

Artist Brief

Park Lane

Public Art Commission 2026-27

As part of

Living Laneways Roscommon

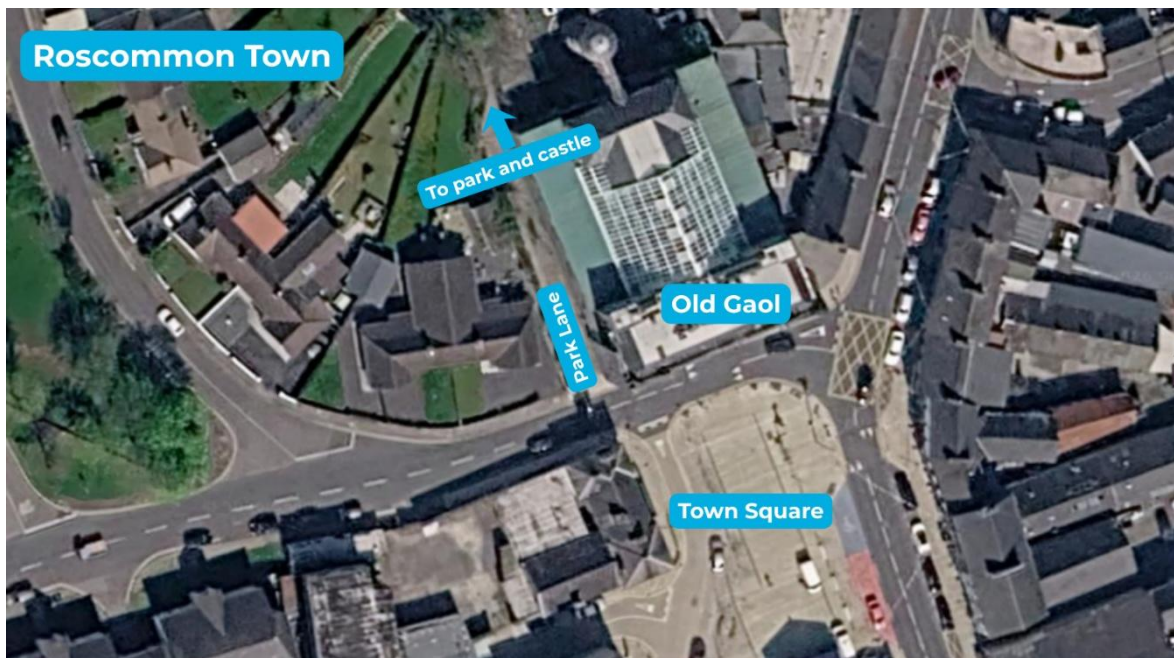
An exciting cultural programme revitalising
the laneways of Roscommon Town

