

# Roscommon Town “Putting the Spokes Back in the Wheel”

## Design Statement



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For Planning

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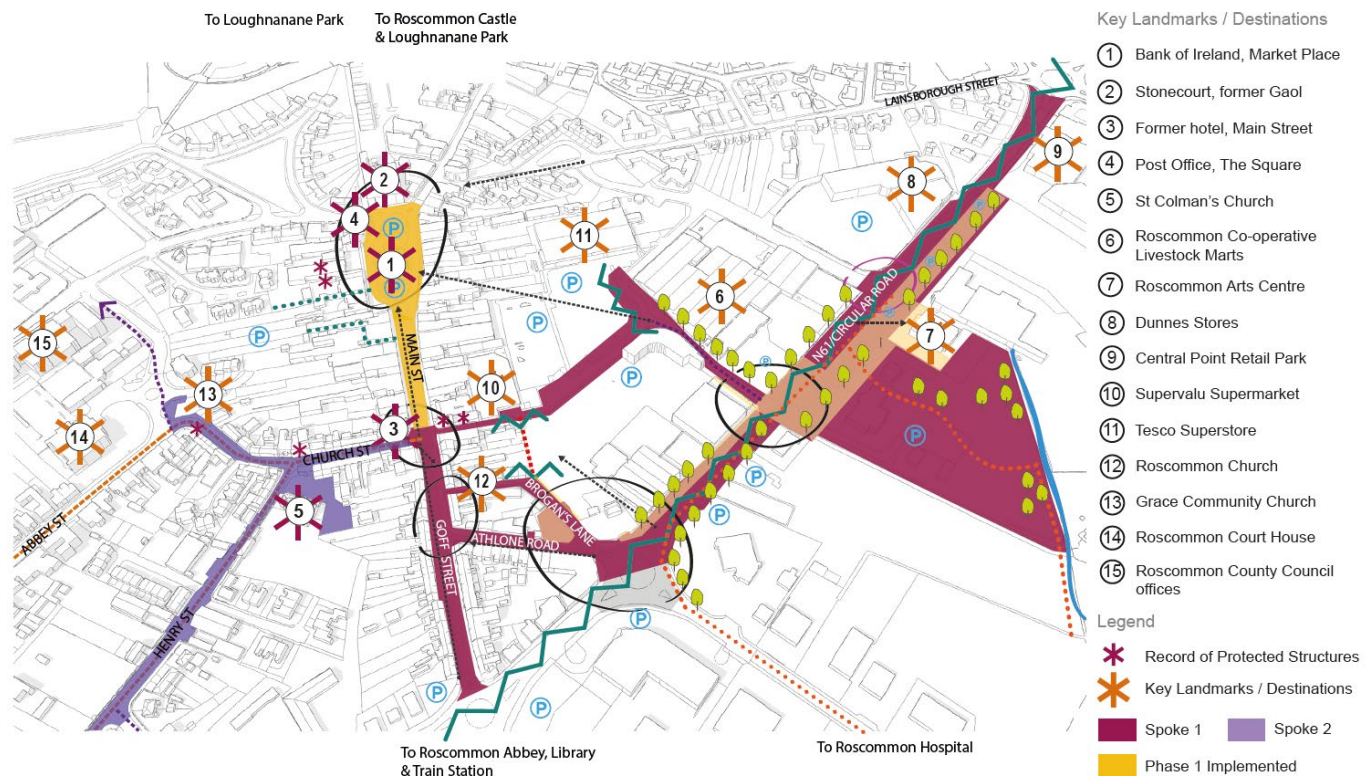
# Roscommon Town “Putting the Spokes Back in the Wheel”

## INTRODUCTION

Project Ireland 2040 is the overarching policy and planning framework for the social, economic and cultural development of Ireland. It includes both the 20-year National Planning Framework (NPF) and a detailed capital investment plan for the period 2018 to 2027 called the National Development Plan (NDP) 2018-2027. The NPF outlines the broader policy principles and priorities to plan, in a more strategic, sustainable and coordinated manner, for future population and economic growth over the next 20 years.



Overall Concept Masterplan for Roscommon



Overview of Spoke 1 and Spoke 2 design areas.

The Roscommon Town “Putting the Spokes Back in the Wheel” public realm enhancement project is being funded as part of The Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) which was launched in 2018, primarily to support the National Planning Framework’s growth enablers for large urban centres. The URDF is providing part-funding for applicant-led projects that will ensure that more parts of our urban areas can become attractive and vibrant places in which people choose to live and work, as well as to invest and visit. The primary focus of URDF public realm funding is on integrated urban developments that involve the following types:

- Strategic Public amenity enhancement, such as streetscape/public realm, parks, recreational facilities, safety, security and/or crime prevention works that are part of a wider regeneration strategy for the City/Town
- Infrastructure that enables improved accessibility, in particular sustainable modes such as walking and cycling, public transport and multi-modal interchange, but also including roads, bridges and car parking

The proposed public realm enhancement project has been designed to ensure that the public realm proposals for the project meet the above funding requirements. As a result the project seeks to enhance the quality of the physical town centre environment, and build on the public realm improvement works that have already been undertaken in the towns historic core as a result of an earlier successful URDF funding application.

