

Lusk

AP+E

Prescience
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for Life

Town Centre
First Plan
2024-2032



Rialtas
na hÉireann
Government
of Ireland

Ár dTodhchaí
Tuaithe
Our Rural
Future



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



Lár Bailte ar dTús
Town Centre First

Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council



Consultant Team

AP+E

PRESCIENCE
KNOWLEDGE FORETOLD

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Any proposals described in *Lusk for Life* are conceptual starting points, all projected scenarios are illustrative, and will require further study by the relevant parties and stakeholders for development. The project was prepared by the consultant team for Fingal County Council in accordance with the client's brief and instructions. It is not proposed to address the circumstances of any particular individual or entity.

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01 / INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION FROM THE LUSK TOWN TEAM

Lusk is a growing town with a diverse population and the first town in Fingal, and one of only 26 towns across Ireland, to prepare a Town Centre First Plan. Following on from the national Town Centre First policy 2022, the Lusk Town Team was established for the express purpose of developing a Town Centre First Plan for Lusk. Building on the successful publication of the community-led 'Lusk Vision 2030', the Town Team has worked closely with the community and businesses of Lusk and with Fingal County Council in updating and adapting that plan to become Lusk's Town Centre First Plan.

The national Town Centre First policy recognises that every town is unique. It lays the foundation for towns to develop, at a local level, their own planned path forward which is outlined in their unique, tailored, Town Centre First Plans. The Town Centre First Plan is driven by the local community and businesses, working together as part of a Town Team. The Town Team, with the significant support of Fingal County Council's Town Regeneration Office, established three Pillar Groups, committed to making Lusk a town with a high quality of life for all age groups.

The community groups in Lusk have all worked closely with the Town Team and stakeholders to input on all aspects of this ambitious Town Centre First Plan. The leadership, energy, and level of engagement from the community and businesses is extremely encouraging for the realization of the Plan's vision.

This Town Centre First Plan will help support the Fingal Development plan in steering a clear path for the future trajectory of the town and provide a basis for accessing funding for projects and initiatives as they become available. The Town Team is delighted to support Lusk as it charts its own path forward guided by a comprehensive plan, aligning with national policies.

The Town Team acknowledges the support of Fingal County Council, the Town Centre First Initiative at national level and the people of Lusk, who's engagement and commitment to the place they live is boundless.

The Town Team looks forward to the collaborative effort continuing and yielding significant benefits for Lusk as this Town Plan is delivered.

John Quinlivan

Chair

On behalf of the Lusk Town Team



From Left to Right
Declan Ryan, Town Regeneration Officer, Fingal County Council
Cllr Robert O Donoghue
Laurence Ward, Irish Farmers Association
Eilish Harrington, CEO Fingal LEADER Partnership
John Quinlivan, Director of Service Fingal County Council and Chair of Town Team
Brian Arnold, Lusk Community Council
Cllr Cathal Boland
Siobhan O Donnell, Head Of Public Affairs, Fingal Chamber
Cllr Brian Dennehy.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

LUSK FOR LIFE

This Town Centre First Plan, *Lusk for Life*, offers a unique and timely opportunity to take stock of the current condition and the future potential of Lusk, to plan for its future in a holistic manner based on the needs of people who live there. Lusk is one of twenty-six Irish towns which was awarded funding by the Government to prepare a Town Centre First Plan. The project has been led by the Lusk Town Team, the Pillar Groups, working alongside and supported by Fingal County Council. The plan was completed by an experienced team of urban design and community development consultants headed by AP+E. It provides an ambitious plan for the future development of Lusk, placing community needs first.

Lusk is a thriving town with a nationally significant medieval core. It is one of the oldest and most significant ecclesiastical settlements in the north-eastern coastal region of Ireland. The preservation and enhancement of the town's heritage is a critical factor in its future development. The town has functioned as an important rural settlement since the fifth century and acts as the urban centre for a significant agricultural hinterland. Lusk has high levels of employment, good quality housing stock, low levels of vacancy and benefits from a broad range of social, cultural, and sporting voluntary groups.

The commitment of the townspeople to plan collectively for the future of the town was

demonstrated in the community-led 'Lusk Vision 2030' plan (commissioned by Lusk Community Council, funded by Fingal LEADER Partnership/ Lusk Community Council and developed by AP+E). This Town Centre First Plan builds on the community and stakeholder engagement, and the proposals made in 'Lusk Vision 2030'.

Lusk has expanded rapidly. The population of the town has quadrupled in the last 25 years. The scale and speed of housing developments has led to a higher demand on the existing community facilities. Additional recreational, community and sporting facilities are now required for a town of this size. Lusk has a particularly young population with an average age of 33 years, younger than the Fingal County average of 36 years and the national average of 39 years. .

While Lusk has a young population, it has high levels of daily outward commuting and the shortage of indigenous businesses reveal that it is in danger of becoming a dormitory town. The perceived lack of facilities for teenagers and young people was one of the most dominant themes emerging from the extensive public engagement.

To sustain and thrive, Lusk must use its unique assets and resources to great effect, innovating and collaborating to create a socially diverse, economically vibrant and sustainable future; one that sustains its community while also attracting

new skills, energies and resources. *Lusk for Life* contains comprehensive analysis of the heritage, built fabric, demographics, and community facilities of Lusk. This research, aligned with the community engagement, was critical in developing five key themes which direct all proposals, these are:

1. Stakeholder Engagement & Communications
2. Community Implementation Structures
3. Business Implementation Structures
4. Third Space & Social Capital
5. Recreation, Amenity, Spatial & Public Realm

The themes were developed into a Smart Strategy for Lusk (page 112). This is needed to ensure Lusk develops as a resilient, accessible, and connected community in which the shared social, economic and environmental assets are sustainably developed to meet the needs of all within the community.

A Smart Place-Based Strategy creates an enabling framework through which development projects can be aligned and resourced in line with the proposed vision for Lusk. The proposals contained here are bundled into two primary projects which work across the themes of community, enterprise and public realm. The projects include actions to build cross-generational community cohesion. They will foster enterprise actions to build pride of place through streetscape enhancement,

ambitious proposals for new community facilities and green amenities. It places active travel and climate resilience to the fore and funding streams are suggested for all actions, as are case- study exemplar projects which show what can be achieved in Lusk.

Lusk for Life sets out clear strategies and achievable actions to make the town centre a more attractive place to live, work, socialise, spend time, congregate, and do business. It focuses on developing local community cohesion and amenities, supporting existing businesses, facilitating new enterprise, improving the quality of the public realm and developing underused spaces.

The implementation of the proposals contained in *Lusk For Life* will require the commitment of the Town Team and Pillar groups working in close collaboration with the Local Authority and funding agencies. The community groups have demonstrated the appetite and commitment needed to improve the quality of life for all age groups of Lusk, with support and guidance from Fingal County Council, their ambitions for Lusk can be realised.

TOWN CENTRES FIRST LUSK

The 'Town Centre First' (TCF) national policy, launched in February 2022 by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Department of Rural and Community Development, highlights the significance of rural towns in Ireland's social, economic, and cultural life. It acknowledges the diverse challenges facing rural towns and through a series of actions at local, regional, and national levels aims to holistically address long-term difficulties faced by many rural towns.

The TCF policy acknowledges that all towns are unique, and only through close study and engagement with communities and stakeholders

'The TCF Plan itself will build upon the positive attributes of the town, address the challenges it faces, and offer a comprehensive path forward to revitalise the town and secure a desirable place to live and work. The TCF Plan will outline a shared vision for the development of the town centre and immediate surrounds, will be action orientated, and will identify specific interventions required to meet the objectives of the plan.'

Page 46 Town Centre First Policy

can an accurate and useful plan be developed for any town. As such, the TCF policy committed to the introduction of TCF Plans that facilitate local communities and businesses, working in conjunction with their Local County Councils, to 'develop plans to maximise the particular strengths and assets of their town'. Lusk was one of 26 towns selected for a pilot Town Centre First plan, entitled *Lusk for Life*.

The foundation of each TCF Plan is that it is strongly embedded at a local level, supported by the Local Authority, to deliver essential projects for key development appropriate to 21st-century needs. This Town Centre First policy sets out five ambitions for sustainable rural towns listed below, with specific reference to how these ambitions are being addressed in the formation of the Lusk Town Centre First Plan, *Lusk for Life*.

• Places that are shaped by the communities that live there, where local residents and the business community are enabled to plot the future for their own towns and villages.

The Lusk Town Centre Plan builds on the work of 'Lusk Vision 2030' (2021) which included an extensive and in-depth community engagement process. This included a public survey with over 750 respondents and multiple community workshops. In the development of the Town Centre First Plan for Lusk, the consultants have worked closely with the Local Authority, Town Team, the Community, Business & Local Economy, and Public Realm & Climate Action Pillar groups to ensure actions and proposals identified originated in the self-identified needs of the community. The formation of the Town Team and Pillar groups ensure that the long-term success of this plan will

be aligned with and informed by people living and working in Lusk.

• Towns that embrace the opportunities presented by technology, climate action and demographic change.

Lusk is almost unique in the speed and scale of its rapid expansion. The population of Lusk has more than quadrupled since the start of the 21st century and now operates predominately as a commuter town to nearby larger urban centres in north county Dublin. *Lusk for Life* provides a stimulus to ensure Lusk develops as a sustainable, vibrant centre for a growing population.

• Places that are the fulcrum of economic, social, cultural and recreational activity, with a sustainable mix of commercial, retail, service and hospitality offerings.

Lusk for Life proposes to reinvigorate the town centre and the green areas within a short walking distance of the town core. Lusk is a compact urban settlement, with almost all amenities, housing and businesses within the confines of the ring road, making it easily navigable on foot.



Prominence of St MacCullin's Church, Lusk Round Tower, at the heart of the village.

The TCF Plan proposes to support community and business projects along with an improved public realm strategy reinforcing the heart of Lusk.

• Town centres that reflect the current and future needs of the local community, with quality public realm, sustainable mobility infrastructure and green spaces that facilitate vibrant, connected local communities and economies.

Lusk for Life includes strategies to ensure Lusk town centre thrives. Actions include a wayfinding strategy connected to the historical past of Lusk, active travel and upgraded public realm to ensure a town centre that can serve the needs of future generations.

• Vibrant, accessible and lived-in town centres that are home to young and old, which are not seen as a second-best option to more peripheral locations.

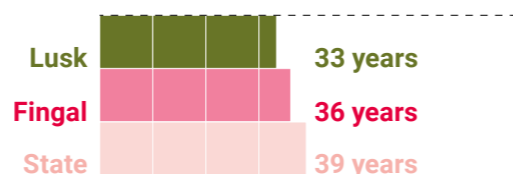
Lusk has seen rapid expansion with the town boundaries in recent years. Housing, businesses and community facilities in the historic town core need to be protected and enhanced. *Lusk for Life* aims to build community pride and cohesion, alongside improvement in facilities and public amenities to ensure a town where all ages are proud to live.

KEY STATISTICS LUSK

YOUNG POPULATION

With an average age of 33 years, Lusk has a younger population than the County of Fingal (36 years) and of the State generally (39 years). Its Youth Dependency Rate (40%) is considerably higher than that of the State (30%)

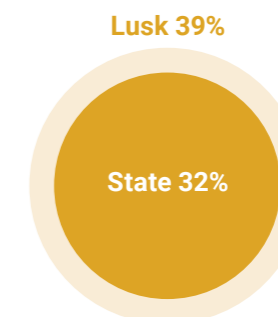
(2022 CSO)



WORK FROM HOME

39% of residents indicated that they worked from home for at least some part of their week, higher than the national figure (32%). Of this, 8% of workers indicated that they work mainly from home.

(2022 CSO)



PROPERTY VALUE

The average price property in the Lusk K45 eircode was €399,259, exceeding the national average by around 25%.

(2022 CSO)

INTERNATIONAL POPULATION

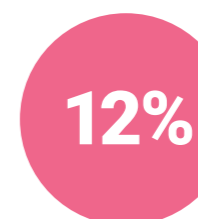
10% were born in other EU states, with 3.6% born in the UK; similar to the overall Fingal figure.

(2022 CSO)

SOCIAL CAPITAL

12% of residents declare that they volunteer their time for a range of social, sporting and environmental causes.

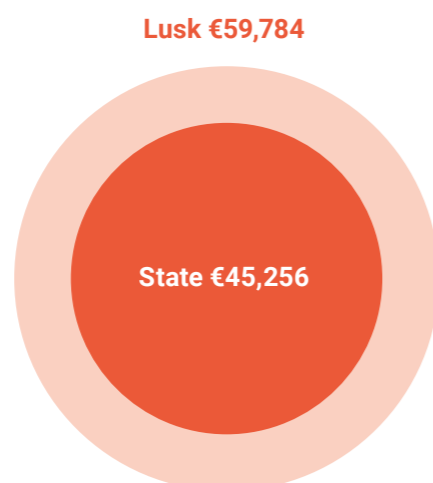
(2022 CSO)



INCOME

The Household Median Gross Income for Lusk ED was €59,784, higher than that of the County of Fingal as a whole (€58,795) and substantially in excess of that of the State average of €45,256.

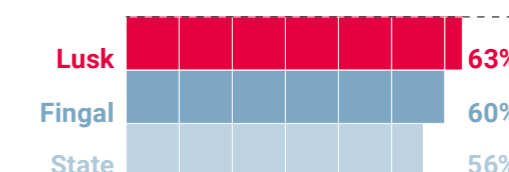
(2016 CSO)



WORKING POPULATION

63% of the population aged 15 years & over consider their principal economic status to be 'At work'; a higher figure than the County of Fingal average (60%) & notably higher than the State figure (56%).

(2022 CSO)



CONSIDERING THE SITE DEFINING THE TOWN CENTRE

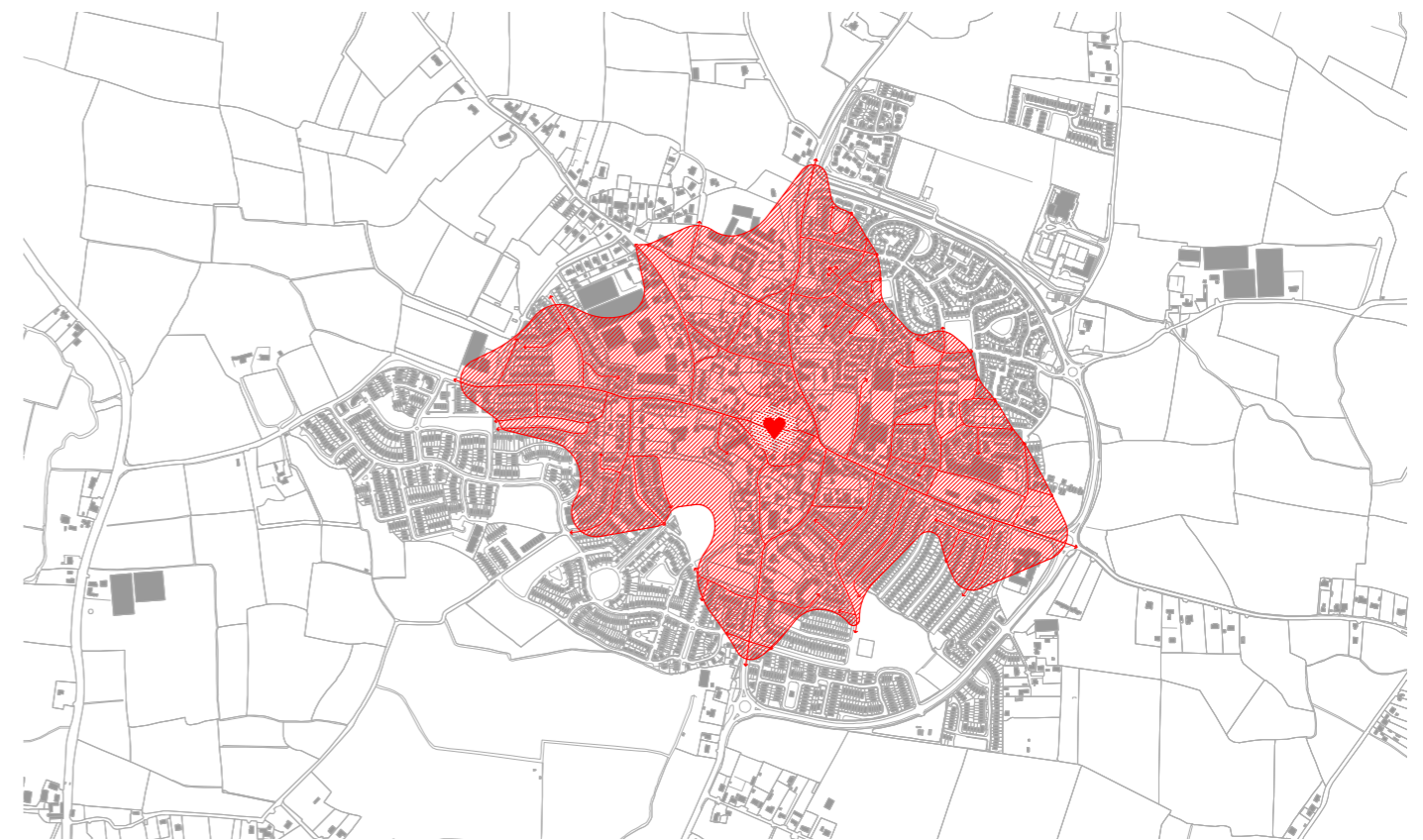
This TCF Plan for Lusk aims to establish a vision for future development of Lusk that represents and serves all age groups. The Built Up Area (BUA) of Lusk has developed rapidly in the last 25 years and the definition and location of the town centre has become unclear. The intent behind the Town Centre First Plan for Lusk is to support the historical town core and re-establish Lusk town centre as the heart of a vibrant, sustainable, modern town.