PROJECT OVERVIEW

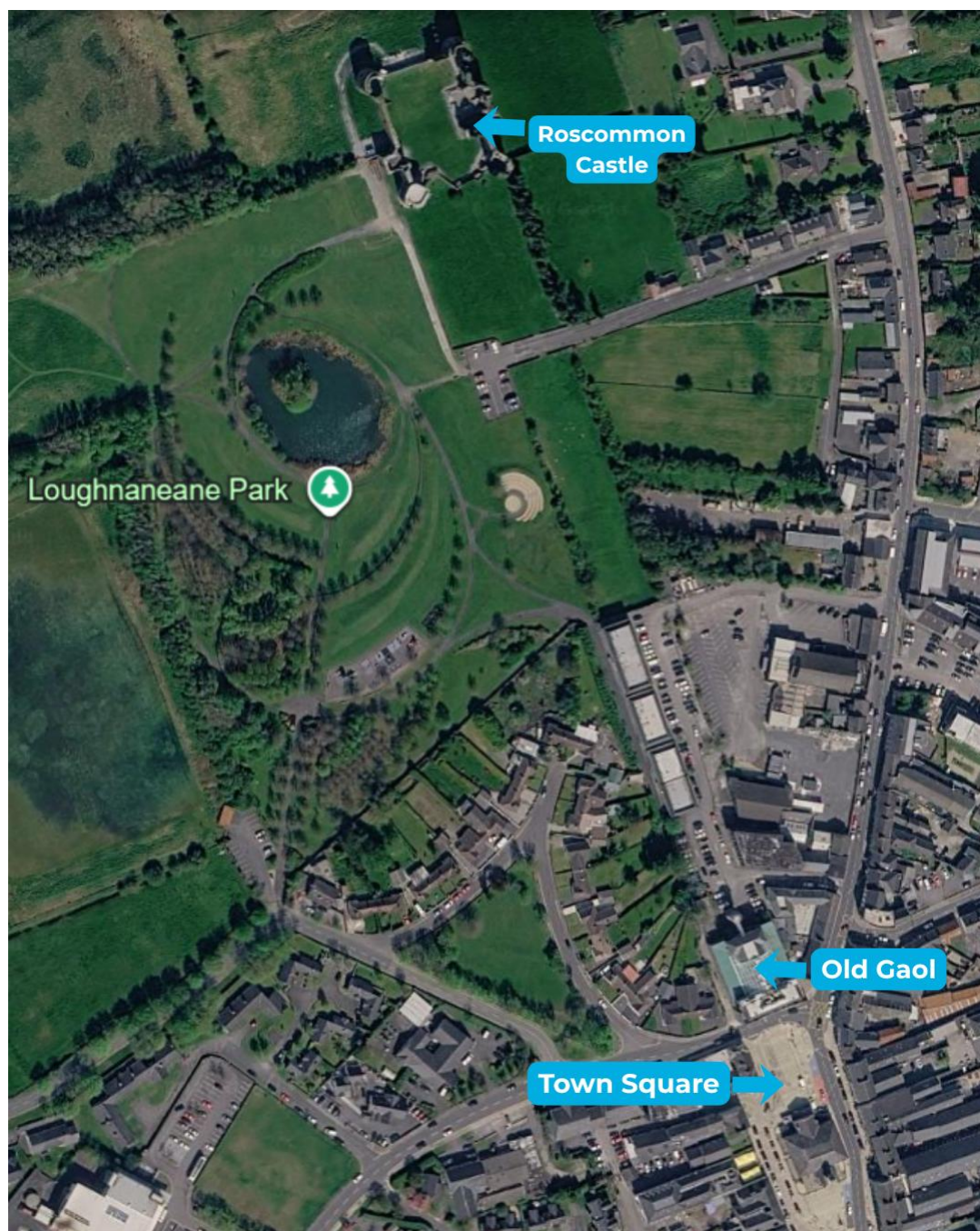
'**Living Laneways**' is an innovative public art programme where artists respond creatively to the public laneways of Roscommon Town and to the history, story and community.

Roscommon County Council, under the Creative Ireland Programme 2026/2027, invites original submissions for the design and execution of a new **Creative Laneway : Park Lane** as part of the Living Laneways Programme. Existing commissions are a Poetry Laneway on Chapel Lane, The Bee Lane on Alleé De Chartrettes and a Mosaic Laneway on Hynes Way.

Roscommon County Council and its partners wish to bring people and a diversity of urban functions together in central places which, for most of their existence, have been places of public interaction and commerce. The full project seeks to create a functionally diverse, connected and people friendly sequence of town centre spaces which frame and celebrate the architecture, and to create a town centre that existing and future residents can take pride in and which visitors are drawn to. Back streets and laneways link residents and visitors toward the town centre and the '**Living Laneways**' project considers laneways as places traditionally occupied by skills, trades and guilds. This commissioning programme aims to provide visual enhancement to the laneway links approaching the Main Street and Market Square. The Living Laneways concept was introduced as part of the Roscommon Town Main Street and Market Square Public Realm Project funded under the 2018 Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) and developed by RCC Regeneration team working with GKMP Architects and artist Rhona Byrne.



Living Laneways Commission #4 is funded by Roscommon County Council Creative Ireland Programme.



COMMISSION BUDGET: €30,000 incl VAT

Fully inclusive of all costs: artist fees, any necessary research, production /realisation, installations, groundworks, insurance, documentation, maintenance file and VAT.

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:
Monday 9th November 2026.**

