighting on out skirt of village improving safety and accessibility. Review existing lighting and assess areas for additional lighting where appropriate. In particular it has been reported that further lighting is needed on the Milford Road towards the GAA club. Street lighting should be consistent with a style to be agreed upon by the local community. Consultation with Galway County Council should be undertaken to implement the local communities aspirations in terms of lighting.

Creating a Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Village

Climate action and sustainability will form a guiding principle within this Village Plan. The transition to a low carbon energy future will require a wide range of responses across the public and private sectors and in communities, to change how we use energy at home, in our work and how we travel. Consideration should be given to the requirement to provide charging points for electric cars within the village. Retrofit initiatives should also be explored to allow for upgrades across building types to reduce energy use and costs throughout the community.

Policy Alignment

NSO 7 Enhanced Amenities and Heritage

Enhancing recreational spaces and attractiveness from a cultural, tourism and promotional perspective

Policy Alignment

NSO 8 Transition to a Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Society

Contributing to a national objective of achieving transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050.

Flooding

There have been reports of surface water drainage problems with some flooding occurring, particularly with regard to the issue of flooding on the road by the Gardai Station. Flood control responsibilities for the village should be clearly understood and monitored by the Local Community, with assistance from Galway County Council requested when appropriate.

Policy Alignment

NSO 9 Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources

Improve storm water infrastructure to improve sustainable drainage and reduce the risk of flooding in the urban environment.

6

Action Plan

Project Action Plan

Action Plan Tables

PROJECT ACTION PLAN

The tables within this section outline the potential projects identified during engagement with the local community and Galway County Council. The theme the project falls under, and a brief description of the nature of the project are also provided.

Alignment has also been made between the potential projects and the National Planning Framework's (NPF) National Strategic Outcomes (NSO's). Project Ireland 2040 is the government's long-term overarching strategy to make Ireland a better country for all of its people. The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets the vision and strategy for the development of our country to 2040 and the National Development Plan (NDP) provides enabling investment to implement the strategy. The ambition of the National Planning framework is to create a single vision, a shared set of goals for every community across the country. These goals are expressed in the National Planning Framework as National Strategic Outcomes.

The table also provides an action plan for the implementation of the projects with the following details set out;

- **Where the project lies in terms of priority for the Village – High Priority, Medium Priority, Low Priority**
- **Target time scale for project delivery – Short Term (<1 year), Medium Term (1-3 years), Long Term (>3 years)**
- **Estimated Cost of Proposed Project- Low Cost (<€10,000), Medium Cost (€10,000-€30,000), High Cost (€30,000-€100,000) Very High Cost (>€100,000)**

Estimates of the cost of each project has been calculated by comparing projects of a similar nature and scale on Construction Information Services database, which provides access to thousands of fully researched and verified construction projects.

Legend



Enabling Infrastructure



Creating a Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Village



Amenity/ Social Inclusion










Natural and Built Heritage











Public Realm






ACTION PLAN TABLES

Legend	
	Enabling Infrastructure
	Creating a Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Village
	Amenity/ Social Inclusion
	Natural and Built Heritage
	Public Realm

Potential Project	Theme	Description	Policy Alignment	Stakeholders	Potential Sources of Funding	Project Ranking		
						Priority -	Target Timescale -	Cost -
1. Co-Working Space	Enabling Infrastructure, Creating a Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Village 	Utilise high quality broadband with remote workspaces/hot desks. New cohort of workers are choosing to live and work locally, accessing these digital hubs and supporting community and rural regeneration.	NSO 5 A Strong Economy NSO 1 Compact Growth NSO 8 Transition to a Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Society	Creggs Rural Development Company Ltd	Town and Village Renewal Scheme, LEADER	High	Short Term	Medium
2. Sewage Infrastructure	Enabling Infrastructure 	No sewerage system in place which is currently restricting future development in the area. Future residential development is constrained. Project would also have benefits for the environment.	NSO 3 Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities NSO 9 Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources	Creggs Rural Development Company Ltd, Galway County Council, Irish Water	Irish Water Investment Plans, Rural Regeneration and Development Fund	High	Long Term	Very High

