



PORTUMNA PUBLIC REALM ENHANCEMENT CONSULTATION



Introduction

Welcome to the second stage of public consultation in the development of a public realm strategy for Portumna town centre. The purpose of this strategy is to ensure that Portumna can develop as a sustainable, vibrant and attractive place to live in, work at, to visit and invest. This public realm project forms a key element of an on-going partnership between Galway County Council, Fáilte Ireland and a number of sister state agencies, who are working to develop and promote Portumna as a key destination hub within Irelands Hidden Heartlands.

The Process

An initial public consultation took place in early 2023 and having taken your feedback on board the design team have developed a number of proposals, which are now presented for your consideration. The public realm project extents is indicated on the map below; while an extensive wayfinding strategy will also extend into the wider town and recreational areas as part of this exciting project.

We now invite you to give us your feedback!

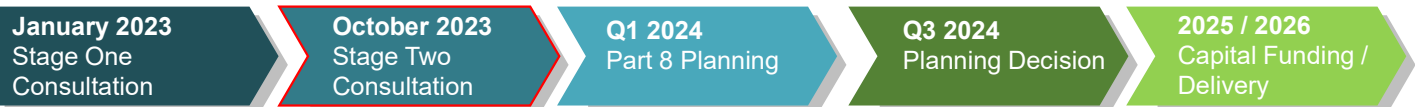
Take a look at these boards, let us know your thoughts and please make a submission.

Make a submission at: <https://consult.galway.ie/en/browse>

Email more detailed comments to: regeneration@galwaycoco.ie or

Post to: **Regeneration Team, Economic Development & Planning Section, Áras and Chontae, Prospect Hill.**

Closing Date for Submissions Friday 21st November



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development



An Ciste um Athghiniúint
agus Forbairt Tuaithe
Rural Regeneration and
Development Fund

Ár dTodhchaí
Tuaithe
Our Rural
Future



Stage One Public Consultation

An initial consultation was undertaken to canvass the views of the local community and to help establish which issues relating to Portumna were important and why. The consultation comprised a short questionnaire and information package hosted on our dedicated consultation portal and was publicised through social media and local print. With 75 responses, a number of important findings emerged from the first public consultation, a summary of which is seen below. Your comments and observations have been taken on board in developing an exciting vision for the future of Portumna town centre.

What You Told Us

A sample of some of the findings and commentary from the many submissions are shown below; with each submission driving a number of key objectives in the design phase of the project.

Current Issues Portumna Town Centre

Do you have any concerns about the existing streets and open spaces?

“Traffic on these streets is very busy and the speed that some people travel on these streets is dangerous”

“Parking on Patrick street is haphazard, with traffic blockages ...Patrick Street needs to be a one-way system”

“Lack of trees and vegetation ...need to improve the visual appearance of the area & reduce carbon emissions”

“Older lighting system and town square lighting needs a complete revamp”

“Overhead power, telecommunications cables are unsightly and take away from the potential beauty Portumna has”

“The town lacks a central area for the display of art works”

The Design Are there things you would like to see included in the designs for the proposed Portumna Town Centre Public Realm Scheme?

“Cycle infrastructure, more bins, flower beds and trees, events notices for the town”

“It would be great to see the re-introduction of trees/planting as part of the proposed improvements”

“The area beside playground could have a bandstand/ covered area for outdoor gatherings”

“Pedestrian crossing needed at bank or near courthouse for children to cross the road”

“Improve the town square area for a good weekend market and seating area”

“More bike parking spaces”

“Purchasing of old buildings to improve Portumna as many buildings in the centre of town are derelict”

“Traditional, antiquated style lights would enhance the town”

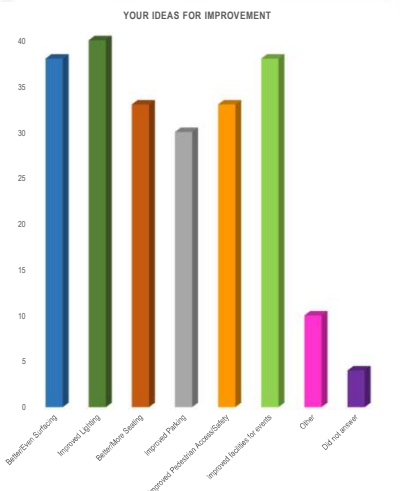
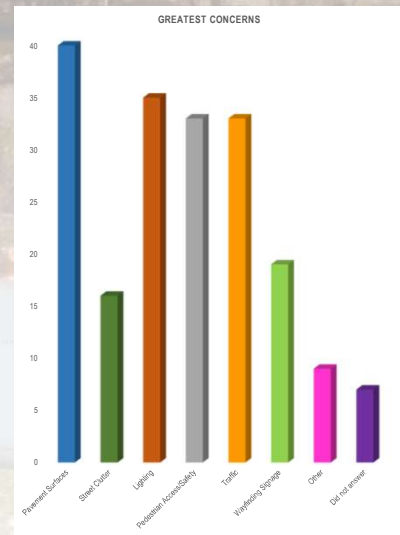
“Development of the town square car park to an area that would be more inviting for town celebrations”

“The pavements are currently not suitable for wheelchairs or buggies”

“As a wheelchair user please incorporate universal design”

“Less car dominance, more pavement cafes and seating, safe walking and cycling routes”

Consultation Feedback from Stage 1



Key Aims and Objectives

As a result of your feedback a number of key themes have emerged which are highlighted below. Each individual theme has been explored further to identify key underlying actions which have informed the design process further.