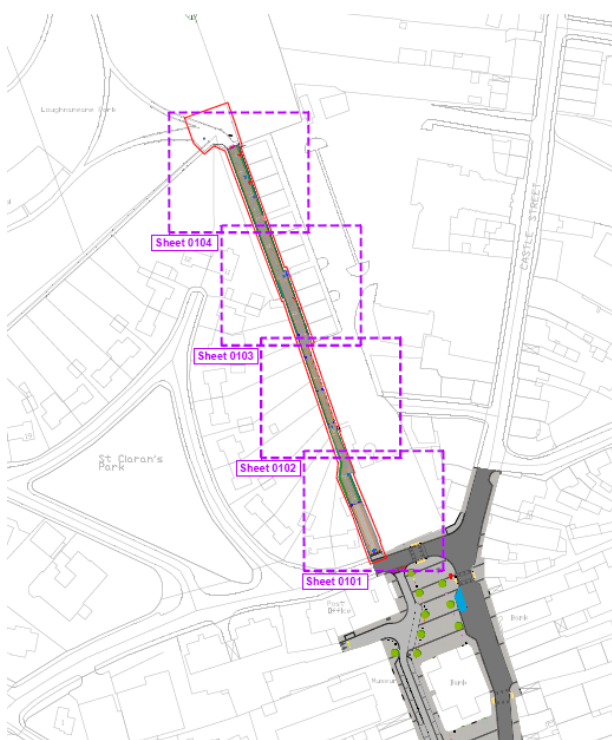
For submission and queries contact Áine on: abutler@roscommoncoco.ie

LANEWAY SUBMISSION

It is proposed that the work or works will be installed along the laneway between the public park and the Square.

A key objective of this commission is to create a distinctive and engaging artwork that is clearly visible from the entrance, drawing people into the lane and inviting them to discover and access the park beyond.

Artists with experience of **installation / relief / mural works** are invited to submit proposal designs which:



- Are playful, imaginative or contemporary which add to a 'walking experience' as people move through the laneway between the town and Loughnaneane Park.
- Professional and made in a manner and from materials suitable for permanent exhibition outdoors (this could include the use of recycled materials.)
- Engage with the community in its design.
- Do not impact the accessibility for people moving through the lane.
- Works will require low maintenance.

Artists will be required to provide a detailed project proposal outlining the concept, methodology, technical requirements, time frame and budget breakdown.

ASSESSMENT OF SUBMISSIONS:

Representatives from the Council, Arts Office, Town Team and schools will be involved in the selection.

LOCATION: Park Lane

Park Lane is the pedestrian lane running from Market Square/The Square towards Loughnaneane Park and Roscommon Castle, passing alongside the Old Gaol (Old Jail) building, now known as Stone Court Centre. It is informally referred to as "Jail Lane". It is approximately 300metres from entry point to exit point in the park.

Connection between the Square and Loughnaneane Park

Given the geography of the area, the lane beside the Old Gaol forms part of that historic connection between:

1. The commercial centre of Roscommon (Market Square),
2. The Old Gaol,
3. The Castle precinct,
4. Loughnaneane Park.

Historical significance

The route is historically important because:

- The Old Gaol occupied a strategic position at the edge of the Square.
- The Castle and surrounding lands lay immediately beyond.
- The area around the jail would have been a major civic and administrative zone in eighteenth and nineteenth-century Roscommon.

Potential Themes to be explored:

- **Roscommon Castle and its historical significance**
- **The Old Gaol and its usage through the years**
- **Roscommon as a market town**
- **Loughnaneane Park-The Turlough and Biodiversity**

Roscommon Castle and its historical significance

Roscommon Castle is a dramatic 13th-century Anglo-Norman fortress built in 1269 on the shores of Loughnaneane. Over centuries it was contested by Norman and Gaelic forces, occupied by the O'Connor Kings of Connacht, transformed into an Elizabethan residence, and ultimately left in ruins after being burned in 1690. Today, its imposing towers and walls remain a powerful symbol of Roscommon's rich history and enduring connection to landscape, community and heritage.

[Roscommon Castle - Roscommon County Council](#)

The Old Gaol and its usage through the years

The former Roscommon County Gaol (See more info at [Buildings of Ireland](#)) was built around 1740-1745. It dominates the northern side of Market Square and was one of the most significant public buildings in the town. It served as the county jail until the early nineteenth century before being used as an asylum, market house and later private accommodation. It is now known as Stone Court Centre, housing retail outlets and residential apartments.

Protected Structure Considerations

The Old Gaol is an historic protected structure. Artists are encouraged to respond to the heritage of the Old Gaol but should not assume that direct attachment to the protected structure will be permitted.

Artists should be mindful of the architectural and heritage significance of the building when developing proposals. Proposals should seek to minimise physical intervention, avoid damage to historic masonry, and demonstrate sensitivity to the character, materials and significance of the structure.

In practical terms this may mean:

- No drilling into historic stonework.
- No painting directly onto protected masonry.
- Preference for freestanding installations.
- Consideration of sightlines and the visual impact on the historic building.
- Early engagement with Heritage Office staff for advice where works may affect the protected structure.