To enable this plan, a town centre study area has been defined. Several key factors have assisted in clarifying the study area, such as the Round Tower, the historic road network on older maps, the Architectural Conservation Area, and the existing retail development. Central to these factors, was the inclusion of the areas that are accessible within a 10-minute walking distance of the Round Tower¹. The 10-minute walking distance offers the opportunity to develop green amenities that connect back into the town centre, supporting active travel and biodiversity.

¹ It should be noted that what is commonly known as the Round Tower is referred to on the Record of Protected Structures as the Medieval church tower which includes the early Christian Round Tower and effigial tombs.

The TCF Plan for Lusk sets out to make the town centre a more attractive place to live, work, socialise, congregate, and run a business. It has a focus on developing local community amenities, supporting existing businesses, facilitating new ventures, tackling unnecessary dereliction, and developing underused spaces. This initiative meets wider aims to help re-imagine and revitalise rural communities as part of the National Town Centre First Policy.

Lusk for Life includes project proposals throughout the Lusk town centre study area, to ensure a holistic plan capable of responding to many issues facing Lusk. The project proposals are designed to ensure a level of flexibility with future generations of Lusk citizens in mind. This enables future proofing Lusk as a resilient, thriving, and connected community, now and for coming generations.



Redefinition of Town Centre based on 10 minute pedestrian connectivity.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

LUSK FOR LIFE

In developing the Lusk TCF Plan, particular attention was paid to its strategic alignment with the hierarchy of development policies and strategies which are expected to shape social, economic and environmental development in Lusk and its hinterland. Strategies and policies most directly relevant to the Lusk TCF Plan are grouped into three scales below- National, Regional and Local.

National

Project Ireland 2040 - National Planning Framework and National Development Plan
– Government of Ireland

Housing for All: A new Housing Plan for Ireland
– Government of Ireland

Climate Action Plan 2023 - Government of Ireland CAP Strategic Plan of Ireland 2023-2027
– Government of Ireland

Our Rural Future - Rural Development Policy 2021-2025
– Government of Ireland

Town Centre First: A Policy Approach for Irish Towns
– Government of Ireland

National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy
– Government of Ireland

Enterprise 2025 Renewed
– Government of Ireland

National Broadband Plan
– Government of Ireland

Heritage Ireland 2030
– Government of Ireland

Places for People - National Policy on Architecture
– Government of Ireland

Making Remote Work: Ireland's National Remote Work Strategy
– Government of Ireland

Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan 2022-2024
– Government of Ireland

Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities: A five-year strategy to support the community and voluntary sector in Ireland 2019-2024
– Government of Ireland

Roadmap to Social Inclusion 2020-2025
– Government of Ireland

Healthy Ireland: A Framework for Improved Health & Wellbeing
– Government of Ireland

National Volunteering Strategy 2021-2025
– Government of Ireland

Embracing Ireland's Outdoors: National Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2023-2027
– Government of Ireland

National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland 2019-2022
– Government of Ireland

Regional

Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy 2019-2031
– Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly

Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024 for Dublin
– Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment

2022 Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network
– National Transport Authority

Local

LEADER Local Development Strategy for Dublin Rural 2023-2027
– Fingal LCDC

Fingal County Development Plan 2023-2029
– Fingal County Council

Capital Programme 2024-2026
– Fingal County Council

Fingal Local Economic & Community Plan 2023-2028
– Fingal County Council

Fingal Local Enterprise Development Plan 2021-2024
– Fingal Local Enterprise Office

Fingal Digital Strategy 2020-2023
– Fingal County Council

Fingal Agri-food Strategy 2019-2021
– Fingal County Council

Fingal Skills Strategy
– Fingal County Council

Fingal Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024
– Fingal County Council

Fingal Heritage X Climate Toolkit
– Fingal County Council/Heritage Council

An Active Travel Strategy for Fingal
– Fingal County Council (May 2023)

Fingal Heritage Plan 2018-2023
– Fingal County Council

Fingal Community Development Vision Statement 2019-2021
– Fingal County Council

Fingal Migrant Integration & Social Cohesion Strategy 2019-2024
– Fingal County Council

Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan 2022-2030 (draft)
– Fingal County Council

Forest of Fingal: A Tree Strategy for Fingal
– Fingal County Council

Fingal Sports and Recreation Facilities Audit 2021
– Fingal County Council

Space for Play: A Play Policy for Fingal
– Fingal County Council

Fingal Cultural & Creativity Strategy 2023-2027
– Creative Ireland

Tourism Statement of Strategy and Work Programme 2017-2022
– Fingal County Council

Fingal Age Friendly Strategy 2018-2023
– Fingal Age Friendly Alliance

Resourcing

The strategic alignment of the Lusk TCF Plan with relevant national, regional and local policies and strategies is a fundamental first step in securing development support and funding for implementation. Care has been taken to ensure that the development initiatives central to its successful implementation can benefit from the enabling resources provided from a range of funding sources including Government, Local Authority and Development Agency supports for placemaking and public realm; social and cultural development; social capital and community structures; enterprise development and diversification; digitisation; connectivity, climate mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity, environmental management and stewardship.

Increasingly, there is a competitive element to the granting of public funds as well as challenging requirements to demonstrate partnership, vision, coherence, value for money in addition to specified outcomes and impacts on project completion.

Multiple stakeholders drawn from the public, private and community sectors collaborating on a shared strategy represent the best possible means to maximise public funds to support project development. Therefore, it is vital that local interest groups in Lusk collaborate on existing or planned initiatives for which resources have already been earmarked. Furthermore, town stakeholders must continue to engage with centrally funded socio-economic and environmental initiatives throughout Fingal. The proposals in this TCF Plan enhance and support strategically important, evidence based national, regional and local initiatives.

It is expected that the principal enabling resources for the Lusk Town Centre First Plan are likely to come from four main sources:

1. Rural Regeneration and Development Fund

The Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) provides support for integrated, multi-annual projects involving a consortium of partners. Proposals may be submitted in respect



Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy 2019-2031.

of settlements with a population of no more than 10,000 people and are made through a competitive bid approach based on delivering the objectives in the National Planning Framework. Applicants are limited to organisations such as local authorities and other locally/regionally based organisations (local development company, chamber of commerce, etc). Projects can be submitted under Category 1 which supports shovel-ready projects of scale, seeking in excess of €500,000 in development funding. Support for Category 2 projects provides a lower level of funding and resources to enable pre-development, stakeholder engagement, project planning, procurement, site assembly, logistics and partner capability development.

Proposals submitted for funding are required to demonstrate a stakeholder contribution in the form of a combination of wider exchequer and/or state sector investment, local authority investment and/or land, community investment, private sector investment or other asset contributions.

2. Government Funding

Various Government funding schemes available to Fingal County Council and its partner agencies including Town and Village Renewal Funding,

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme/Rural Recreation Funding, Community Climate Action Programme and Local Enterprise Office supports. Development funding is also available for creative, artistic and cultural pursuits, festivals and events.

There is also additional heritage funding which include the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS), the Historic Structures Fund and the Community Monument Fund. In addition the Heritage Council also administers Community Heritage Grants, Historic Towns Initiative, Heritage Capacity Fund, and the Heritage Stewardship Fund.

3. Fingal County Council Schemes

Substantial resources are provided by Fingal County Council for its Capital Programme 2024-2026. Priority themes include developments to support planning and strategic infrastructure; community and sports; environment, climate action and active travel; economic, enterprise, heritage tourism and cultural development.

4. LEADER Rural Development Programme

Support and funding can be accessed from the LEADER Rural Development Programme to support predevelopment, needs analysis, concept/pilot project pre-development, capacity building and capital investment in a wide range of social, economic and environmental projects. In addition, the LEADER programme can play a pivotal role in supporting organisational development, community leadership and networking on either a thematic or inter-territorial basis.

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund

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



The Rural Regeneration and Development Fund.

The Fingal Local Economic Community Plan (2023-2028)

The Fingal Local Economic Community Plan (LECP) sets out how Government, Local Authorities, development agencies and others will work together to improve the lives of all of those living and working in Fingal. Framed with reference to the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it identifies the goals, projects, resources and outcomes needed to promote and support a vibrant society, economy

and environment envisaged thus:

'Fingal will be a vibrant, sustainable, progressive and climate resilient county, underpinned by inclusive, healthy, empowered communities and a dynamic economy.'

The Framework LECP comprises a set of six Themes and fifteen High-level Goals which though separate and distinct, are intended to be mutually reinforcing and complementary. These are as follows:

Theme	Goal	Goal Description
Sustainability & Climate Action	G1.1	To support communities and the economy in the transition to Net Zero and climate resilience.
	G2.1	Support the development of sustainable and strategic infrastructure.
Prosperous Economy	G2.2	Provide a supportive business environment that encourages innovation and attracts, retains and grows businesses sustainably.
	G2.3	Remove barriers to labour market participation.
Skills for Life & Work	G3.1	Stimulate a culture of life-long learning.
	G3.2	Support skills development to meet the diverse needs of communities and businesses.
Healthy, Inclusive, Connected Communities	G4.1	Increase participation in initiatives that promote active living, positive mental wellbeing, and physical activity to achieve improved health and wellbeing for all.
	G4.2	Promote citizen participation.
	G4.3	Encourage inclusion and connection within and between communities.
	G4.4	Target improvements in areas of disadvantage.
Rich Arts, Culture & Heritage	G5.1	Promote, protect, and grow the heritage of Fingal and ensure quality amenities for all.
	G5.2	Support new and existing cultures to thrive.
	G5.3	Champion the arts and cultural life of the county.
Safe, Accessible, Vibrant Places	G6.1	Support the development of areas for a high quality of life.
	G6.2	Promote safety in the community through collaboration and inclusivity.

The Fingal Local Economic Community Plan High Level (2023-2028) Goals

Each of the Themes and *High-level Goals* will in turn be supported by specific *Sustainable Objectives* with identified potential outcomes and high level indicators to enable measurement for evaluation over the 6 year planning period. Achievement of these outcomes will be supported by an *Implementation Plan* process that will outline the specific, time-bound and measurable actions to be delivered based on evidence-based prioritisation and the resources available in the plan period, 2023 to 2028.

The successful implementation of the LECP will draw upon all the combined resources available to Fingal County Council, the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and its partner organisations. It is expected resources and funds will be sourced directly from a combination of EU, national and regional programmes as well as from local resources from both the public and private sector.



UN Sustainable Development Goals.

OVERRIDING STATUS OF THE PLAN

Implementing this Plan will involve Fingal County Council helping to facilitate, promote, support and coordinate stakeholders in their activities in a way that is consistent with existing and emerging plans setting out public policy for sustainable development, including that relating to public realm, placemaking, open space, integrated transport network, green infrastructure, land use development and environmental protection and environmental management.

This Plan is situated alongside this hierarchy of statutory documents that has been subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate, and forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework. The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and will not be binding on any decisions relating to the granting of consent.

The Plan fully aligns with the provisions of the existing National Planning Framework, Ireland 2040, National Climate Action Plan 2023 (and emerging National Climate Action Plan 2024), the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and the current Development Plan, all of which

have been subject to legislative requirements relating to public consultation and environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment. As such, the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements of the provisions set out in these documents, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been integrated into these documents, including through SEA and AA processes.

In order to be realised, examples of projects identified in this Plan (in a similar way to other projects from any other sectors) will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. It is a specific provision of this Plan to ensure that all of the provisions from the Development Plan identified in the accompanying Screening for SEA and AA reports shall be complied with throughout the implementation of this Plan.



02 / UNDERSTANDING THE PLACE

LUSK HISTORY & HERITAGE

LIVIA HURLEY

History

Lusk has a rich archaeological, architectural, economical and socio-cultural history, dating back to the pre-Christian period when it was the site of a pagan sanctuary dedicated to Lugh, a Celtic god. The village itself is one of the oldest and most significant ecclesiastical settlements in the north-eastern coastal region of Ireland. Local traditions assume that it derives its name from the Gaelic word *lusca* meaning cave or souterrain, which in turn may have a connection to the burial site of St MacCullin who founded the village in the 5th century. A circular enclosure established there was dominated by an 8th-century round tower and a range of associated early Christian monastic structures. Excavations undertaken over recent decades revealed that they were in fact three concentric enclosures, extending beyond the bounds of the central ecclesiastical site.

These are preserved in the curved street pattern and plot boundaries, and most strikingly in the urban character of the centre of Lusk, notably on Main Street, Church Road and Dublin Road. In the Viking period and later, Lusk became a target for military objectives but it maintained its status as an important religious site, with an Augustinian convent founded in the mid-1300s that survived until the Dissolution in 1539. At that point a four-stage tower with corner turrets had been attached to the extant round tower; its adjunct St MacCullin's chapel which had become ruinous was replaced in the early nineteenth century. The Roman Catholic Church to the northwest, also St MacCullin's, was built on the outskirts of the village core, in a typical early 19th-century urban manoeuvre. It too was replaced in 1925 by a church designed by John J. Robinson in neo-Romanesque style and a formal public green laid out directly to the south.

Lusk's old-established monastic form continued to dictate the footprint and urban grain of the nascent small town, with long burgage plots filling out and defining the settlement, and two commons located to the north and southeast of the centre of the town. Following post-diocesan reform, the lands were included among the properties of the Archbishop of Dublin. The primate's control of these properties, the absence of an 18th-century estate landlord and the subsequent lack of a restructuring of the village plan, meant that the morphology of Lusk slowed and its form remained largely intact until the mid-20th century.

Early manuscripts indicate a robust commercial activity, with fairs and markets evident since the medieval period, probably held on the little diamond at the widening in the junction of Station Road and Main Street.

Significantly, the commons and both church graveyards were enclosed with stone walls by acts of parliament in the early 1800s, delineating the diverse green spaces of the town further and adding to its boundary architecture. New public buildings of this period include the post-office and national school, and later the Carnegie Library, lining the Chapel Green. Alongside the singular forms of the round tower and its defensive neighbour, the town's character was defined by its low-slung houses, in particular those to the east and west of central ecclesiastical site.

An architectural survey of these was carried out in the 1940s and recorded forty-eight thatched and lime-washed cottages, most built on a floor plan typical to the eastern region of the country. These vernacular buildings have greatly reduced in number but those that remain with their distinctive plot form and boundaries, and their intermingling with the more formal architecture of the town, continue to underpin the unique atmosphere of Lusk.



Joseph Moland, Detail from Map of Lusk, 1716, Representative Church Body of Ireland



Lusk Round Tower, dated to the 8th-century by Leo Swan, viewed from the Lusk Community Cultural Centre



George Petrie, *Lusk Village, County Dublin*, engraving 1820, National Library of Ireland.



Current location of Lusk Community Cultural Centre. Photograph dating from 1890s.

In the second half of the 20th century, Lusk's urban geography evolved again with the rapid growth of market gardening in the hinterland of Fingal which has always had an important history of beef and vegetable production, developed under the influence of 17th-century Dutch immigrants. From the 1930s onwards growing fruit and vegetables under glass became more viable and a way of life for even the smallest of land holders. In Lusk's case, the nutrient-rich soils of the extensive commonage on the edges of the immediate town centre were exploited. The architecture of



UCD Survey Drawing of Lusk, 1943
- Courtesy of the National Museum of Ireland.

commercial gardens seeped into the centre of the town and swathes of hothouses were constructed within the concentric archaeological zones; while the vernacular set-pieces lining the streets were eroded away. Unusually many of the 1960s glasshouses still remain although they are not all in use. This new kind of industrial heritage was celebrated by Fingal County Council in a public art exhibition by the Irish artist and photographer Gerard Byrne and a subsequent publication, *Glasshouse Archive: Modernity's North Dublin Legacy* (2006).



Lusk Town Centre in 1965.



Lusk Town Centre in the 1950s.



Leo Swan, *Oblique aerial view of an archaeological site at Lusk, 1970s*, Leo Swan Photographic Collection



Lusk Architectural Conservation Area



Gerard Byrne, Glasshouse, Fingal County Dublin, from Gerard Byrne & Lytle Shaw *Glasshouse Archive: Modernity's North Dublin Legacy* (Fingal County Council, 2006)



Glasshouses, MacCullen's Close, Lusk, photograph by Robert Wightman, 2023.

Heritage

Lusk's heritage is composed of a series of significant archaeological artefacts and architectural structures. A number of the artefacts are located below ground, including sites on the edges of the town that have been excavated and recorded over recent decades when residential developments were being laid out. It should be emphasised that the town's heritage is also underpinned by the character of its backlands and gently curved laneways bordered by low hedges and stone walls, and by its extant vernacular architecture, both residential and industrial. Within Lusk's Architectural Conservation Area, and delineated by the concentric enclosures still evidenced in the current road and street pattern, the following areas form an important sequence of heritage spaces.



Building characteristics within Lusk's Architectural Conservation Area.

The Monastic Core

The former St. MacCullin's Church of Ireland Church and Round Tower (now in the remit of the OPW), its graveyard and the surrounding medieval street pattern define the historic core of the town. While the church and tower dominate the setting, the immediate surroundings including the vernacular storeyards, limestone boundaries, gateways and stiles, retain the scale and atmosphere of a rural village. Directly to the east, the widening at the junction of Station Road and Main Street forms the old-established Town Square, with Fingal House lining its southern edge. Views from here towards the ecclesiastical set-piece still characterise the town's unique urban dimension.



Typical Laneway off Chapel Green.

The Village Area

The streets and laneways directly to the north and south of the monastic core are made up of a lively and diverse mix of vernacular cottages and gardens, 20th century glasshouses, small farmyards and commercial buildings including the town's old Post Office. While the area lacks some architectural focus, these spaces make up the connective urban tissue between the monastic core and the Chapel Green, and their backlands still retain much of the town's 19th-century footprint and boundaries which go some way in defining the cultural landscape of Lusk.



Significant street buildings in Lusk.

