

# Roscommon Public Realm Design Statement Town Centre West Enhancement Scheme

May 2024



## Roscommon Town Centre West Enhancement Scheme

### 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

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 Roscommon 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; and

- Enhance quality of life through improvements of the public realm and the creation of improved social and recreational amenities.

The Roscommon Town Centre West Enhancement Scheme which is part of the second phase of public realm enhancements in the town centre and a continuation of the public realm scheme that was granted planning permission at the start of 2024, includes the following enhancements:

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

- Increased width and resurfaced footways throughout including a new footpath on the western side of St Ciarans Street from the existing Medical Centre off St Comans Park through to St Comans Wood Primary School.
- Integration of several raised table, courtesy crossings giving greater pedestrian priority at key junctions including 2no raised table junctions adjacent Roscommon County Council Offices.
- Narrowing of the junctions throughout providing improved and safer pedestrian movement and street crossing
- Soft landscape enhancements and street tree planting throughout this part of the town centre.
- Street furniture enhancements including new signage, bins and benches.
- Resurfaced sections of the carriageway with designated on-street parking bays.
- Footway and landscape enhancements through the car park leading to Loughnaneane Park off Lough Road.
- New road signage and markings throughout.

#### **Sacred Heart Catholic Church Car Park**

- Rationalisation of parts of the existing car park including the re-marking of parking spaces.
- The addition of a designated, paved pedestrian walkway providing improved connectivity through the car park with soft landscape enhancements including tree planting.
- Raised controlled crossing point along St Ciarans Street linking to St. Comán's Wood Primary School Car Park.
- Addition of 6no designated disabled parking bays.

#### **St. Comán's Wood Primary School Car Park and St Ciarans Street**

- New car park layout providing 3no designated disabled parking spaces and 5no mini bus / taxi pick-up drop off spaces.
- Landscape enhancements with buffer planting.
- Widened and resurfaced footways to the perimeter of the car park.

- Narrowing of the junction between Saint Ciarans Street and Convent Road providing improved pedestrian movement
- Widened and resurfaced footways along Saint Ciarans Street