Design Approach

The following 'work in progress' plans overleaf indicate how Portumna Town Centre can be improved in line with these key objectives.

▼ ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF SAINT BRENDAN'S STREET (AFTER)

PUBLIC CAR PARK /
CIVIC SPACE



PUBLIC CAR PARK / CIVIC SPACE ENHANCEMENTS

- Improvements include;
- Flexible space suitable for events/markets.
 - Car parking re – organised.
 - High quality natural stone paving to footpaths.
 - Decluttering of pavements by removal and reconfiguration of street furniture.
 - Undergrounding of overhead lines.
 - Wayfinding/Orientation to be introduced.
 - Enhanced contemporary street lighting.
 - Improved public transport access.
 - Opportunity for feature public art (including mural).
 - Cycle Parking Facilities.

ST. BRENDAN'S STREET



ST. BRENDAN'S STREET ENHANCEMENTS

- Improvements include;
- Car parking re-organised.
 - Realigned and widened footpaths.
 - Undergrounding of overhead lines.
 - Enhanced contemporary street lighting.
 - Improved pedestrian crossing points.
 - Tree planting;
 - High quality paving.
 - Opportunity for spill out spaces for businesses.

▲ ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF SAINT BRENDAN'S STREET (AFTER)

▼ ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF SAINT BRENDAN'S STREET / CLONFERT AVENUE (AFTER)

ST. BRENDAN' ST / CLONFERT AVENUE



ST. BRENDAN'S STREET / CLONFERT AVENUE ENHANCEMENTS

Improvements include;

- Traffic calming through raised platform.
- Undergrounding of overhead lines.
- Enhanced contemporary street lighting.
- Improved pedestrian crossing points.
- Tree planting.
- High quality paving.
- Opportunity for feature public art including mural.
- Improved directional wayfinding. (in particular to the Irish Workhouse Centre)

CASTLE AVENUE 'GATEWAY'



CASTLE AVENUE 'GATEWAY' ENHANCEMENTS

Improvements include:

- Raised platform / traffic calming table.
- Avenue tree planting.
- High quality paving to widened footpaths.
- Enhanced contemporary street lighting.
- Undergrounding of overhead lines.
- Opportunity for feature public art at entrance to castle grounds.
- Realigned entrance to recreation and amenity area.

▲ ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF CASTLE AVENUE 'GATEWAY' (AFTER)

▼ ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF SAINT PATRICK'S STREET (AFTER)



SAINT PATRICK'S STREET

SAINT PATRICK'S STREET ENHANCEMENTS

- Improvements include;
- New one-way system towards Dominic Street.
 - Car parking re-organised; realigned and widened footpaths.
 - Undergrounding of overhead lines.
 - Enhanced contemporary street lighting.
 - Improved pedestrian crossing points.
 - Tree planting.
 - High quality paving.
 - Opportunity for spill out space for dining.
 - Cycle parking.

OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE, RECREATION & AMENITY AREA

FACILITIES TO BE RETAINED ▼

- Include; outdoor exercise equipment; artwork display; playground with added permeability; Yew Tree Walk enhanced; car parking and relocated bring banks.



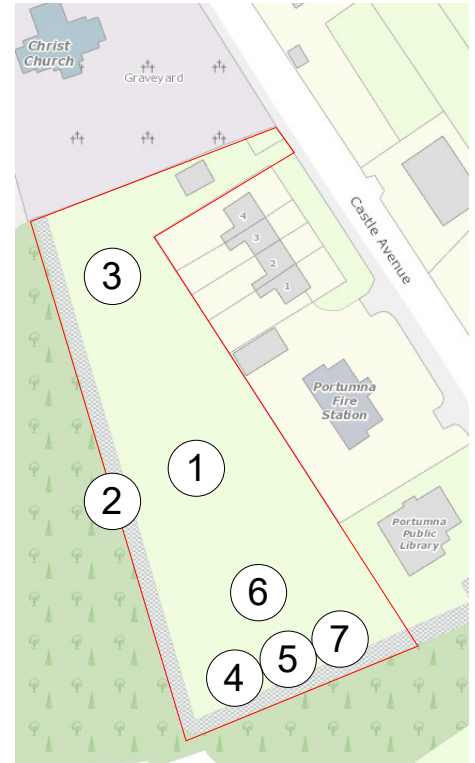
▲ 1. Fitness equipment to be relocated



▲ 2. Yew Tree Walk to be upgraded



▲ 3. Added permeability to playground area



▲ 4. New bicycle repair units



▲ 5. Enhanced cycle parking facility / hub

PROPOSED ENHANCEMENTS ▼

- Improvements include; flexible space suitable for events/markets similar to Somers Park Castlerea; car parking re-organised; High quality natural stone paving to footpaths; reconfiguration of street furniture/equipment; Underground overhead lines; Enhanced contemporary street lighting. Relocated toilet block and bicycle hub to cater to cycleway users.



▲ 6. Potential new covered stage to allow for events and festivals / homecomings



▲ 7. New modern toilet block to replace existing

Portumna Public Realm Enhancement



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

WAYFINDING

A bespoke wayfinding 'family' unique to Portumna has been developed to ensure visitors can self explore while taking in the history and heritage of the town.

pedestrian master map. style & reach



Portumna Public Realm Enhancement



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CAR PARKING

The potential to provide additional 'off – street' car parking is currently being investigated.



The example shown below has the potential to cater for up to 63 spaces to replace any loss of on street parking (subject to discussions and future acquisition with landowner)

Potential for 45no. space off street carpark.

Potential for 18no. space off street carpark.

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pedestrian master map. style & reach