The Chapel Green Area

The Chapel Green to the northwest is composed of two triangular spaces and is situated on an elevated site, providing an important large public space with a bandstand for the town. The Green is largely dominated to the north by the early 20th century Roman Catholic Church of St MacCullins, with its avenue of mature trees and cemetery walls. Significantly the church boasts a series of Harry Clarke and Evie Hone stained-glass windows installed in 1924.

The gently sloping public space is further characterised by a distinctive set of other formal buildings including the old National School next to the church; the Arts and Crafts Carnegie Library from 1908 (now a community hall) to the south side; and the gabled ends of the former Parochial House and its outbuildings to the east. Once more it should be highlighted that the roads and laneways in the areas behind the Green are typical in their long-established form and their boundaries, maintaining the unique rural scale and atmosphere of the heart of the town. And lastly, the survival of a number of cast-iron water pumps, on the Green and on adjacent roadways, enhances further the heritage landscape of Lusk.



Chapel Green, Lusk.

Views and Vistas

There are a number of important views and vistas to be considered with any future development of Lusk.

- Views approaching the centre of the town with St MacCullin's COI church in the distance.
- Views of St. MacCullin's RC church from the Green and its adjacent spaces
- Views that describe the relationship of the village to the landscape at large
- Street views of straight and curved roads defined by low-slung buildings, trees and hedges
- Incidental views of St. MacCullin's COI church between buildings and across green areas
- Views into and from important open spaces such as the Chapel Green, the Town Square, the graveyards around both St MacCullin's churches



Detail of Harry Clarke stained-glass window installed in 1924 in the RC Church of St MacCullins.

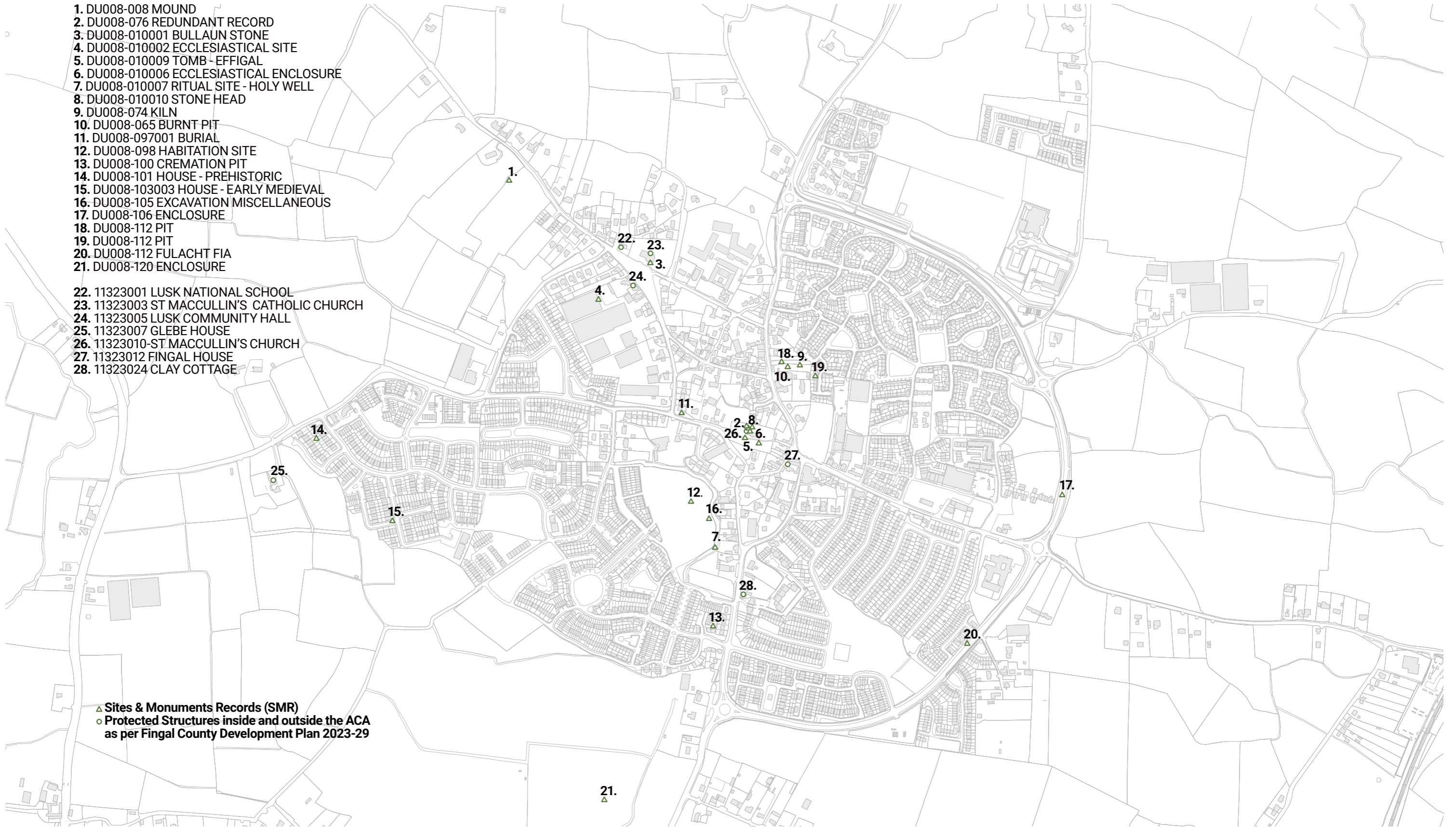


Lusk Round Tower is omnipresent in the town core

- 1. DU008-008 MOUND
- 2. DU008-076 REDUNDANT RECORD
- 3. DU008-010001 BULLAUN STONE
- 4. DU008-010002 ECCLESIASTICAL SITE
- 5. DU008-010009 TOMB - EFFIGIAL
- 6. DU008-010006 ECCLESIASTICAL ENCLOSURE
- 7. DU008-010007 RITUAL SITE - HOLY WELL
- 8. DU008-010010 STONE HEAD
- 9. DU008-074 KILN
- 10. DU008-065 BURNT PIT
- 11. DU008-097001 BURIAL
- 12. DU008-098 HABITATION SITE
- 13. DU008-100 CREMATION PIT
- 14. DU008-101 HOUSE - PREHISTORIC
- 15. DU008-103003 HOUSE - EARLY MEDIEVAL
- 16. DU008-105 EXCAVATION MISCELLANEOUS
- 17. DU008-106 ENCLOSURE
- 18. DU008-112 PIT
- 19. DU008-112 PIT
- 20. DU008-112 FULACHT FIA
- 21. DU008-120 ENCLOSURE

- 22. 11323001 LUSK NATIONAL SCHOOL
- 23. 11323003 ST MACCULLIN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
- 24. 11323005 LUSK COMMUNITY HALL
- 25. 11323007 GLEBE HOUSE
- 26. 11323010-ST MACCULLIN'S CHURCH
- 27. 11323012 FINGAL HOUSE
- 28. 11323024 CLAY COTTAGE

▲ Sites & Monuments Records (SMR)
 ○ Protected Structures inside and outside the ACA
 as per Fingal County Development Plan 2023-29



SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF LUSK

Definition of Area

The town of Lusk is the principal settlement in the Lusk Electoral Division (ED) within the county of Fingal, the third most populous local authority in the country and one which **experienced a growth rate of 11% in the period 2016-2022, well in excess of national figures.** For the most part, this arises from a natural increase in the population as distinct from migration; Fingal having the highest proportion of births compared to deaths in the state. The population of Fingal is projected to increase to between 327,000 and 333,000 by 2026.

The ED incorporates 27 Small Areas comprising a total land area of 42.6 km² which straddles both sides of the M1 Dublin – Belfast inter-urban motorway. In 2022, the population of the ED was 10,774, an increase of 1,151 (+11.6%) since 2016.

Settlement

For the purposes of this analysis, the town of Lusk is defined as a Built up Area² (BUA), which itself incorporates 17 Small Areas³ (SA) comprising a total land area of 1.689 km². Within the Fingal settlement hierarchy, Lusk is considered as a self-sustaining town, defined as having a high level of population growth and a weak employment base making it reliant on other areas for employment and/or services and requiring targeted 'catch up' investment to

² Built up Areas were developed from clusters of urban development and their boundaries reflect land use for urban purposes. In order to remove the risk of statistical disclosure, the BUAs are comprised in their entirety of whole Statistical Small Areas. As BUAs have been defined differently to the Settlements used in Census 2016, it is not possible to compare them directly. BUAs and Census 2016 Settlements differ primarily in that BUAs are based upon a land-use definition whereas Settlements were based more on population concentration. This entails that there was more green space in Settlement footprints than is the case for BUAs.



Lusk Electoral Division (ED).

become more self-sustaining. As such, existing and future development will be consolidated within well-defined town boundaries and the distinct physical separation of adjacent urban areas will be maintained.

While Lusk does not have a current Local Area Plan, it is proposed that a Framework Plan will be completed over the lifetime of the Fingal County Development Plan 2023-2029. This will be advisory in nature, with a long-term vision for the future, allowing sufficient flexibility to manage change depending on the particular circumstances presenting, including societal,

³ The Pobal HP Deprivation Index is based on Small Areas (SA), a census geography which is more homogeneous in its social composition and has a uniform population size with a mean of just under 100 households. Small Areas are areas of population generally comprising between 80 and 120 dwellings created by The National Institute of Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA) on behalf of the Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSi) in consultation with CSO.

All statistical data in this analysis has been sourced from the CSO Census of Population 2022, unless otherwise referenced.

economic, environmental and cultural. Offering a vision for the area within the structure of the County Development Plan, it will be informed by research and baseline data, which will identify opportunities for future development and highlight constraints that may exist in an area.

Population

In 2022, the Lusk BUA had a population of 8,806; an increase of 1,020 (13.1%) from 2016 and an increase in population of 6,735 (+325%) since 1991, with the bulk of this growth occurring in the early 2000's and continuously thereafter. The permanence of the population in the settlement is indicated by the fact that 93.2% of the population had been usually resident at the same address one year previously.

Currently, the BUA has a population density of 5,215/km², double that of the population of urban areas in the state more generally. Notably, the 2022 population exceeded the population projection of 8,771 for 2023. It is estimated that the population growth will moderate growing by 6% to a projected level of 9,326 by 2029.

35,051 people live in SA's within a 5km radius of the BUA, with 136,333 living in SA's within a 10km radius making the settlement and its population accessible to the adjacent urban settlements of Swords, Balbriggan, Malahide, Skerries, Donabate and Rush.

Age Profile

The average age of a resident is 33.3 years, **notably younger than that of Fingal generally (36.2 years); itself the youngest local authority area in the state and considerably younger than that of the state (38.8 years).** 2,360

residents (26.8%) are aged under 15 years, 5,865 (66.6%) are aged between 15 and 64 with 581 aged 65 years or older. The BUA has an overall *Dependency Rate* of 50.1% , lower than the State rate of 53.2%. However, **the Youth Dependency Rate at 40.2%, is considerably higher than the State rate of 30.1%**, masking a substantially lower *Old Dependency Rate* of 9.9%

Family Composition & Dependency

2,251 families - comprised of 7,365 persons - reside in a total of 2,737 private households; 330 of whom are one person households. 61% of households have 4 or more residents; 74% of families having 2 or more children. There are 320 lone parent families, being 11.6% of the total. 5,024 (57%) single people comprise the largest demographic cohort in the BUA. A further 3,211 people in the BUA are married (36%). There is an equal split between genders.

Ethnicity

Of the usually resident population, 69% described themselves as 'White Irish', with a further 14% identifying as 'Other White'; higher than the figures for Fingal more generally. 77.3% stated that they were *Irish born* with 84% being Irish citizens; again higher than the figures for Fingal more generally. 10% were born in other EU states, with 3.6% born in the UK; similar to the overall Fingal figure. There are 234 residents categorised as *Speakers of foreign languages*. 11.9% of those 234 indicated a poor or limited ability to speak English.

Health

91.7% of the population described their health as 'Very Good' or 'Good', while 1.3% considered it to be 'Bad or Very Bad'. 17.9% of the population affirmed a disability while 4.9%

fulfilled caring duties.

The provision of medical, health and wellness services are largely centralised through the County. While there is no Primary Care facility the HSE operates a Health Centre on Main Street. The 50-bed Lusk Community unit, purpose-built in 2001, provides residential, respite, day care, and day hospital services. There are 2 GP practices and 4 pharmacies and a single dental practice located in the town.

Children & Childcare

3081 people (35%) of the total population are aged up to 19 years. Of this amount, 555 (18%) are between the ages of 0-4; 794 (25.7%) are aged between the ages of 5-9; 1009 (32.7%) are aged between 10-14 and 723 (23.4%) are aged between 15-19 years.

There are 661 children under the age of 15 in childcare and there are 13 Tusla registered childcare services located in the town and its environs.

Housing

The housing stock in the BUA is made up of 2,737 permanent private units. This is an increase of 277 units (11.2%) since 2016; over double that of the national figure (5%). **Notably, 70% of the housing stock in the BUA was built after 2001.** 94% of the housing stock is comprised of houses or bungalows with flats and apartments comprising only 5.6% of the stock.

55% of households have a mortgage, with a further 25% renting from a private landlord, local authority or voluntary housing body. In 2020, there were 17 tenancies in the

Average Priced Property in Lusk:	€399,259
National Average:	€319,165
Difference from National Average:	+€80,094
10% Deposit Required for Average Priced Property:	€39,926
Income Required for Average Priced Property (single buyer 4xIncome):	€89,833
Income Required for Average Priced Property (two-earner couple 4xIncome):	€44,917
Income Required for Average Priced Property (single buyer 3.5xIncome):	€102,667
Income Required for Average Priced Property (two-earner couple 3.5xIncome):	€51,333

Source: Parliamentary Budgetary Office, Rolling 12 Month Market-based Household Purchases of Residential Dwellings, 2023.



Recently completed dwellings to the north of Lusk at Rahenny Park

Rental Accommodation Scheme with Fingal County Council. Residential vacancy (4%) is slightly lower than that of Fingal (4.23%) and appreciably lower than that of the state (7.74%).

As of July, 2023, the average price property in the Lusk K45 eircode was almost €400,000, exceeding the national average by around 25%.

The relative affordability of an average property under different affordability and income scenarios is presented as follows:

In Q4 2022, 45 Houses were sold within the Lusk K45 eircode with a mean sale price of €434,146. The vibrancy of local market is illustrated by data contained in Property Price Register which lists the sale of 113 residential properties between January and June 2023.

The Dun Emer development of 39 affordable and 12 social housing units in Lusk is one of

the first social and affordable housing schemes developed under the Government's *Housing for All* policy. A 27 hectare land bank - the remaining zoned residential capacity in Lusk - is available for development. Currently there is permission in place for 132 units. The projected housing demand over the duration of the Fingal County Development Plan (2023-2029) is 300 units.

Education

Lusk National School (441 pupils) and the multi-denominational Rush and Lusk Educate Together (423 pupils) meet the primary education needs of those in the BUA, while national schools at Hedgestown, Milverton and Corduff meet those of the wider Electoral Division. Combined, these comprise the feeder schools and catchment for Lusk Community College, a co-educational post-primary school operating under the patronage of Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education & Training Board (DDLETB). Current programmes on offer include Junior Cycle, Transition Year, Leaving Certificate, Leaving Certificate Applied Programme, Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme and an Autism Class.

First opened in August 2013 and designed to accommodate 350 students, the college currently operates at capacity with 987 students enrolled (473 girls and 514 boys). In order to meet local demographic needs, it is expected that the schools capacity will be increased to 1300 students in the future.

Further Education and Training is not provided from within the town, the nearest such facilities being DDLETB facilities located in the adjacent settlements of Balbriggan and Swords.

Affluence and Deprivation

The *Pobal HP Deprivation Index* shows the level of overall affluence and deprivation at Local Authority, Electoral Division and Small Area level. Overall, Fingal rates as *Marginally above Average* (5.3). Lusk's status is similar albeit marginally lower (4.7). Within the settlement, this status is shared with 15 Small Areas⁴ comprising a population of 5,255 (67.5%). 3 Small Areas (267104016, 267104010 and 267104011) located in the east and south east of the town with a total population of 1,175 (15%) are classified as *Affluent*. 2 Small areas (267104019 and 267104007) with a total population of 857 (11%) were classified *Marginally below Average*, while a further 2 Small Areas (267104021 and 267104022) with a population of 511 (6.5%) were classified as *Disadvantaged*.

Income & Welfare

In 2016, the *Household Median Gross Income*⁵ for Lusk ED was €59,784, higher than that of Fingal as a whole (€58,795) and substantially in excess of that of the state average of €45,256. Working age welfare comprised the majority of household income in 9.6% of households, lower than that of Fingal (10.5%) and substantially lower than that of the state more generally

⁴ The Pobal HP Deprivation Index is based on Small Areas (SA), a census geography which is more homogeneous in its social composition and has a uniform population size with a mean of just under 100 households.

⁵ This is comprised of the combined annual gross income before deductions such as tax and social insurance of all members within a household. This includes gross earnings from employment and self-employment, gross income from occupational pensions, gross income from rent less allowable expenses, social welfare income and income from higher & further education grants. Excluded from the income measure are investment income, including saving accounts, bonds, stocks and shares, income from foreign rental property and Community Employment Programme income.

(13.7%). In total, the 2,460 private households in BUA comprised an aggregate total household income in the order of €147m; a figure likely to grown in the order of 15% in the period 2016-2023.

The state pension comprised the majority of household income in 6.5% of all households, again marginally lower than that of Fingal (6.9%) and substantially lower than of the state more generally (12.9%).

Mobility, Connectivity & Access

Lusk is located 6km from Junction 4 of the M1 national primary route linking Dublin and Belfast. The route has a weekday traffic volume of 69,011 and a weekly traffic volume of 456,500 vehicles, of which about two-thirds are passenger cars. Drivetime to the city centre is approximately 45 minutes.

54.4% of residents commute to school, college or work by motorised vehicle, predominantly private car. 47.3% of households have 2 or more cars, 39.4% of households have one car, while 6% of households have no car. 21.3% of residents commute by active travel modes with 16.65% travelling by public transport.