Potential Project	Theme	Description	Policy Alignment	Stakeholders	Potential Sources of Funding	Project Ranking		
						Priority -	Target Timescale -	Cost -
3. Planned Adult Disability Centre	Enabling infrastructure, Amenity/ Social Inclusion 	Planned project to provide a centre for adults with disability and care needs, allowing for the extension of services provided for children into adulthood.	NSO 3 Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities NSO7 Enhanced Amenity and Heritage	Creggs National School, Creggs Rural Development Company Ltd, Landowners, HSE	Galway County Council Community Support Scheme	Medium	Long Term	Very High
4. Public Realm Framework	Public Realm 	Includes Street Furniture, Footpaths, Landscaping, access points, look at area for recycling, Community Garden, Vegetable patch, More Accessible Streets, Disabled car parking space	NSO 7 Enhanced Amenities and Heritage	Creggs Rural Development Company Ltd	Town and Village Renewal Scheme, LEADER, Galway County Council Community Support Scheme	High/Medium	Short/Medium term	High
5. Planned Improvements at Creggs RFC	Enabling Infrastructure, Amenity & Social Inclusion 	Current project to upgrade facilities at the Creggs RFC will benefit the community. Plans are in place for additional dressing rooms with a particular focus on improving facilities for the ladies' team. Also plans for a gym that will allow for membership from the wider community.	NSO 7 Enhanced Amenity and Heritage NSO 3 Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities	Creggs RFC	Community Funding, Sports Capital Programme	Medium	Short-Medium term	Very High
6. Planned Improvements at Creggs GAA	Enabling Infrastructure, Amenity/ Social Inclusion 	Planned project to upgrade facilities at the Creggs GAA will benefit the community. Plans for walkway, draining, levelling, and resurfacing of pitch, additional small training area, new scoreboard, covered spectator stands with disabled access.	NSO 7 Enhanced Amenity and Heritage NSO 3 Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities	Creggs GAA	Community Funding, Sports Capital Programme	Medium	Medium term	Very High

Potential Project	Theme	Description	Policy Alignment	Stakeholders	Potential Sources of Funding	Project Ranking		
						Priority -	Target Timescale -	Cost -
7. Inclusive school playground	Enabling Infrastructure, Amenity/ Social Inclusion 	A Playground is planned within the school grounds which will cater for children with disabilities/restricted movement.	NSO 3 Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities NSO 7 Enhanced Amenity and Heritage	Creggs National School	Galway County Council Community Support Scheme	Medium	Medium	Medium
8. Local Activity Centre/Community Toilet/kitchen Facility	Amenity/Social Inclusion, Natural and Built Heritage 	Spaces for local activities to take place and group organisation use. Eg. men's shed or mother and toddler groups. A café space and playground area were also identified as potential indoor and outdoor hub area ideas. Explore Utilising existing underused buildings. Introduce public toilets and a kitchen facility for walkers passing through the village.	NSO 1 Compact Growth NSO 7 Enhanced Amenities and Heritage	Creggs Rural Development Company Ltd	Outdoor Recreation and Infrastructure Scheme, LEADER	Medium	Medium	Medium
9. Circular/Looped Walkways	Public Realm, Amenity/Social Inclusion, Natural and Built Heritage 	Create circular/looped walkways through surrounding woodlands/rivers. Utilise surrounding woodlands and rivers. Improve accessibility to local lakes	NSO 3 Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities NSO 7 Enhanced Amenities and Heritage	Creggs Rural Development Company Ltd	Outdoor Recreation and Infrastructure Scheme, Galway County Council Community Support Scheme, LEADER	High	Short-term	Medium
10. Tourism Accommodation	Natural and Built Heritage 	No places for tourists to stay. Consider small scale accommodation options such as B&Bs and Air B&B options.	NSO 1 Compact Growth NSO 7 Enhanced Amenities and Heritage	Creggs Rural Development Company Ltd	Galway County Council Community Support Scheme	Low	Long-term	Medium

Potential Project	Theme	Description	Policy Alignment	Stakeholders	Potential Sources of Funding	Project Ranking		
						Priority -	Target Timescale -	Cost -
11. Establish an annual calendar of events or festivals	Amenity/Social Inclusion 	Establish an annual calendar of events or festivals Consider the possibilities of outdoor cinema, drive-in cinema or pop-up cinema.	NSO 7 Enhanced Amenity and Heritage	Creggs Rural Development Company Ltd	Galway County Council Community Support Scheme	Medium	Medium	Low
12. Traffic Calming/Road Safety (speed zone)	Public Realm 	Issues with regard to speeding on approach roads and throughout the village. Consider increased road safety/traffic calming measures.. Introduce pedestrian crossings	NSO 3 Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities	Creggs Rural Development Company Ltd, Galway County Council	Galway County Council	Medium	Medium	Medium
13. Public Lighting	Public Realm 	Increase public lighting on outskirts of village improving safety and accessibility	NSO 7 Enhanced Amenities and Heritage	Creggs Rural Development Company Ltd, Galway County Council	Galway County Council	High	Medium	Medium
14. Flooding	Enabling Infrastructure 	Reports of issues of flooding on the road by the Gardai Station as the pump there is broken.	NSO 9 Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources	Creggs Rural Development Company Ltd, Galway County Council,	Galway County Council	High	Medium	Medium
15. Creating a Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Village		Opportunities to seek grant funding to improve the energy efficiency of the Village's public buildings will also be investigated.	NSO 8 Transition to a Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Society	Creggs Rural Development Company Ltd	SEAI Funding, Galway County Council Community Support Scheme	Medium	Medium	Medium