Roscommon as a market town

Roscommon developed as an important market town serving the rich agricultural hinterland of County Roscommon. For centuries, farmers and traders travelled to the town to buy and sell cattle, sheep, grain and other goods, with Market Square forming the commercial heart of the settlement. Historic buildings such as the former Market House, Courthouse and Old Gaol reflect Roscommon's role as a centre for trade, administration and civic life. Today, the Square remains the focal point of the town, linking its historic market tradition with contemporary community, cultural and commercial activity.

Loughnaneane Park-The Turlough and Biodiversity

Loughnaneane Park is a 14-acre amenity and heritage park in the heart of Roscommon Town, located beside the historic Roscommon Castle. The park is centred around a natural turlough (seasonal lake) and features accessible walking paths, a sculpture trail, playground, outdoor gym and wildlife habitats. A popular destination for recreation and relaxation, Loughnaneane Park offers visitors an opportunity to enjoy nature while exploring the rich history and heritage of Roscommon Town. Loughnaneane Park is a valuable biodiversity resource at the heart of Roscommon Town, combining natural habitats with a rich historic landscape. The park's turlough, grasslands, mature trees and wetland areas support a variety of wildlife including birds, pollinators, bats and native plant species. Seasonal changes shape the character of the park, creating an ever-evolving environment where nature, heritage and recreation coexist. The area offers opportunities to explore themes of ecology, migration, interconnection, conservation and people's relationship with the natural world.

Plan for upgrade works:

As part of the ongoing Roscommon Town enhancement works the lane is set to undergo a significant upgrade which will include resurfacing and lighting works throughout, the addition of a Limestone slab with inscription of "Loughnaneane Park" to be installed within the groundworks at the entry point and informative, tourism-focused signage at either side of the entry point. It is hoped that a Public Artwork would not only add to the aesthetic upgrade but would also serve as a visual tie between the Square and the park and Roscommon Castle beyond. The artwork should be visible from the entrance and should act to invite passersby to explore the lane and access the park beyond.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The **Laneway commission** is a limited, one stage application process for artists on the Roscommon Public Art Artist Panel.

Artists should provide the following information for their expressions of interest:

1. **CV with documentation of work:** please submit up to 3 examples of previous relevant work examples, including descriptions, photographs, and where relevant links to videos.
2. A **proposal** suggesting direction you would take with the commission and the artistic concept of the proposed work and how this should look.
3. **Budget** – detailed breakdown.
4. Outline the **timeline** of development, delivery and installation for the project.

Applications will be assessed using the following criteria which should be **used as headings** in your submission:

• Previous experience of similar projects / commissions (30/100);
• Quality of concept, artistic merit and relevance of the proposed work. Include visuals of potential outcomes for the artwork in situ – digital images or scaled drawings (40/100); Please limit your response to max 3 pages, including visual/s.
• Budget detail - value for money with due consideration to methodology, installation details, long term value and impact (15/100);
• Timescale for realisation and projected completion date, inclusive of any research period and proposed approach (15/100). This project must be completed by July 2027. Therefore the timescale should include evidence, if required, (eg. a letter of commitment from a supplier) that the proposed materials for the commission will be available in order for the project to be completed on time.

Roscommon County Council reserves the right to commission or not to commission from entries received and to re-advertise, directly invite, directly commission or to select more than one submission and to divide the budget accordingly.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ARTIST

All artists must comply with the necessary Health and Safety Legislation in the design, manufacture, supply, delivery and installation of the work paying particular attention to the challenges created by a public outdoor setting. It is the responsibility of the artist to deliver the work on time and on budget. The artist commissioned may subcontract other creatives.