Public transport is provided by Irish Rail and Dublin Bus. Located a mile from the town centre, the unmanned Rush & Lusk Station is on the Dublin-Belfast Rail line and has regular scheduled commuter services between the town and Dublin City centre. 260 car parking spaces along with 2 electric vehicle charging points are available on site. Sheltered bike parking and bike lockers are available.

Bus services are provided by Transport for

Ireland with extensive schedules on the 33 (Balbriggan/Dublin City Centre) and 33A (Skerries/Dublin Airport) routes which can be accessed at several locations in the town. The privately owned Fingal Express offers a premium coach service daily at peak times to Dublin City centre.

International connectivity is provided by Dublin Airport. Located 14.5km from Lusk, it serves 423 routes globally and was used by almost 27m passengers in 2022; a number projected to reach 40m per annum by 2030. Dublin Port, 21km from Lusk via the Port tunnel, offers car ferry services to and from the UK. In 2022, 1.6m passengers and almost 500,000 tourist vehicles accessed the port en route to their destination.

5,549 people resident in the BUA aged 5 years and over commute to work, school or college - 63% of the population; 3,425 (62.2%) commute for work and 2,097 (37.8%) commute for education.

79% of residents have less than 45 mins commute with 28.7% having a journey time of less than 15 mins, 29.8% have a journey time between 15 and 30 mins and 20.5% have a journey time between 30 and 45 mins. 49.7% of residents leave home between 7.30 and 8.30am.

Active travel infrastructure, as well as ancillary support features, in the BUA is limited, consisting primarily of cycleways on Rathmore Road and Dun Emer Avenue. There is no protected cycle lane linking the BUA and the train station. Works are currently underway to provide 2.7km of Protected Cycle Lanes along both sides of the R132 from Blake's Cross to

Minister's Road in the BUA. Works include traffic calming measures, pedestrian crossing points, bus stops and concrete traffic islands and school gate enhancement measures for Corduff National School.

Access to Everyday Services

Liveability in Lusk is aided by the provision of and ease of access to a range of facilities and services. Based on the CSO *Measuring distance to everyday services in Ireland*, Lusk residents have ready access to Post Office, Pharmacy, General Practitioner, Supermarket, Primary and Secondary Schools, Public Transport as well as access to the national road network; access to each of the above being better than the Fingal County and State averages.

However, this is not the case in respect of access to Banking, 24/7 Garda Station, Fire Station, HSE Emergency or Maternity Hospital facilities.



An Active Travel Strategy for Fingal report by Fingal from May 2023.

Community Services, Facilities & Amenities

Community facilities play a vital role in enabling access to natural amenities⁶ and in building social capital, mental and physical health⁷. The Blue/Green infrastructure⁸ plays a particularly important role in maintaining wellbeing and resilience with Fingal's regional parks at Malahide, Newbridge and Ardgillan; each of which with Green Flag status for environmental standards are within easy reach of Lusk.

The Recreation Hub (7.5 ha) is located on the Rathmore Road and includes a high-quality playground as well as a play trail, two full sized grass sports pitches, a jogging/sprint track, seating, extensive areas of tree planting and wildflower meadows; making it attractive for all ages for both formal and informal outdoor activities. The park benefits from climate resilient design and features a sustainable urban drainage system to control the quantity and manage the quality of surface water and flooding in a sustainable manner. There is a 2.9km loop trail at Rogerstown Park which is currently open only a limited basis in order to fulfil works deemed necessary as part of its closure and aftercare as the former Balleally landfill site.

Adjacent to Lusk with direct access from Rogerstown lane and Balleally lane, the 268 ha Rogerstown Estuary is a Natura 2000 site being

⁶ The Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard set by Natural England (2010) recommends that people should be able to access at least 2ha of green space within 300m of their home.

⁷ The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that urban residents have access to at least 0.5-1ha of public green space within 300m of their home.

⁸ Blue Green Infrastructure is defined by the European Commission as a "Strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem service."

a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), a Special Protected Area (SPA) and a Ramsar Convention site. Designated as a Statutory Nature Reserve and a Wildfowl Sanctuary, it is of special interest for wetlands and wildfowl; hosting national and international species of interest.

There are three general purpose community facilities in Lusk - Saint Macullins Centre & the Cottage Community Centre, each owned by Fingal County Council and managed under licence by the Lusk Community Council with support from the Community Services Programme. Both facilities are affiliated to the Fingal Communities Facilities Network.

In addition, these are complemented by recently completed Lusk Community Cultural Centre and together these facilities offer a range of



Football pitch at Lusk Recreation Hub.

medium-sized space and amenities suitable for a wide range of social, recreational, sporting and educational meetings and events.

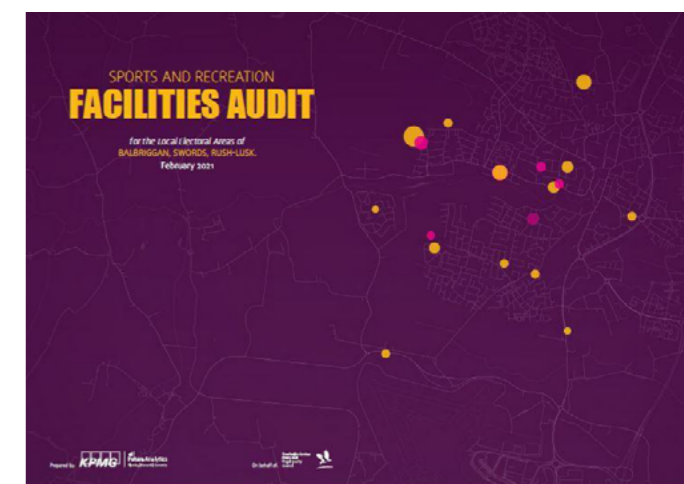
There is no permanent library facility in the town; increasingly seen as an important wellbeing asset and an important element in a community's social, cultural, educational and economic infrastructure. A Wheelchair accessible mobile library visits Lusk once weekly for two hours.

A Sports and Recreation Facilities Audit conducted in 2021 identified 104 categories of sporting activity in the Lusk-Rush Local Electoral Area.

This comprised 43 sports pitches (GAA, Football, Cricket, All-weather, etc), 12 indoor activities (private leisure facilities, gyms, boxing, etc), 12 family activities (play areas, MUGA's, tennis, general outdoor facilities, etc) and 31 other miscellaneous facilities. 79 of which are non-commercial. 66 of these require a membership fee, 14 require an entry fee with 18 being free. Fingal County Council provides a number of playing pitch facilities at Dun Emer and Remount as well as tennis courts, which require an upgrade, at Orlynn Park.

While there are numerous active local sports clubs and sporting activities on offer, many of these take place are outdoor and are oriented towards group activities, often based on membership. **Within Fingal, the Lusk-Rush LEA is considered to have the lowest quantum of facilities for indoor and family facilities, demand for and pressures on which will be further exacerbated by population growth over the medium term.**

Recycling facilities are located at Round Towers GAA Club, Supervalu, Skerries Road, Raheny Close and the Round Tower Service Station.



Fingal Sports and Recreation Facilities Audit from 2021



Rogerstown Park with views across the estuary.

Social Capital

The Fingal Public Participation Network (FPPN) is a representative and advocacy network, which while independent of the Local Authority, is the principal means through which representation, advocacy and communications are fostered between the Local Authority and the wider community and voluntary sector. Currently, it has 709 member organisations representing general community, environment and social inclusion interests. 17 of its member organisations are located in Lusk.

1,047 residents - 11.9% of all age groups - volunteer their time for a range of social, sporting and environmental causes.

Organisations active in community and voluntary activity include Lusk Community Council, Lusk Community Network, Lusk Men's Shed, Lusk Heritage Group, Foroige, Lusk ICA Guild, Lusk AC, Round Towers GAA and Lusk Women's Shed. Lusk Tidy Towns is a longstanding participant in the National Tidy Towns competition and its strong performance in 2023 – within 10% of the national category winners – represents a strong platform for community-led biodiversity and sustainability initiatives.

The FPPN augmented by the *Love Lusk* website developed and maintained by the Lusk Community Network, the *Lusk Local* free e-zine as well as a variety of social media accounts represent important sources of information and channels of communications on services, activities and events for the wider community.

Notably, over the years while there appears to be very few festivals, events or markets organised by and for the community in Lusk, the day-long summer festival and St Patrick's Day parade offers some potential for future development.



Recently completed Lusk Cultural Centre by the Lusk Community Council beside Lusk Round Tower



Community Groups active in Lusk; Lusk Community Council, Lusk Action Group & Love Lusk.

Broadband

94.8% of all households have broadband access. **The National Broadband Plan, which augments commercial broadband provision has identified 1,160 premises in Lusk and its environs as requiring intervention.** The network build is in progress and is expected to be available to order in mid-2024.

In tandem with the residential and commercial rollout programme, *Broadband Connection Points*, each providing 150MB of high-speed broadband access, is provided locally at Man O' War GAA Club and Newbridge House & Farm.

Energy Use, Fuel Source & Decarbonisation

Total Heat Demand in Lusk ED is calculated at 386,831 MWh/year, of which 77% is accounted for by residential demand, 15% from commercial demand and 8% from public sector demand. The BUA accounts for 25789.53 MWh/year (66%) of Total Heat Demand in the ED with residential accounting for 88% with the balance split evenly between commercial and public sector demand.

Median BER ratings of A3 for residential dwellings tend to predominate in the centre

'It's a Community town where everyone looks out for one another. It has loads of amenities for our kids young and older. It's a town you don't want to leave.'

Survey Quote, Imagining a Vision for Lusk in 2030

of town and to the south at Forge View/Close. Median BER ratings of B1 cluster strongly from Lough Common to the east and Chapel Lane to the north west. Median ratings elsewhere tend to be C1 with the exception of D1 median ratings for Regles, Kelly Park and the Avenue; likely reflecting the age of the housing stock.

71.9% of households in Lusk use conventional energy sources with natural gas accounting for the primary heat source for 77% of dwellings.

Oil accounts for 17.3%. In 2022, 5 units of council housing stock in the Rush-Lusk LEA received energy efficiency upgrades.

Public Electric vehicle charging points are located at Lidl, Rush-Lusk train station as well as at the Applegreen M1 Lusk North services.

99% of dwellings in the BUA source the water supply from the public main. 96.3% of dwellings avail of the public sewerage system

A community-led response to energy efficiency and decarbonisation is indicated by Lusk Community Council being one of over 750 Sustainable Energy Communities⁹ nationally.

⁹ A Sustainable Energy Community (SEC) is a community in which everyone works together to develop a sustainable energy system for the benefit of the community. This is achieved by: aiming to be energy efficient, using renewable energy where feasible & adopting smart energy solutions. A SEC can include all the different energy users in the community including homes, sports clubs, community centres, churches and businesses.

BUSINESS & EMPLOYMENT

Economic & Employment Profile

The Principal Economic Status (PES) of the population aged 15 years and over **indicates that 63.4% of the relevant cohort considered themselves At work; a higher figure than the Fingal average (60.5%) and substantially higher than the national figure (56.1%)**. A further 4.7% of the population is recorded as *Looking for first regular job or Unemployed having lost or given up previous job*; slightly lower than the national figure (5.1%). **The age profile of the local population is indicated by the higher number of Students (13.2%) in excess of national figures (11.1%) and a substantially lower proportion of Retirees (7.7%) than nationally (15.9%)**. The proportion of the local population *Looking after home or family* and those *Unable to work due to permanent sickness or disability* is broadly in line with national figures. The Labour Force Participation Rate¹⁰ (68.2%) is slightly higher than that of Fingal (65.6%) more generally, itself the highest in the state, for which the average is 61%.

The nature of employment is significantly *White Collar* with 60.5% of residents describing themselves as such. Those employed in *Commerce and Trade, Professional Services* and *Public Administration* account for 31.2%, 26.2% and 8.2% respectively. Proximity to Dublin Airport and Dublin Port likely accounts for the high level of workers employed in *Transport & Communications* (17.4%), over double that nationally (8.3%). Employment in construction (6.5%) slightly exceeds that of employment in the sector nationally (5.3%). Conversely, employment in *Manufacturing* (8.3%) and

¹⁰ The Labour force participation measures the proportion of people aged 15 years and over who are either at work or available to work.

Agriculture (1.9%) accounts for a lower number than is the case nationally (9.6% and 3.2% respectively). 36% of the workforce is educated to degree level or higher, slightly in excess of the national figure (34%).

Workplace Location

Lusk is a relatively small settlement with no significant Functional Economic Market Area (FEMA) reach beyond the settlement itself. In 2016, Lusk provided 489 jobs which were primarily in Wholesale and Retail or Health and Education sectors. A significant amount of the town's employment is local with 83.2% of all jobs occupied by Fingal residents. A large amount of the local workforce originates within Lusk with no significant inflows of workers from any other part of the country apart from Rush.

In 2016, Lusk ED had 3,061 outbound commuters and 1,177 inbound commuters, giving a net figure of 1,884 for those commuting for work, school or college to various locations outside the ED. Dublin city and environs as well as the adjacent town of Swords are the principal workplace locations for Lusk residents. Of its 3,469 workers, 1,486 commuters (42.8%) travelled to work into Dublin city and its suburbs, ranking Lusk 9th as the commuter town that contributes the most to Dublin's workforce. The average commute time to work in Dublin City was 45.52 minutes.

In 2016, 467 residents both lived and worked within Lusk ED, 28% of the total number of workers. **Post Covid-19, 38.8% of residents indicated that they worked from home for at least some part of their week, higher than the national figure (32%)**. Of this, 7.6% of workers indicated that they work mainly from home.

61.5% never work from home.

In 2021, Lusk was determined to be the 16th settlement nationally which most benefitted from an increase in daytime demand as a consequence of Covid-19. This arose from the high numbers of workers who usually commuted to work, whose occupations lent themselves to working from home. Despite this potential, there is no hub or co-working facility in the settlement - the nearest Connected Hubs facilities being located in Swords, Malahide and Balbriggan. Aside from this, there is no informal remote network; the nearest Grow Remote Chapters being located in Malahide, Skerries and Balbriggan.

Economic & Enterprise Profile

Gross value added (GVA)¹¹ can be used to estimate levels of economic activity in a given region. In 2021, the CSO determined the GVA per person (at basic prices) to be €118,251 in the Dublin region. Applied to the population of 8,806 in the BUA, the GVA value for Lusk is slightly in excess of €1bn. Notably Dublin Airport, 15 minutes drive away, contributes a total of €9.6 billion in GVA to the Irish economy and supports or facilitates 116,100 jobs¹² - the equivalent of 2.3% of the national economy. It is estimated that 29% of total GVA generated in by Dublin Airport directly benefits Fingal. While specific data is not available for the BUA, the

¹¹ GVA is a quantitative measure of the added value generated in an economy by the production of goods and services i.e. the sum of wages and profits.

¹² Of the 116,100 jobs that Dublin Airport is responsible for, 19,900 are direct, with a further 11,700 indirect jobs in firms that support or supply to the airport. In addition, a further 13,300 jobs can be linked back to the airport through employees spending in the economy, while the airport helps sustain 71,200 more jobs through its facilitation of tourism, trade, investment and productivity. (Source: Fingal Chamber of Commerce, 2023)

impact of Dublin Airport for economic activity, employment, incomes and expenditure is likely to be significant.

It is estimated that there are 73 businesses – accounting for 489 jobs - within the immediate Lusk settlement boundary accounting for 1.0% of NACE¹³ coded businesses in Fingal. Based on this classification, the primary industries by number are Wholesale and Retail Trade; Vehicle repairs (26.0%) and Education, Human Health and Social Work Activities (16.4%). These account for 34.8% and 37% of all employment respectively.

Businesses in Lusk, although limited in number, are generally well distributed along the town centre and intersecting road network with Main Street and Station Road comprising the core retail area. Lusk is in Fingal Level 4 Retail Hierarchy which provides for one supermarket ranging in size from 1,000–2,500 m² with a limited range of supporting shops (considered as low order comparison), supporting services, community facilities or health clinics grouped together to create a focus for the local population. As such this retail mix is considered sufficient in terms of scale, type, and range to meet the everyday needs of the local population and surrounding catchment without adversely impacting on or diverting trade from the higher order retailing locations. The 'Love Lusk' website provides a directory of locally available professional, trade, retail, personal care and wellbeing services.

¹³ NACE is the acronym for "Nomenclature Statistics on the European Activities of the European Community". In layman's terms, it is a classification system used in Ireland and throughout Europe that groups organisations according to their business activities.

There is no branch banking in the town although the post office - open six days a week - offers some basic banking functions. The area is served by the Progressive Credit Union; however, it does not operate premises within the town.

Notably there are three agricultural enterprises within the settlements located around Post Office Road and Chapel Road alongside a minor cluster of manufacturing enterprises. The remaining industries are generally evenly distributed throughout the settlement. Notably, there are no Information Communication Technology (ICT) businesses in Lusk. There are a further 22 businesses within 1km of the settlement boundary indicating low concentration within the immediate vicinity. These businesses are primarily in wholesale and retail trade, and agriculture, forestry and fishing. There is no private or publicly/ community-run general enterprise centre in the BUA.

In September 2019, Lusk had a *COVID-19 Exposure Ratio* of 48.5%, slightly higher than the state as a whole (46.0%). While this figure represents the total number of its commercial units that were operating in the sectors likely to be worst affected by the COVID-19 outbreak, as a proportion of its total commercial stock, it also serves as a proxy for economic activities that are capable of operating remotely; namely activities such as finance, ICT and professional and technical services.

Insight into commercial activity locally can be gleaned from data contained in the Commercial lease register which lists the following commercial leases transacted in the period 2018-2023; notably the bulk of the leases relate to agricultural activity with few office or retail transactions.