## DESIGN STATEMENT

The Roscommon Town “Putting the Spokes Back in the Wheel” public realm enhancement project has been developed to unlock the potential of key underused sites in the town centre and create a town centre that is attractive to both visitors and residents. The project also seeks to create a 5/10 minute walking and cycling town and as such the proposals seek to re-connect disparate parts of the town back to the historic core and create an environment where walking and cycling are attractive and viable modes of transport.

The overarching vision for this initiative is a significant regeneration of Roscommon Town, introducing enhanced public realm spaces and re-imagined sites, that will create compact growth in the town centre. As well as enhancing the streets and civic spaces and introducing of a network of cycle lanes the proposals also include a new linear park that will transform the circular road converting grey infrastructure to a new green park in the heart of the town. The proposals will:

- .• Create a vibrant and liveable town centre where walking and cycling can form part of peoples daily routines;
- Supports existing businesses in the town;
- Develop and strengthen the historic core of Roscommon Town;
- Create a strong framework for new residential communities in the heart of the town centre;
- Enhance quality of life through improvements of the public realm and the creation of improved social and recreational amenities; and
- Create a sequence of initiatives that will link the peripheral areas of the town, such as the Arts Centre and Centre Point Retail Park, with historic core.

The overall project involves a planned sequence of initiatives that will link the existing town core to the remainder of the town. This will be achieved through reimagining 4 areas of the town centre that will create a compact growth pattern in Roscommon Town and the introduction of a network of cycle tracks.

The five integrated elements of work that form part of the Roscommon Town “Putting the Spokes Back in the Wheel” public realm enhancement project are as follows:

**Spoke 1:** Reimagining the area at the Arts Centre, N61/Circular Road, including links through to Tesco car park and a new linear park. This spoke will also include Athlone Road, Brogan’s Lane and Goff Street.

**Spoke 2:** Enhancement of Henry Street and Church Street, which will include public realm improvements and a reduction of traffic flow on Church Street.

**Spoke 3:** Enhancement of St Ciarans Road/Park from the Market Square to St Ciarans Road and linking back to Church Street.

**Wheel Rim:** A Network of cycle lanes designed to encourage people away from the unsustainable car-dependent access to residential communities. These networks of safe and convenient cycle routes will provide inter-connectivity between the historic town core and out of town retail, schools and other services as well as residential areas.

This particular phase of the project consists of Spoke 1 and Spoke 2 which will include of the following areas of work:

### **Spoke 1: Circular Road/N61, Athlone Road, Brogans Lane and Goff Street**

#### **Circular Road/N61**

- Creation of an attractive and vibrant linear park replacing existing hard standing with high-quality planting, paving, tree planting and improved connectivity to the town centre from the circular road.
- Two way off-road cycleway mainly within the linear park
- New car parking adjacent to the Arts Centre
- Improved crossing points and tree planted central reservation along circular road
- New street lighting and street furniture
- Improved links up to the town centre via the car park at Tesco.

#### **Athlone Road**

- Resurfaced carriageway with on-street cycleway markings
- Improvements to existing car park including tree planting and new paving
- Formalised on-street parking bays on south side of the carriageway
- New tree planting and resurfaced increased width pavements
- New gateway signage and raised table at junction with circular road
- New street lighting and street furniture

#### **Brogans Lane**

- Resurfaced carriageway with on-street cycleway markings
- New white lining for on-street parking bays

#### **Goff Street**

- Resurfaced carriageway with on-street cycleway markings

- Formalised on-street parking bays on both sides of the carriageway
- New tree planting and resurfaced increased width pavements, new street lighting and street furniture and new cycle infrastructure
- New raised table/paved shared surface at junction with Athlone Road
- One way traffic lane from Athlone Road to Circular road with access for vehicles heading south out of the town centre maintained
- New gateway signage at junction with circular road

## **Spoke 2: Church Street and Henry Street**

### **Church Street**

- Formalised paved on-street parking bays on north side of the carriageway
- New tree planting and resurfaced increased width pavements with new street lighting
- New raised table/paved shared surface at junctions with Goff Street and Henry Street
- One way traffic lane from Goff Street junction to Henry Street Junction with access for vehicles heading west out of town centre maintained
- Resurfaced carriageway along all of Church Street to Abbey Street

### **Henry Street**

- Formalised paved on-street parking bays on both sides of the carriageway
- New tree planting and resurfaced increased width pavements with new street lighting
- New paved shared surface adjacent to Church of Ireland
- One way traffic lane from Ard Comian junction to Church Street Junction with access for vehicles heading south out of the town centre maintained
- Resurfaced sections of carriageway along Henry Street.