INSURANCE

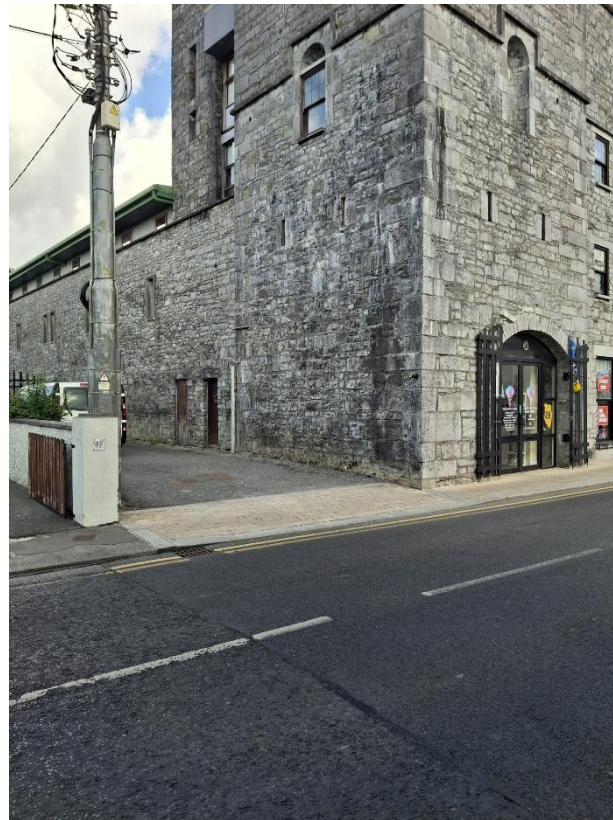
Artists will be required to have Public Liability insurance cover for work they have to undertake on site and Employers Liability insurance cover for any person that they undertake to bring on site as part of the design or implementation phase of the project.

TAX CLEARANCE

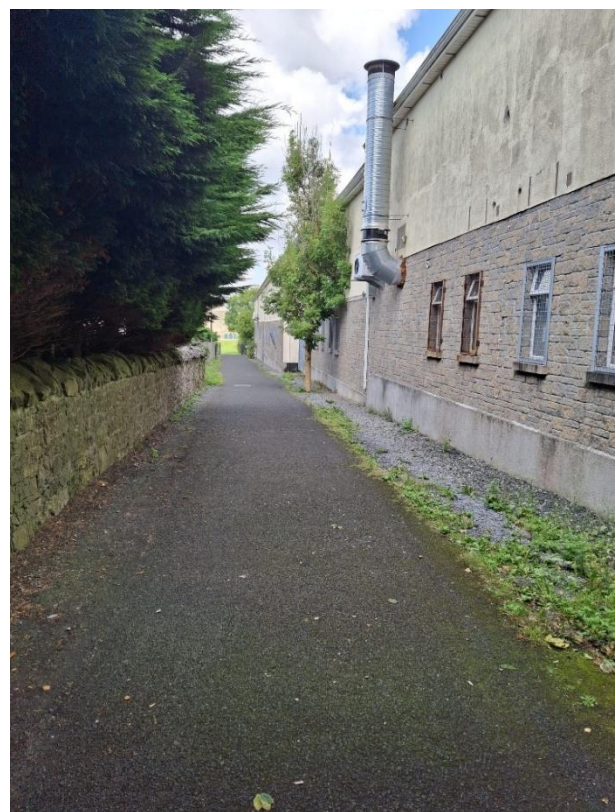
The successful artist must provide the Council with a tax clearance certificate.

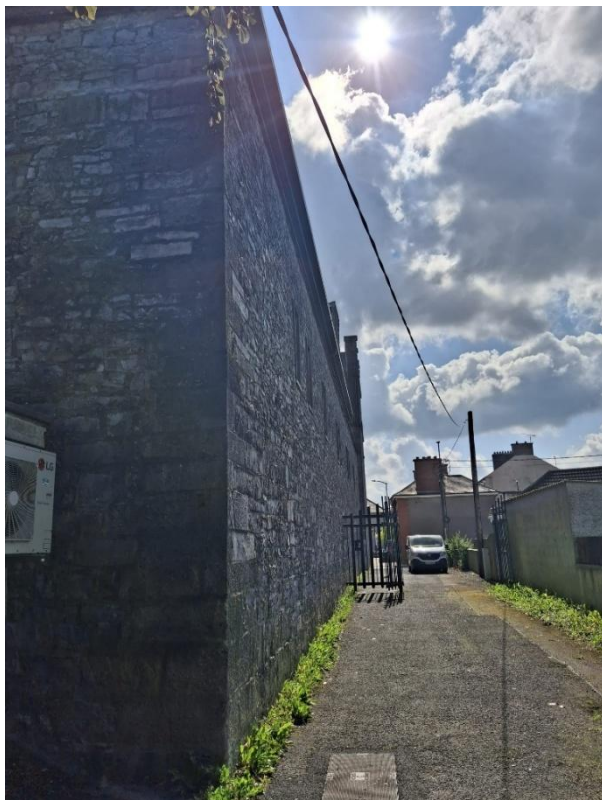
Note: Design Drawings are preliminary and may be subject to change. PDF versions available on request

View of laneway from Town Square



Laneway Access to Loughnaneane Park from Town Square





**View from Laneway facing back to Town
 Square**