Year	Type	Address	Length	Terms
2018	Industrial	Rathmooney	15 years	€275,000 pa
2018	Agricultural	Corduff	12 years	€28,000 pa
2018	Agricultural	Bridetree	7 years	€19,300 pa
2018	Agricultural	Rathmooney	4 years	€1,500 pa
2018	Agricultural	Thomandstown	5 years	€5,775 pa
2019	Industrial	Hannahs Lane	3 years	€500 pa
2019	Agricultural	Corduff Hall	7 years	€14,300 pa
2019	Agricultural	Quickpenny Road	7 years	€7,500 pa
2020	Agricultural	Lusk	5 years	€6,333 pa
2021	Other	Blakes Cross	7 years	€262,200 pa
2021	Other	Station Road	5 years	€25,000 pa
2021	Industrial	Effelstown	10 years	€55,000 pa
2021	Agricultural	Rathmooney	5 years	€1,600 pa
2021	Agricultural	Laytown	5 years	€18,540 pa
2021	Agricultural	Tyrellstown Big	5 years	€13,600 pa
2022	Retail	Main Street	15 years	€18,200 pa
2022	Industrial	Rogerstown	40 years	€2,400 pa
2022	Agricultural	Rallekayestown	5 years	€2,600 pa
2022	Agricultural	Ballykea	5 years	€13,170 pa
2023	Office	Town Centre	10 years	€20,000 pa
2023	Agricultural	Racecourse Commons	5 years	€500 pa
2023	Agricultural	Thomandstown	5 years	€12,600 pa

There are 7 hectares of land zoned for enterprise and employment related activities in Lusk. These lands are mainly zoned for rural business (14.3%) and general employment (85.7%). The rural business lands are fully developed leaving just 5 hectares of undeveloped general employment lands remaining. This land is on a single site to the west of the town near the R132. There are no greenfield or regeneration sites in the BUA currently appearing on the Fingal Vacant Sites Register.

There appear to be no notable concentrations or clusters of sectoral business activity nor

any particular formal or informal business ecosystem through which to collaborate or exchange information, skills or resources. Only 5 businesses in Lusk and its environs (1.4%) - Ace Express Freight, Advanta Safety, Country Crest, Ballymaguire Foods and Easyden Ltd – are listed as current members of the 356 member Fingal Chamber of Commerce. The *Fingal In It Together Charter* which aims to unite businesses across the County in supporting each other and provides reassurance to consumers that they are shopping local and supporting Fingal businesses, appears to have little traction in Lusk.



Dublin Airport.



Fingal In It Together Charter.

Agriculture

As indicated by the sector accounting for most commercial leases agriculture is an important economic activity. Indeed, the wider Fingal area is the most important location - by volume and employment - for field vegetable and protected vegetable production in the country, as well as being a notable soft fruit producer.

The Census of Agriculture 2020 confirms that there are 61 agricultural holdings in Lusk ED totalling a farmed area of 2,728.7 ha of which 1,158 ha (42.4%) is for cereal production and 918.3 ha (33.6%) is grassland accommodating 1,389 livestock units. 4 farm enterprises account for 56 jobs, being 11.5% of all local jobs. Notably, this employment comprises 7.4% of jobs in the sector throughout Fingal.

The average farm size is 40.4 ha and the average age of the farmer is 56.5 years. As such, **agriculture remains an important part of the local economy and the sector has the potential to drive economic growth and employment creation through development and diversification in agri-food, speciality and artisan food production.**

While the direct selling of produce from source – particularly through farm shops – is a feature throughout Fingal there is no Farmers’ or Country Market located in Lusk.



Taylor's of Lusk - growing chillis.



Large scale market Gardening on the edge Lusk.

Tourism

The tourism product in Lusk is modest having limited visitor profile, accommodation stock, attractions and amenities. There are no destinations or attractions locally featured in itineraries or trip proposals marketed by Failte Ireland under the Ireland’s Ancient East Tourism destination brand.

Registered and approved visitor accommodation is limited to Hillview House

B&B (26 Bed spaces) supplemented by 3 Airbnb hosts in the town. Airport View Hotel (56 bed spaces) is now closed.

There is no Office of Public Works or Coillte managed visitor attraction or amenity locally. The most visited tourism fee-paying visitor attractions locally - none of which are located within the BUA - are as follows:

Attraction	Numbers	Category
Malahide Castle & Gardens	181,501	Heritage & Visitor Gardens
Skerries Mill	117,000	Heritage
Newbridge House & Farm	109,705	Heritage
Ardgillan Castle	4,000	Heritage & Visitor Gardens

(Source: Failte Ireland Annual visitor Attractions Survey 2022)



Ardgillan Castle



Malahide Castle & Gardens

EXISTING FACILITIES OVERVIEW

Community & Recreational Facilities

Lusk has a number of small and medium scale community and recreational facilities. These existing facilities are currently used by a diverse cohort of social, cultural and sporting groups. The community buildings are managed under licence by the Lusk Community Council with support from the Community Services Programme.

One of the most common themes emerging from the community engagement responses was the limited number of facilities for teenagers and younger adults. Lusk is well served by community buildings that can cater for activities up to a certain scale, such as martial arts, yoga or dance classes. However larger community spaces for indoor team sports are not readily available outside school use. There is also no library or designated social centre for young people. The only social

opportunities are those provided by paid in hourly classes or sports club memberships.

These concerns will be addressed to a level with the completion of the Lusk Recreational Hub to the north of the town, but further community facilities may be required - subject to a full audit of the existing facilities and their usage levels.

Recent access to the Lusk National School indoor hall facilities outside of school hours is welcome but needs to be supplemented by further publically accessible indoor and outdoor amenity spaces. Following the release later this year of the county wide FCC Sports and Facilities Audit, it is suggested that a Lusk specific audit and gap analysis is commissioned to identify what Recreational, Community and Sporting facilities are required.

The following pages outline the information available for the current activities in Lusk community and recreational facilities.

Facilities & Location

1. Carnegie Library Community Hall The Green

Activities

- Montessori
- Judo
- Dance (Adult & Youth)
- Martial Arts

2. Cottage Community Centre Church Road

- Parent & Toddler group
- Guitar classes
- Study Group
- TD Clinic
- TD Clinic for Seniors
- Yoga
- Chair Yoga
- Prosper Fingal
- Drama
- Pre-Natal Yoga
- Bridge Club
- Children's Sewing
- Baby Massage
- Irish Dancing
- Youth Club

3. Saint Macullins Community Centre Church Road

- Pilates
- Fitness Class
- Children's Art
- Youth Club
- Community Choir
- Church Group
- Foróige



Community & Recreational Facilities mapped across Lusk

4. Lusk Community Cultural Centre

Church Road

- Exhibitions
- Pilates
- Yoga
- Healing Class
- Quilting
- Women's Shed

5. 153rd Lusk Scouts Hall

Chapel Road

- Scouts Groups & County meetings
- Tae Kwan Do
- ICA meetings and events
- Montessori
- Dance Summer Camps
- First Aid Training

6. Lusk Parish Hall

Chapel Road

- Lusk Men's Shed
- Black Raven Pipe Band
- AA meetings
- Ballet
- Parish meetings & activities
- Breastfeeding group
- Irish Dancing
- Cygnets Girl Guides
- Showbiz Academy Performing Arts
- Art Class
- Yoga
- Dancing and Singing Classes
- Lusk Scouts

7. St. Macullins National School & Community Hall

Chapel Road

- Lusk United FC Soccer
- Lusk Athletics Club
- Bridgín Girl Guides
- Lusk Ravens Basketball
- Round Towers GAA
- Power Drama
- Tae Kwan Do
- Fingal Ravens Pipe Band
- Lusk Action Group
- Lusk Autism Awareness
- Leinster Ballroom Dancing

8. Lusk Community College

Rathmore Road

Currently no community groups are using the college.

9. Lusk Recreational Hub

Rathmore Road

- Lusk United FC Soccer Club
- Lusk Athletics Club
- Round Towers GAA

10. Round Towers GAA

Thomas Ashe Park

Hand's Lane

- Round Towers GAA
- Schools GAA
- Community Darts
- Community Cards



- Recreational/Sports
- Retail
- Cultural
- Healthcare
- Garda

Outdoor recreational facilities & public buildings mapped across Lusk.

Third Space

Lusk has a high level of volunteerism, 11.9% of all age groups as outlined in the Social Capital section (page 44). There are a significant number of sports groups and smaller organisations that are very active as is evident in the community engagement responses. Lusk has very limited 'Third Space'¹⁴ offerings - spaces that are not directly connected to specific sports clubs or organisations. All organised activities take place at an arranged, pre-booked time in heavily used community spaces. Lusk currently does not have free-to-use, drop-in community facilities. The current offer of community spaces also requires capital input to remain operational. Some of the existing community facilities have long term rental agreements in place which puts them beyond the use of community groups.

Community consultation has emphasised the need for a larger, flexible community building to accommodate a wide range of uses. Existing, and vital, community facilities are at capacity level of usage and cannot meet the demand of social, sporting and youth organisations. Currently Fingal supports 36 community spaces across the county and owns 17 spaces under the remit of the Community Development Office. Lusk is the largest town in terms of population in Fingal without a large community building and currently there is none planned for the town. The need for this type of larger community third space was demonstrated in the community engagement and

¹⁴ In sociology, the third place refers to the social surroundings that are separate from the two usual social environments of home ('first place') and the workplace ('second place'). Examples of third places include churches, cafes, bars, clubs, community centres, public libraries, gyms, bookstores, makerspaces, stoops, and parks. In his book *The Great Good Place* (1989), Ray Oldenburg argues that third places are important for civil society, democracy, civic engagement and establishing feelings of a sense of place.

in the evidence of capacity levels of usage in the existing smaller community buildings.

Retail & Public Realm

Lusk has an established retail spine along Station Road and Main Street including small local retail outlets. These include take-away restaurants, a pharmacy, local supermarkets, a pub and a butcher. They are locally owned, connected to each other and need to be supported as part of any new development in the town. There is an urgent need for an upgrade to the public realm strategy to define and to support this area, with provision of both car-parking for those with mobility concerns and age friendly parking. The Lusk Business Pillar Group has identified this need as critical to supporting town centre businesses.

The recently completed town centre retail development, close to the town core at Station Road is a significant development, incorporating an anchor tenant supermarket, a salon, a pharmacy, a gym, a betting shop, a barbers and offices. Further development including another supermarket, café, local supermarket and barbers has recently been completed on Ashe Street. The planned town plaza at this location has not been realised. Central to the success of the TCF Plan is consolidating the new and the old, supporting the existing and creating a town centre close to the historic town core.

Critical to the success of a rejuvenated Lusk town centre is an improved and upgraded public realm, connecting new and existing retail areas with an attractive and accessible streetscape. Detailed design of this upgraded streetscape must be fully scoped to ensure inclusivity using best practice tools such as walkability studies.

BUILT CHARACTER OF LUSK

Lusk Hinterland

Lusk is an inland town in central Fingal, County Dublin. It is located in north of Dublin city centre, Swords, and Dublin Airport, Ireland's most significant airport. Lusk is located at a central point on a peninsula shared with Rush, Loughshinny and Skerries and sits 25m above sea level, located 4.3km from the nearest coastal access point at Rogerstown Estuary. The closest neighbouring towns are Rush (5.8km to the east of Lusk) and Skerries (8.1km to the north of Lusk).

Lusk is well served by national road networks, with the M1 motorway, connecting Dublin to Belfast, located 1km to the west. Access to the M1 motorway is via Rowans Little (7km to the north of Lusk) or via Lissenhall Little (7km to the south of Lusk). A shared rail connection with Rush is accessible via the Rush and Lusk Station

1.8km from the Town Centre, via Station Road. A connecting footpath is available for the extent of the route to the train station, but no cycle lane.

Lusk is surrounded by low-lying agricultural lands with a rich and diverse culture of food production. Within 5km of Lusk there is an extensive amount of fruit, brassicas, salads, seafood, organic meats, honey, cider and wine produced. The market gardening culture is prevalent within Lusk also with several large scale green-houses within the Lusk BUA.

To the south of Lusk, are the parkland amenities of Rogerstown Park at 4.3km away and Turvey Nature Reserve at 5.2km away via Blake's Cross. Ardgillan Castle and Demesne, sitting between Skerries and Balbriggan, is situated 7.1 km to the north.

Aerial image of Lusk 1996, before the ring road & newer housing estates were built. Current Lusk Development boundary indicated.



Lusk within the local context of north County Dublin.



Aerial image of Lusk 2020 with current Lusk Development boundary indicated

Lusk Recent Development

As stated in the *Lusk History & Heritage* section (page 26), Lusk first developed as an ecclesiastical settlement in the 5th Century. There have been significant changes to the development patterns over the last 30 years with the growth of Lusk. Traces of the original streets are evident within the Architectural Conservation Area around the Round Tower (Saint Macullins Community Centre) but the character and urban core of the town have altered dramatically since 2000 with the addition of substantial new housing developments within the Ring Road, this has resulted in a four fold increase in population. As previously noted Lusk has become a commuter belt town with a sizeable proportion of residents travelling to workplaces outside of the town.

The Ring Road has been an effective boundary to the east of Lusk (bar a few developments such

as the recreation hub, the Community College, Rush and Lusk Educate Together NS and housing at Racecourse Common & Green), mitigating against uncontrolled sprawl to the east of the town. However developmental pressure on Station Road beyond the ring road must be carefully monitored to ensure the town core is strengthened and consolidated as outlined in the *Considering the Site* section (pages 16 & 17).

Lusk Streetscape & Connectivity

Lusk has the potential to function as a highly permeable pedestrian urban core. Most of the town settlement of Lusk is accessible within a 10 mins walk from Lusk Round Tower. However, there are a number of key areas where relatively simple moves would facilitate a meaningful increase in pedestrian porosity and help to promote sustainable transport and support the Fingal Age Friendly Strategy commitment. Urban analysis of Lusk has identified

a number of blockages that, if improved, would facilitate increased levels of pedestrian mobility and reduced car usage for short journeys.

These areas include at;

1. A boundary wall between the car park to the Lusk Town Centre retail development onto Coopers Walk.
2. A boundary wall dividing the linear green spaces between Dun Emer and Kelly Park.
3. The lack of a pedestrian and cycling crossing at the Lusk Recreation Hub entrance connecting the Ring Road to Coleman Crescent.
4. A pedestrian and cycling crossing from Scholars Walk to a proposed back entrance to Lusk Senior NS.
5. A proposed pedestrian bridge connection from Macullens Close to Chapel Farm Park, crossing the boundary stream would integrate the park amenity to Lusk town centre and support pedestrian

connectivity.

Please note that all designs to be fully scoped to ensure inclusivity using best practice tools such as walkability studies

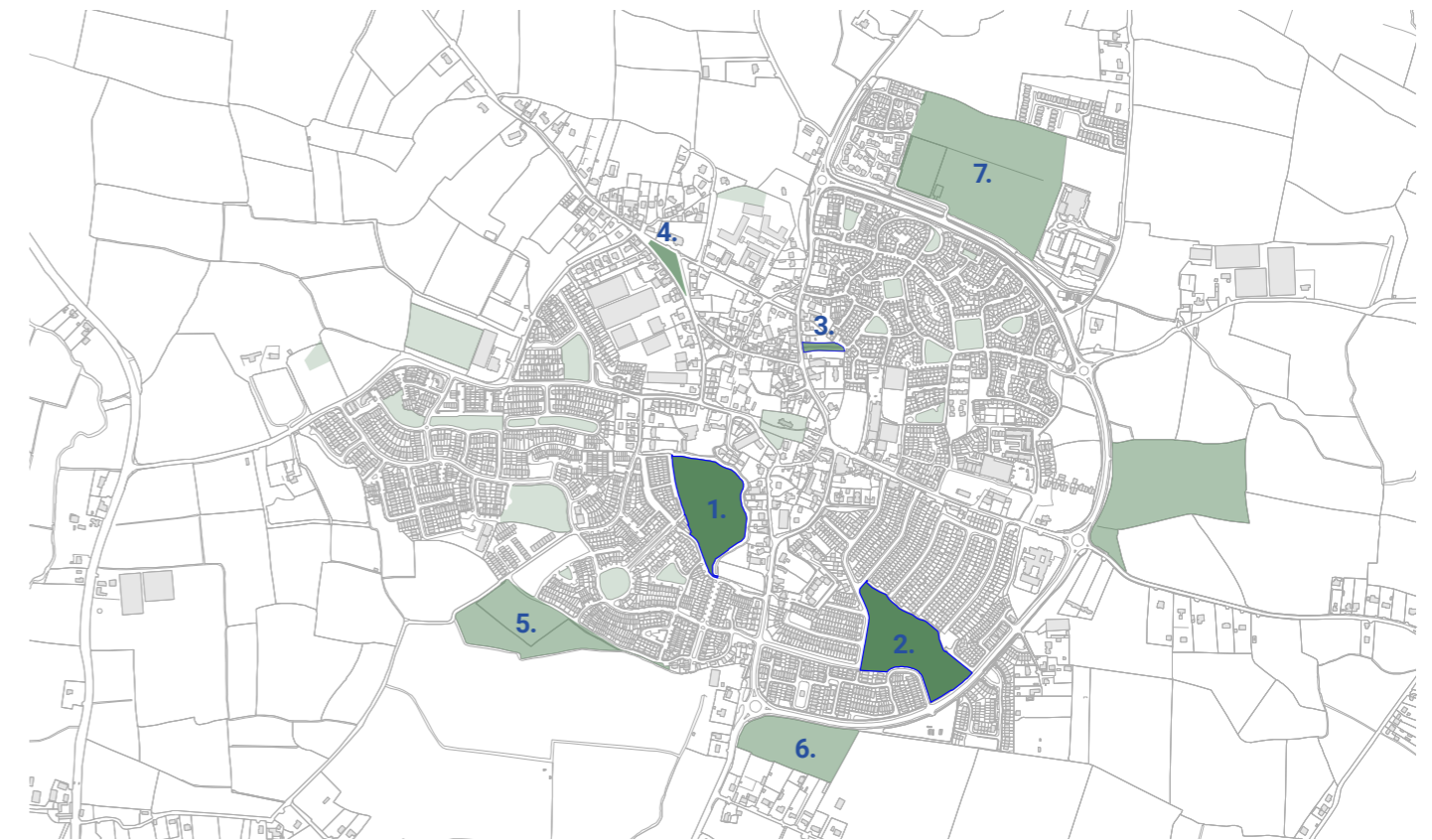
Green Facilities

Lusk has significant latent potential for outdoor recreational facilities utilising more fully the existing green areas within housing developments and larger green areas on the town periphery. Existing park and green spaces, including those at 1. Chapel Farm and 2. Orlynn Park are underused, and with the provision of upgraded facilities and access, could support more intensive, diverse uses.

The total combined green space in Lusk is 15 hectares, this supports two playgrounds, two tennis courts (in poor condition) one band-stand and a large number of informal playing pitches.



Area of Lusk accessible by 10 minute walk from Lusk Round Tower with key areas of blockage identified 1-5.



Green Areas in Lusk with key green areas for development marked 1-7.

Other green areas of significant geographical importance for the future development of the town centre are 3. the linear strip between Main Street and Thatchers way and 4. Chapel Green with the bandstand.

Perimeter green areas are also considered as part of this report in terms of potential future use and integration. There are three areas owned by the Local Authority on the edge of the Lusk Development boundary that currently have informal uses such as 5. Chapel Farm pitch (Lusk United AFC), and 6. Racecourse Commons on the Dublin Road. 7. The Lusk Recreation Hub to the north of Lusk outside the ring road has been partially developed and is subject to long-term plans for continued development.

Waterway Network

Within the BUA of Lusk there are a number of streams and waterways. There is the potential for these to be further reviewed in terms of waterway health and amenity value, including the possibility to open them up to public view as part of green areas in Lusk. In Chapel Farm there is a stream that emerges from the hill on Quickpenny Road, defines the edge of Chapel Farm Park and then winds its way under the housing estate at Chapel Farm Avenue. This stream is culverted and reappears again south of Lusk in a farm on the Dublin Road. From here the stream continues south and ultimately ends up joining into the Ballyboughal river near Rogerstown Park on the coast. The stream is quite overgrown at the Chapel Farm Park and there is an opportunity here to improve it's setting and open up this waterway more to be viewed by the public.



Existing waterway network around Lusk

To the north of Lusk a further stream has been diverted by the ring road to form the boundary to the Sports Hub. This waterway originates at Oberstown, to the north east of Lusk, and meets the Irish Sea on Spout Road to the west of Rush. In Lusk the stream comes in the Skerries road, forms the southern edge to the Sports Hub and is bridged six times between vehicular and pedestrian crossings.

The [OPW Flood Maps](#)¹⁵ indicate no immediate threats to Lusk from either a fluvial or coastal flood. However, it should be noted that there are areas with potential for flooding nearby in Ballyough

¹⁵ Flood Maps provide valuable information for a range of purposes. This includes increasing awareness among the general public, local authorities and other organisations, of the likelihood of flooding and informing flood risk management activities by the government to prevent and reduce the risk and impact from future floodings.

and Jordanstown. It should also be noted that there is a significant area to the south of Lusk, from Portrane Beach across to Blakes Cross including the Rogerstown Estuary that is currently under review by the OPW Flood Team.

Road Network

Lusk has a complex road network, the medieval urban structure in the town centred is encircled by more recent residential development roads, and encircled by the ring road. As is evidenced in the road network diagram a high proportion of the estate roads are cul de sacs, which terminate in hammer-head turns or connect directly into shared green areas. Most of the residential roads have associated footpaths, but with very limited provision of cycle infrastructure. The ring road has a well-used cycle track and there is a short length of existing cycle track on Minister's Road. The major roads coming into Lusk are the 1. Skerries



Road Network for Lusk showing all existing roads in blue and cycle network in orange.

Road (R127), 2. the Rush Road (R128), 3. the Dublin Road (R127) and 4. Minister's Road which connects out to the Old Dublin-Belfast Road (R132). As referred to in the *Lusk Hinterland* section (page 54), Lusk is well connected to the surrounding national road network beyond these local roads.

Housing Stock

As described more comprehensively in the *Socio-Demographic Profile of Lusk* (page 38), Lusk functions effectively as a commuter town. According to the 2022 CSO census there are a total of 2737 households in Lusk. Nearly 71% of all the households have been built since the start of this century. This is significantly higher than the Fingal average, where 40% of the entire housing stock has been built since the year 2000. Fingal is also relatively high in an Irish context for recently built housing stock, with 32.3% built since 2000.

According to the 2022 CSO census of the households in the Rush-Lusk Electoral Area that answered the question, it has a breakdown in terms of bedroom numbers as follows; 2.4% are one bed homes (lower than the national average of 5.5%), 11.8% are two bed homes (lower than the national average of 15.8%), 42.2% are three-bed homes (higher than the national average of 35.6%) and 33.7% are four-bed homes (higher than the national average of 25.6%) and 9.2% are five-bed homes or above (higher than the national average of 7.7%).

The Rush-Lusk Electoral Area has a higher amount of 3 and 4 bedroom homes and a lower amount of 1 and 2 bedroom homes. This can be directly attributed to the overall newer housing stock in the Rush-Lusk Electoral Area.



New dwellings built since 2000.

Vacancy & Dereliction

As recording in the 2022 CSO statistics, Lusk has a notably low level of residential vacancy with only 4 vacant properties in the BUA. Fingal's vacancy map indicates a higher number of 9 vacant properties, which is still a very low level of vacancy compared to other towns of a similar size in Ireland. This gives a residential vacancy rate of less than 0.5%, which is markedly lower than the national average vacancy rate of 8.9% (excluding holiday homes) based on the 2022 Census data. The Fingal vacancy rate, which is one of the lowest local authority rates across the country has an average of 4.2%. The very low vacancy levels in Lusk town centre distinguish it from many rural towns of a similar scale.

There are several conclusions to be drawn from the low residential vacancy rate. As a result of the very rapid growth from village to mid-sized

town, there is lower levels of older building stock in Lusk town centre than similar sized towns. Most residential building stock is recently built and is of a better energy standard than residential developments of the sixties, seventies, eighties and nineties.

The proportion of well-established retail development (primarily on Main Street) is low relative to the population of Lusk. There is a limited amount of older retail development on Main Street in comparison to the population size. These are stable well-established businesses; there is a high demand for these spaces and there are lower vacancy rates and visible dereliction as a result.

Properties within the town core have retained their financial value with sites remaining desirable. The economic value and high levels of demand for newer residential properties is a significant factor



Vacancy rates as per latest Fingal mapping with all nine sites indicated in blue.

in the very low levels of vacancy and dereliction in Lusk.

Current Planning Applications

Currently there are over 500 new homes in the planning system that could potentially be built in Lusk in the coming years. With average household numbers, this could represent as many as 2000 new residents moving to Lusk in the near future.

Of planning applications for larger scale developments (over 5 units), there are currently two active building sites to the east of Lusk, adjacent to Station Road. This is an ongoing development of the Lusk Village Quarter, with 132 additional dwellings, including 2, 3 & 4 bed dwellings over 2 to 3 levels currently being constructed. It is envisaged that these properties will be on the market by end of 2024.

To the north of the recently completed Clonrath development on the Skerries road, a further 65 dwellings are currently in planning. These are proposed as a mix of 3 & 4 bed 2 storey family homes.

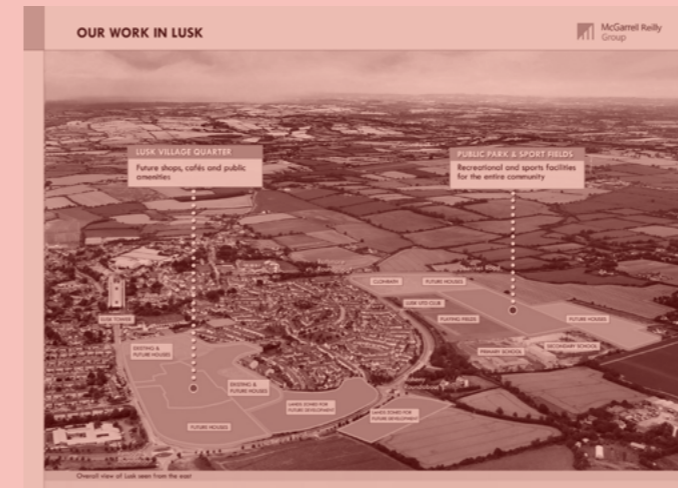
A development of 291 dwellings to the west of Lusk, adjacent to Round Towers GAA Club, has commenced on site. This extensive proposed development includes for 2, 3 & 4 bed dwellings in apartments, detached and semi-detached typologies.

There are no major community or commercial projects in in the planning system. In the recent past there has been significant development completed at Lusk Village Quarter including a new supermarket and 6 retail units.



Planning Applications granted by Fingal County Council that are currently on site in blue. Projects at planning or An Bord Pleanala stage in red.

RECENT PRIVATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS IN LUSK



Promotional media for recent and ongoing developer led housing in Lusk, including (1) Lusk Village Quarter to the east of the Lusk town centre, (2) Rahenny Park on the Skerries Road, (3) Rathmore on Station Road, (4) Clonrath on the Skerries Road & (5) Lusk Regles on the Minister's Road to the west of the Round Towers GAA Club.

Movement Analysis

A traffic survey was conducted by Tracsis on behalf of Fingal County Council to inform the *Understanding the Place* chapter of this report. The survey took place between the 3rd and 10th of October 2023. Sites were selected at key locations on the edge of the Lusk BUA to determine the traffic including cars, vans, trucks, lorries and bicycles entering and leaving Lusk town centre. Automatic traffic counters (ATCs) were temporarily installed to collect traffic speed data, vehicle classification and volume of traffic.

The traffic patterns and volumes indicate clearly that Lusk functions as a commuter town. The average peak time across all four locations for traffic leaving Lusk was at 08.00 on weekday mornings. While some of this can certainly be attributed to typical morning short journeys such as the school run drop off, this information

was factored into the site selection of the ATCs. Inward traffic to Lusk has a broader time spread, stretching across the afternoon and early evening from 16.00 until 19.00. Also evident in the traffic data is the constant vehicular movement through Lusk town centre. While the analysis does not present comprehensive information to determine a clear sense of dwell time, the correlation of the figures imply a very low dwell time within the town core. One of the key tenets of success of the Lusk TCF Plan is to substantially increase the overall dwell time in Lusk.

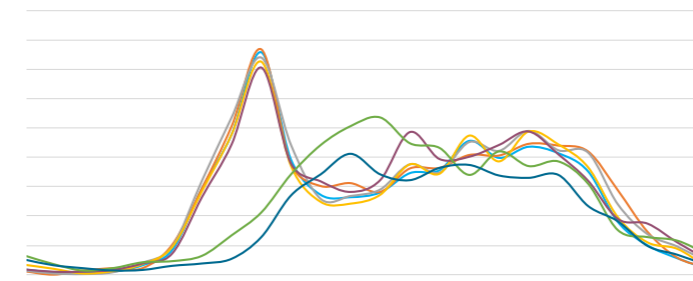
Cars and vans account for on average 90% of the traffic at all ATCs. The remaining 10% is predominately lorries and larger trucks. Cyclists account for under 1% in all locations. Similarly, a key performance indicator for the success of the Lusk TCF Plan is for sustainable transport figures to increase substantially.

- Location of ATCs**
- 1. Main Street
 - 2. Station Road
 - 3. Dublin Road
 - 4. Minister's Road

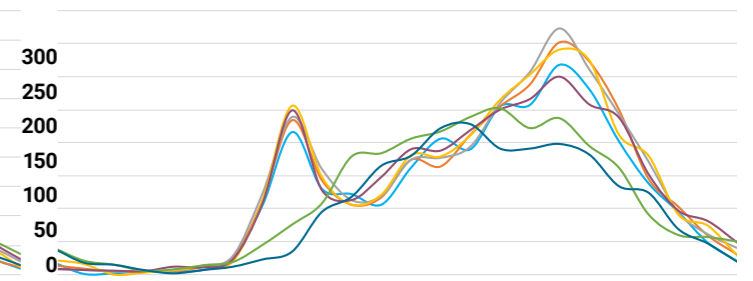


Location of ATCs in Lusk from 03.10.23 until 10.10.23.

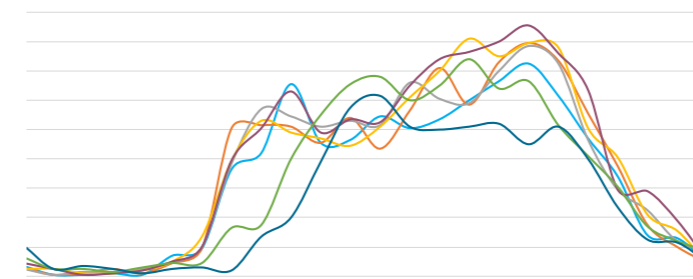
1. Main Street - Southbound



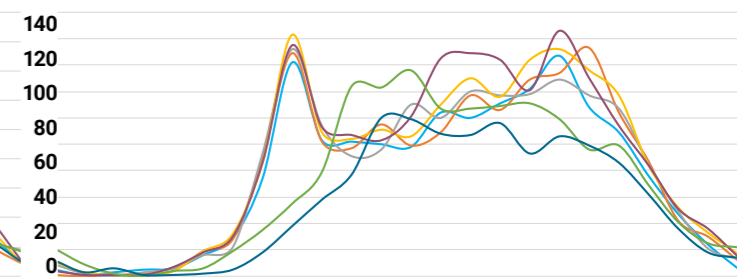
1. Main Street - Northbound



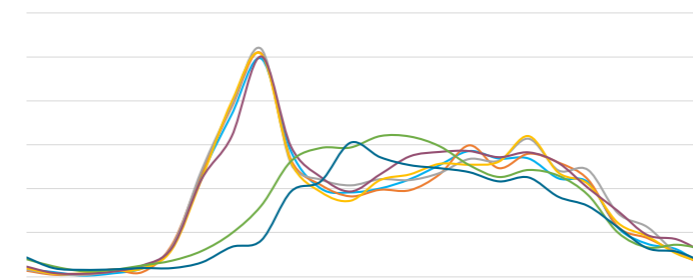
2. Station Road - Eastbound



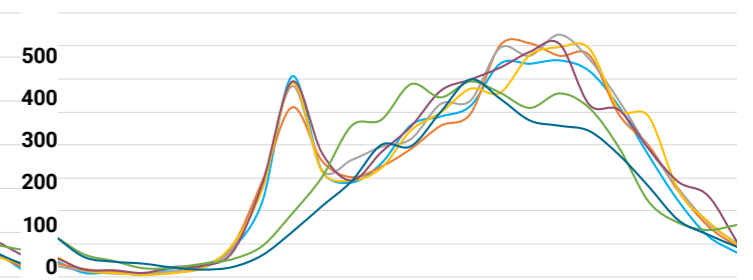
2. Station Road - Westbound



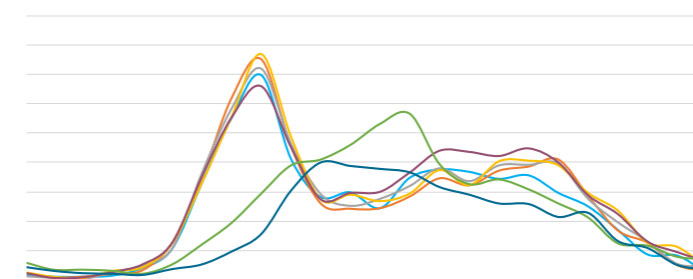
3. Dublin Road - Southbound



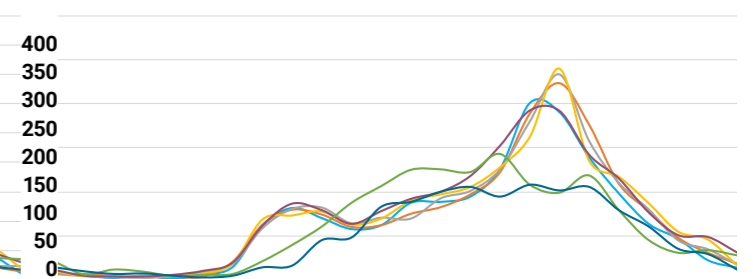
3. Dublin Road - Northbound



4. Minister's Road - Westbound



4. Minister's Road - Eastbound



00.00 02.00 04.00 06.00 08.00 10.00 12.00 14.00 16.00 18.00 20.00 22.00

- MONDAY
- TUESDAY
- WEDNESDAY
- THURSDAY
- FRIDAY
- SATURDAY
- SUNDAY

Hourly volumes of traffic across all ATCs in Lusk in both directions.

Existing Public Realm Analysis

As part of this TCF Plan a Public Realm study was carried out for a 400m stretch of Main Street leading into Station Road. From this analysis it was noted that Lusk has limited amounts of urban furniture in key areas in the town centre, particularly a lack of public seating. There are only five litter bins for public use, two are located near the bus stops on Station Road and there are three others located near the local shops further north on Main Street. There are four cycle parking spaces in front of the Cottage Community Centre.

Street lighting is at a good level, with lighting throughout the main thoroughfares in Lusk. There is no formal public seating in the town centre even at the bus stops. The closest public bench is over half a kilometre away from the bus stops at Chapel Green on the north/west of the bandstand. The limited amount of basic street furniture, bins and seating, was repeatedly commented on in the community engagement. The lack of seating in particular impacts on older residents and those with mobility issues, and is a key requirement of upgraded streetscape proposals.



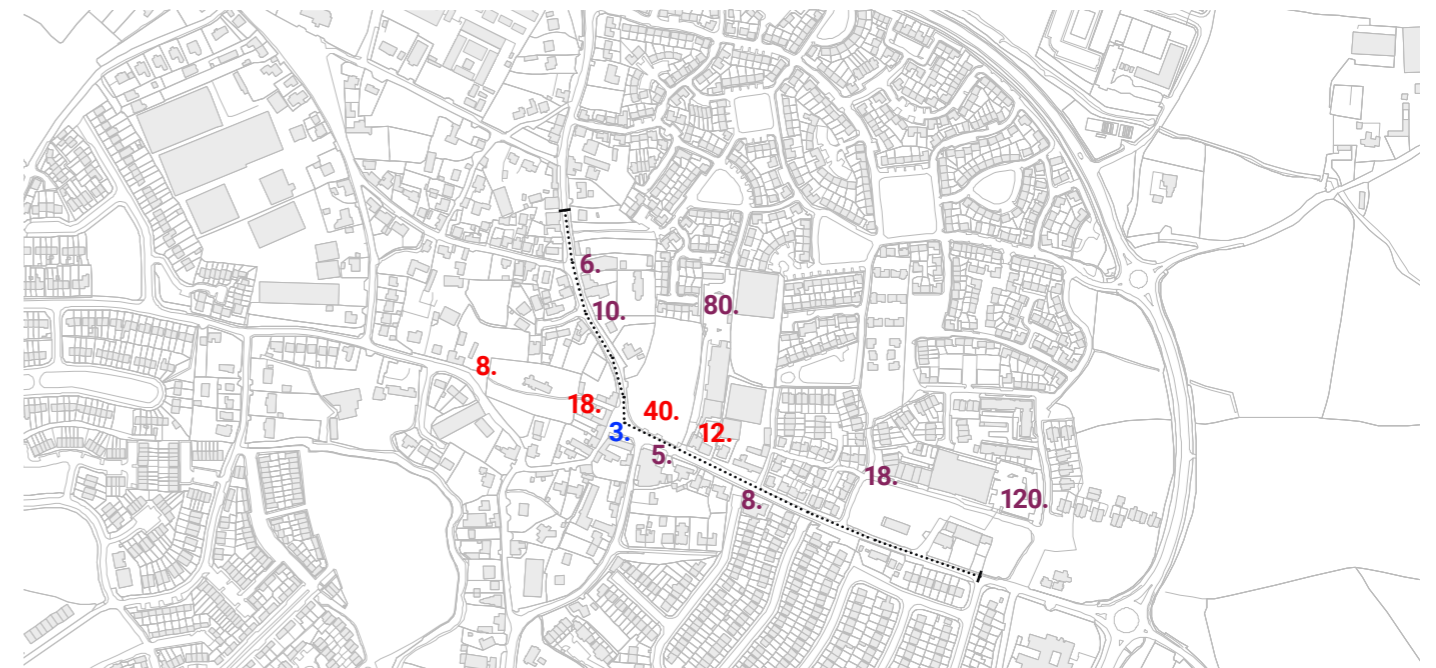
Aerial photograph with key existing urban furniture outlined.

Parking Analysis

As noted in the community feedback, particularly with the Lusk Business & Local Economy Pillar, there are concerns regarding the accessible parking available on Main Street and Station Road. This parking is located in close proximity to the established businesses, and is critical for those with mobility concerns. When we consider the primary commercial area as stretching from the northern commercial tip of Main Street as far as the new developments off Station Road (as indicated with dotted line on map below), there are currently three publicly owned car parking spaces in Lusk, at the Community Cottage Centre. There are 247 privately owned car parking spaces. 200 of these cater directly for large scale Supermarkets. There are 80 privately owned parking spaces with limited accessibility in the town centre. They are gated and opened subject to the owners discretion. There is a need for targeted public parking in the town centre for those with mobility concerns. This however, needs to be carefully integrated to streetscape upgrades to ensure active travel measures always take priority.



Examples of privately owned car parking at the supermarket and retail premises on Main St. and Station Road.



Existing town centre parking on Station Road and Main Street. Publicly owned car parking in blue, privately owned car parking in purple & privately owned car parking behind a gate in red. Dotted line in black indicates primary commercial area.

WHAT WAS 'LUSK VISION 2030'?

PROJECT BACKGROUND

What is 'Lusk Vision 2030'?

'Lusk Vision 2030' was a community-led action plan for Lusk town. It was commissioned by Lusk Community Council in late 2020, supported by Dublin Rural LEADER, the Department of Rural and Community Development and the EU. It was a two-phase report, with an initial submission to the Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029 consultation process in May 2021, and a final report published in August 2021. The geographical scope for the report was the Town Boundary aligned with the Fingal Development Plan.

This final report was made available to local community groups, citizens, political representatives, local media and the Local Authority in late August 2021, following an online public meeting to discuss the proposal and the community engagement feedback. It provided

strategies and projects to deliver a positive future for all of the citizens of Lusk with an aim to help guide and shape development in the next critical decade.

'Lusk Vision 2030' contains a summary of the public consultation phase and the recommended five design strategies for Lusk. The five initial design strategies were developed in response to the community priorities identified in the public engagement phase, and relate explicitly to Fingal County Council's Strategic Issues, (as described in the consultation process for the draft Fingal County Council Development Plan 2023-29) as well as key relevant regional and national policies and objectives.

These strategies presented a positive long-term vision of development in Lusk, they addressed multiple targets set out by Fingal County Council, but crucially linked them to direct actions and projects to support the sustainable development of Lusk Town Centre.

The report contained an overview 'Lusk Vision 2030' map, which identified important sites and key design projects proposed. The key design projects are accompanied by 'action

plans' with suggestions on how to deliver these projects incrementally. The design strategies and proposals are positive, feasible and achievable, and aim for the best possible future for the diverse citizens of Lusk. Finally, the report contains recommendations for action to mobilise community participation and political support in order to achieve success.

This document was prepared by and undertaken by consultants AP+E in collaboration with Miriam Delaney and Tara Kennedy. Maria Donaghue acted as advisor on funding and delivery strategies for this report. This architect-led collaborative team have a strong track record in devising, engaging and delivering innovative projects, with specific expertise in relation to small towns, community engagement and spatial analysis.

In the Meantime.

Since the publication of 'Lusk Vision 2030', the Department of Rural and Community Development announced funding for selected Local Authorities to deliver the first-ever Town Centre First Plans. Fingal County Council secured funding and as a result of 'Lusk Vision 2030', Lusk was selected as the first town in Fingal to get financial support for the development of a unique TCF Plan.

This initiative is a key part of 'Our Rural Future', the Government's ambitious five-year strategy designed to reimagine and revitalise Rural Ireland, in hopes to tackle dereliction, vacant properties and make town centres more attractive places to live, work, socialise and run a business.

The Town Centre First policy was part of the *Programme for Government: Our Shared Future* from October 2020 and became policy in February 2022.

The stated aims of the policy is 'to create town centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit, while also functioning as the service, social, cultural and recreational hub for the local community. Irish towns are facing significant challenges and opportunities that require a coordinated and comprehensive response. This Town Centre First policy will facilitate that response by towns of all sizes across the country so that their centres can function as the sustainable and vibrant heart of the communities they serve, in ways that are adaptable and appropriate to 21st century needs.'

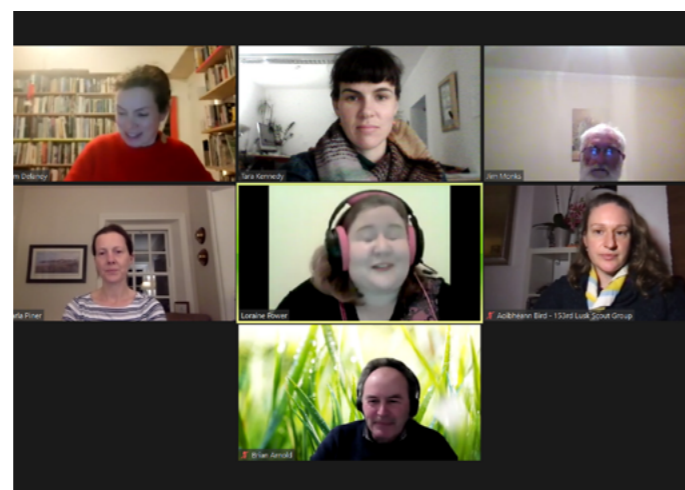
What Happened Next.

In January 2023 the Fingal County Council Town Regeneration Office was established, and in the summer of 2023 Fingal issued a tender for the first Town Centre Plan for the local authority. The tender was awarded to the team who completed the 'Lusk Vision 2030' led by AP+E architects and with the additional expertise of, Ian Dempsey of Prescience and Livia Hurley, Heritage & Conservation Consultant.

While *Lusk for Life* is a continuation of the community efforts involved in delivering 'Lusk Vision 2030', the report comes directly under the remit of Lusk Town Team and the Community, Business & Local Economy, and Public Realm & Climate Action Pillar groups that have now been established. In addition the team have worked very closely with the Local Authority, Fingal, to ensure that the Lusk Town Centre First Plan connects directly to the statutory Fingal Development Plan, the Fingal Local Economic and Community Plan. Finally we are also working with local politicians to help deliver the projects outlined in the *Lusk for Life* Town Centre First Plan.



Lusk Vision 2030.



Images of workshops with local community, youth & education groups Lusk Vision 2030.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOPS, MEDIA & POLITICAL SUPPORT

In the preparation of the community-led action plan 'Lusk Vision 2030', the consultants undertook an extensive public engagement programme. This occurred in a three-month period from January-March 2021, which consisted of stakeholder and community meetings, a public survey, targeted phone calls and themed workshops. The responses and feedback obtained through this process was substantial and formed the basis of the proposals contained in 'Lusk Vision 2030'.

'Lusk Vision 2030' was shortlisted as one of 6 finalists in the 'Prioritising the Places and People That Need it the Most' category of the New European Bauhaus Awards in 2022. It was the only Irish finalist on the shortlist from over 1,100 submissions all across the EU.

In the initial stages of the Lusk TCP *Lusk for Life*, Fingal County Council, the Town Team and Pillar Groups agreed to use the information gained in the 'Lusk Vision 2030' survey and workshops. This strategy was to avoid engagement fatigue, as community representatives noted the high level of engagement in the initial survey and workshops. The methodology and information gathered in the 'Lusk Vision 2030' is outlined below. This has now been supplemented and updated by meetings with the Town Team, Pillar Groups and relevant Fingal County Council departments (described on page 90 & 91).

During the 'Lusk Vision 2030' scoping period, contacts were made with relevant departments within Fingal County Council - these included meetings with representatives from the Planning Department, Sports Department and Local Enterprise Department, and with other

local stakeholders including an Garda Síochána.

There was widespread community and political support. Many of Lusk's political representatives were involved directly in promoting and encouraging community participation in our workshops and surveys. 'Lusk Vision 2030' attracted much attention in local media and social media. Newspaper articles in the 'Fingal Independent', 'Dublin People' and 'Lusk Local' and a dedicated YouTube channel demonstrated the interest in this project.

As part of our community participation strategy, we organised seven community workshops. These were held in February and March of 2021 and were all online due to Covid restrictions at that time. The zoom workshops were well supported and attended.

The principle aims of these workshops were to:

- connect with a diverse range of interested parties in Lusk
- hear from groups working on the ground in Lusk to understand their concerns and priorities
- establish the commitment and capacity to lead projects within the various groups.
- build momentum and interest in the 'Lusk vision 2030' project.

Community Workshops

Invitations to attend and participate in the workshops were issued to thirty-seven community groups and individuals. Telephone calls and interviews were conducted with some of the invitees who were unable to attend the group sessions. The open community workshop was open to all age groups and was advertised via social media, with advertisements in local newspapers, and posters throughout the town.

The workshops were conducted under six themes:

- open public workshop
- social and cultural community groups workshop
- sports clubs workshop
- community cohesion groups
- education workshop
- youth workshops with Transition Year students at Lusk Community College and junior

FINGAL INDEPENDENT

News Sport Entertainment Lifestyle Local Notes Opinion Sections



Developing vision for Lusk in 2030

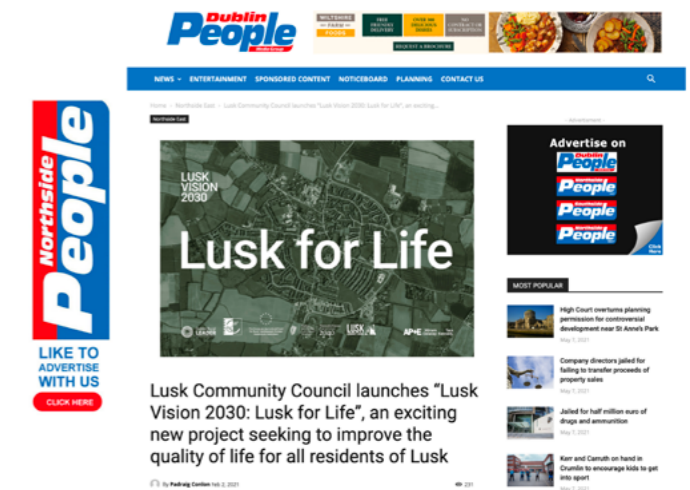


A vision for Lusk in 2030 is being developed

Staff Reporter
February 06 2021 12:00 AM

Lusk Community Council with the support of Fingal Leader Partnership has announced the launch of 'Lusk Vision 2030: Lusk for Life', a new project seeking to improve the quality of life for all residents of Lusk.

Launched by Minister of State Joe O'Brien TD this week with a video outlining the goals of the project, it aims to engage wide participation from all residents of Lusk.



DublinGazette

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Fingal News News

Lusk for Life: New project launched to give public a say

written by Gazette Reporter | 05/02/2021



A project aiming to give the people of Lusk a say on the future of their historic and rapidly expanding town was launched earlier this week.

'Lusk Vision 2030: Lusk for Life' is being championed by Lusk Community Council with the support of Fingal Leader Partnership.

Launched by Minister of State Joe O'Brien with a video outlining the goals of the project, it aims to engage wide participation from all local residents.

'Lusk Vision 2030' is a new type of town Action Plan, unique to Lusk, it will develop holistic, long-term strategies for the future development of the town to help ensure the town thrives for all its citizens.

Local Press promoting and supporting 'Lusk Vision 2030'

Each workshop was chaired by the 'Lusk Vision 2030' consultants, with a project introduction and open Q&A session. Below is a list of groups who participated in the 2021 workshops, or took part in direct phone sessions:

Social and Cultural:

- Black Raven Pipe Band
- Lusk ICA
- Lusk Heritage Group
- Lusk Parish Council
- Redeemed Christian Church
- Senior Citizens
- Power Drama
- The Community Choir
- Lusk Scout Group
- Lusk Community Council

Sports and Recreation:

- Lusk 2020 Sports Committee
- Lusk Athletics
- Lusk Round Towers GAA
- Lusk Judo
- Lusk United
- Fingal Triathlon Club
- The Hills Cricket Club
- Lusk Community Council

Community Cohesion

- Lusk 2020 Sports Committee
- Lusk Athletics
- Lusk Round Towers GAA
- Lusk Judo
- Lusk United
- Fingal Triathlon Club
- The Hills Cricket Club
- Lusk Community Council

Community Cohesion

- Community Garda – Garda Siochana
- LAG (Lusk Action Group)
- Lusk Covid Volunteers Group
- Lusk Foroige
- Lusk Meals on Wheels
- Lusk Tidy Towns Committee
- Lusk Community Council
- Lusk Village Residents association
- Lusk Community Network
- Chapel Farm Residents Group

Education:

- Lusk Community College
- Lusk Educate Together Primary School

Emerging Themes

The most consistent themes emerging from the community workshops were:

1. The rapid pace of housing development has resulted in a parallel growth in the need for adequate community facilities - there is a concern that community facilities have not kept pace with this housing growth.
2. Limited facilities for teenagers in Lusk – indoor and outdoor recreational facilities.
3. No definition of the 'town centre', a place to gather, meet, hold events. The strong desire for public realm spaces that can be used by many age-groups was expressed repeatedly.
4. Limited choices in community buildings- high demand at peak times, limited availability of larger hall type accommodation.
5. The need to support the development of a wider variety of retail and restaurant businesses to build a 'shop local' culture.

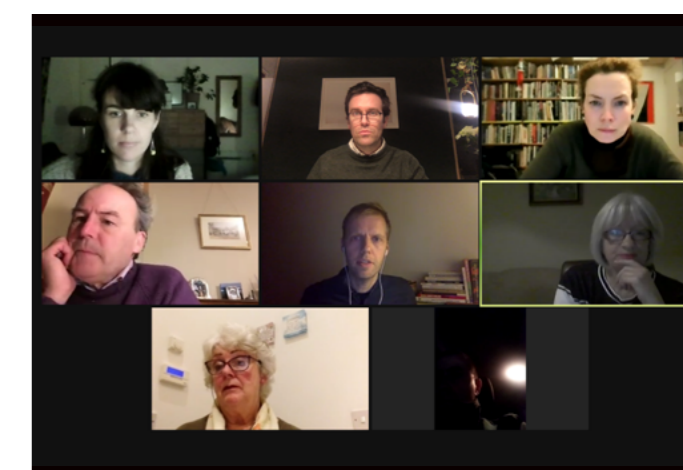
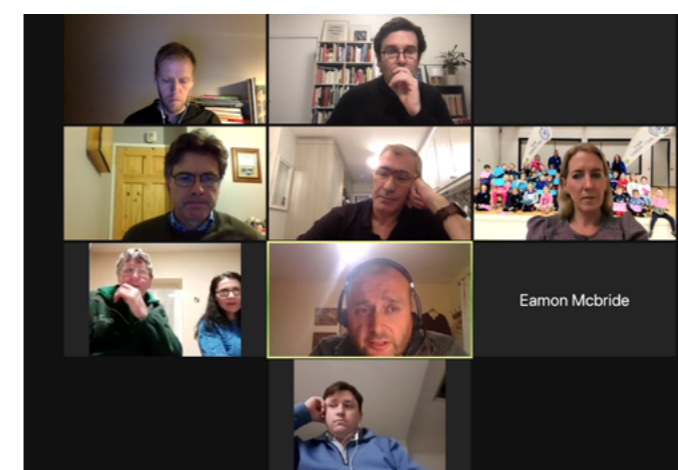
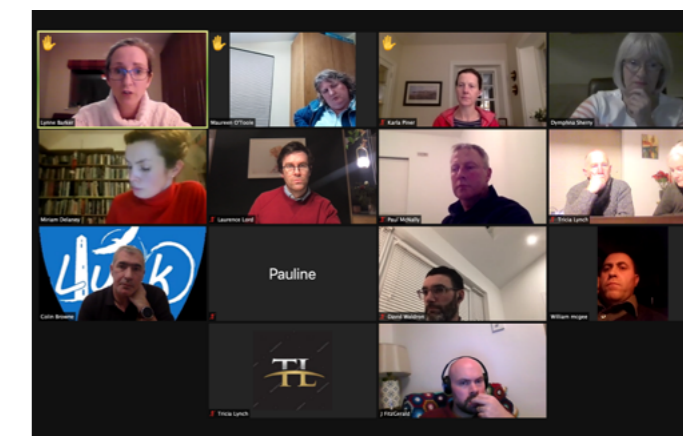
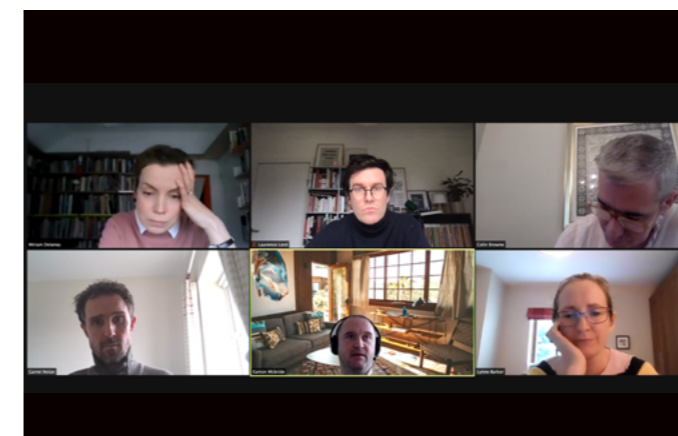
6- The need for a more diverse range of housing stock – currently dominated by 2/ 3 bedroom family units, with little choice for different household types – larger and smaller units.

7- Better quality pedestrian and cycling infrastructure urgently needed.

8- Sports participation is very high in Lusk, but many sports clubs struggle with insufficient sports facilities for the number of participants.

9- Social cohesion across different cohorts of the population is not as strong as it should be, building community spirit and a 'sense of place' is critical to Lusk. Greater cohesion across community groups needed to implement objectives for the town.

10- Lusk's heritage has not been sufficiently protected or highlighted.



Screenshots of online workshops with local community groups during 'Lusk Vision 2030' Community Engagement Phase.

Public Survey

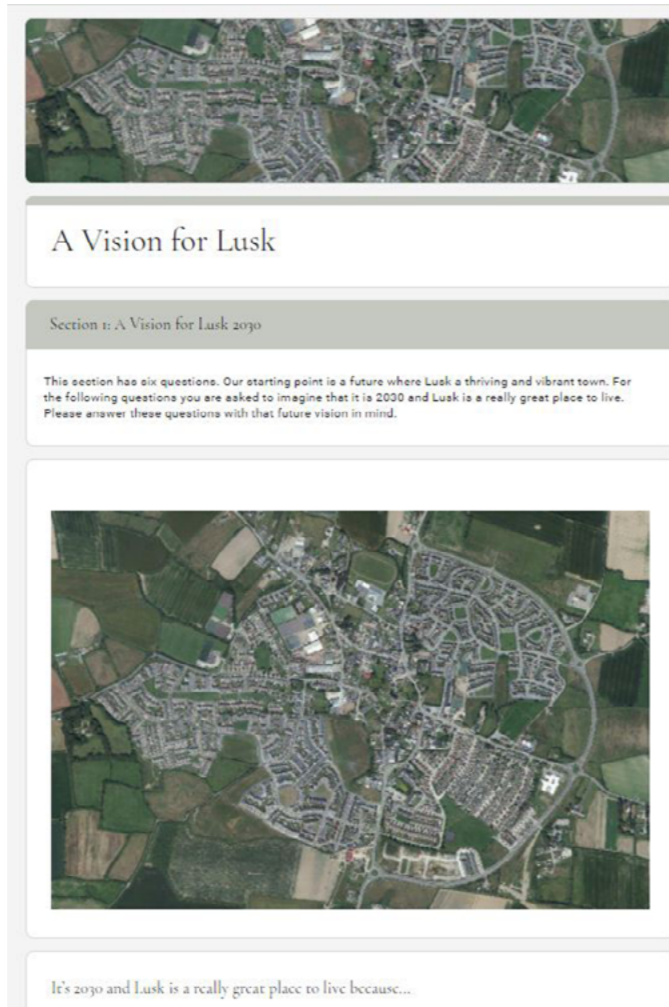
The survey analysis included in this TCF Plan, *Lusk for Life*, comes from the community-led 'Lusk Vision 2030' plan (commissioned by Lusk Community Council, funded by Fingal LEADER Partnership/Lusk Community Council and developed by AP+E).

As 'Lusk Vision 2030' took place during a period of national Covid restrictions, we developed an open online survey as a method to engage directly with as many Lusk residents as possible. The survey generated a high level of interest and participations with over 750 residents completing the survey.

The 'Lusk Vision 2030' survey was promoted by local community groups, community leaders, politicians, and in the local media. Printed hardcopies were provided to residents who may have had difficulty with the online version.

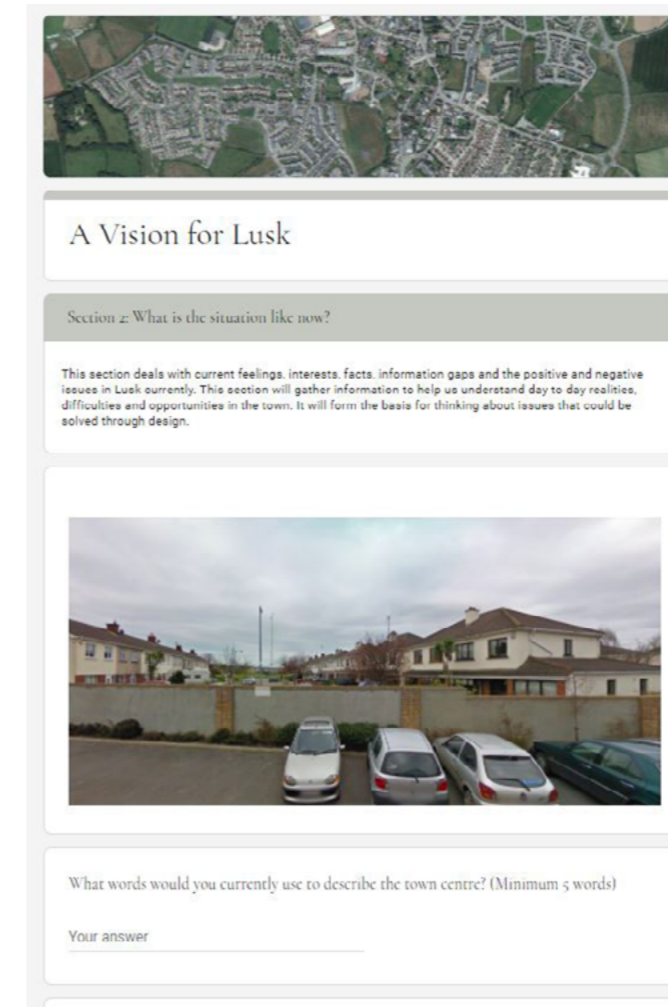
The survey was carefully designed to gather hard data regarding specific issues around commuting, participation in community groups, work patterns, recreational and shopping patterns. It also encouraged residents to contribute creative ideas and insights on their priorities for the future of Lusk.

The survey was structured in three sections:



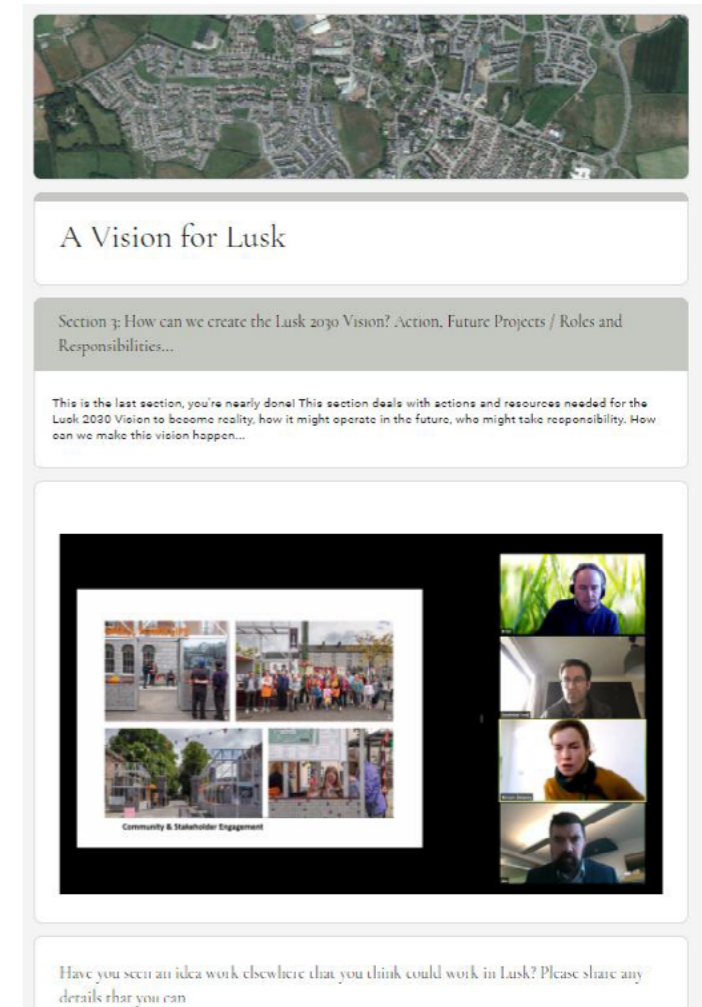
Part 1: Vision

We asked respondents to imagine a positive future of Lusk in 2030, and asked how would it feel, what would be there, and how would it differ from Lusk in 2021?



Part 2: Current Situation

We asked specific questions about patterns and modes of movement, recreation, shopping and work in Lusk. We asked what residents value about Lusk, and what they think is missing.



Part 3: Action

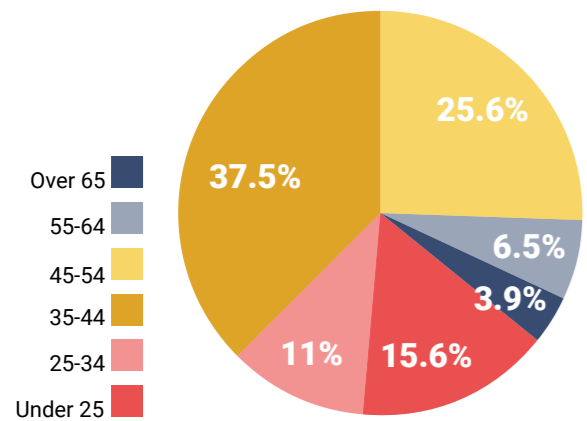
This section covered actions and resources needed for this project, how the vision for Lusk could be achieved.

Survey Analysis

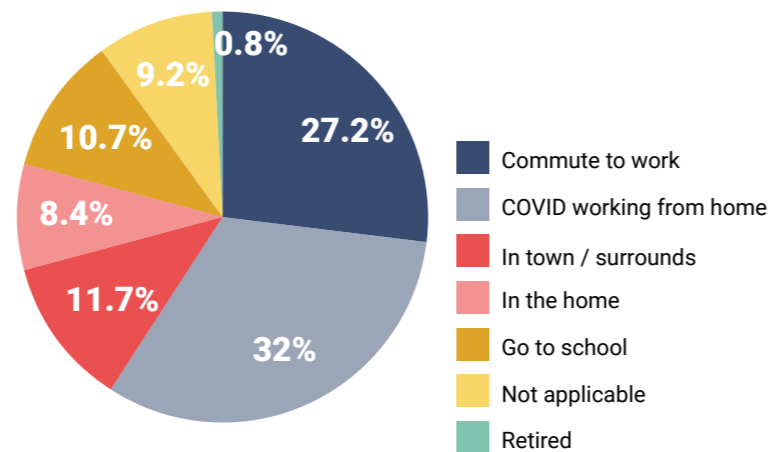
Responses to the online survey came from a broad demographic mix, with a majority (63%) of respondents aged between 35 and 54. In line with the young population of Lusk, there was a strong response from those aged under 25 (16% of respondents). Respondents listed a mix of household sizes, with a majority of 4 and 5-person households, indicating mainly families. This aligns with 2022 census data for Lusk.

There was almost an exactly 50/50 split in the response to whether people feel connected to the town or not. Slightly over half of survey respondents (50.4%) stated that they do not feel connected to Lusk, with 49.6% stating that they do feel connected to the town. This is a significant statistic, indicating a large part of the population of Lusk who do not feel a strong sense of belonging or community attachment.

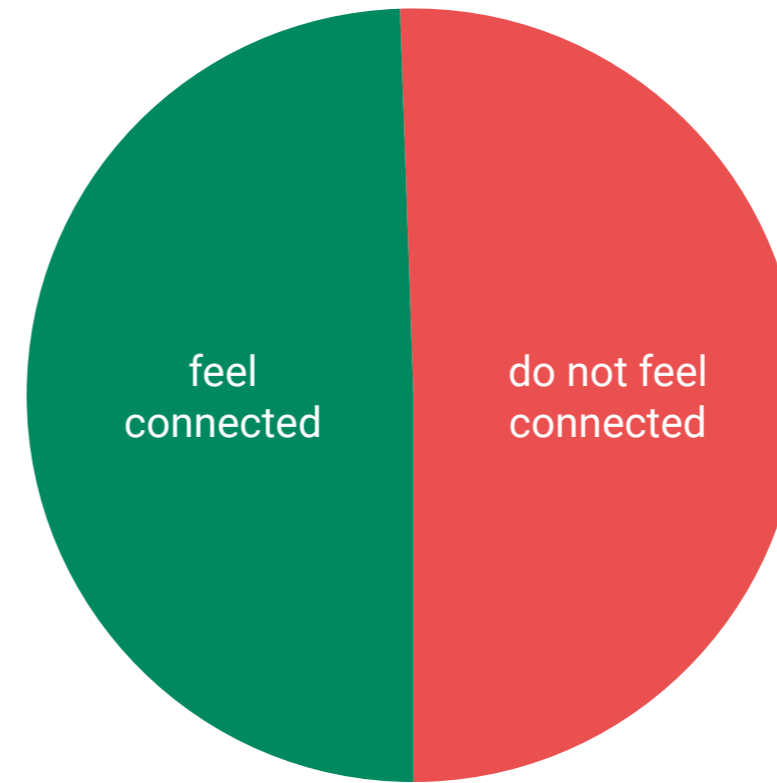
Over half of the survey respondents (56%) are not part of any community groups, with 44% stating that they belong to a community group. Of the 736 respondents, 48% chose to remain anonymous.



Age profile of survey respondents



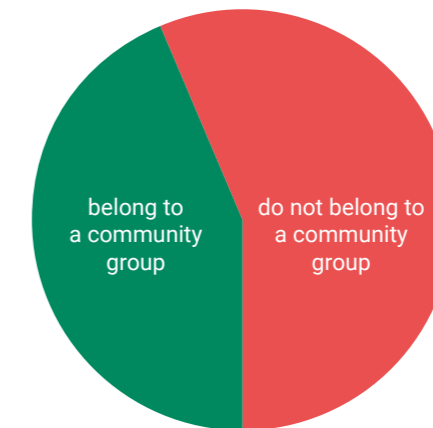
Where respondents work



Response to the question 'Do you feel connected to Lusk?'

**'Connect to what?
We have a main
street with no
centre and nothing
to connect to.'**

Respondent quote from online survey



Respondents participation in community groups

What are the challenges of living in Lusk?

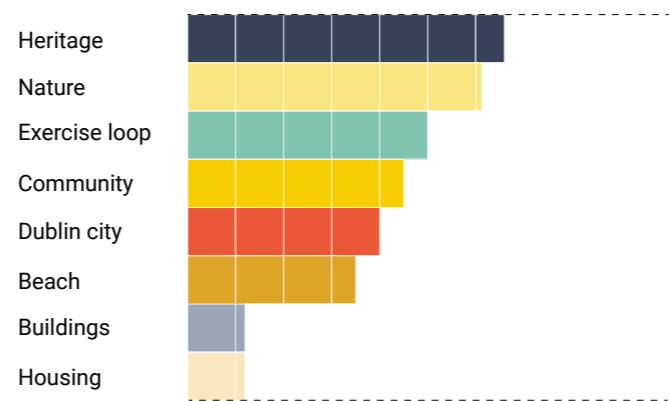
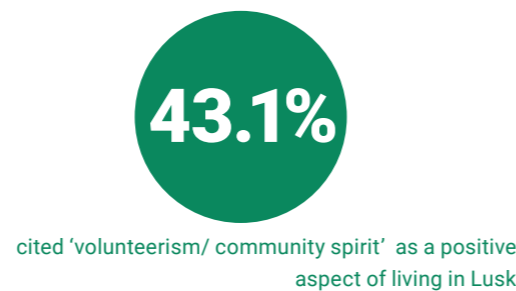
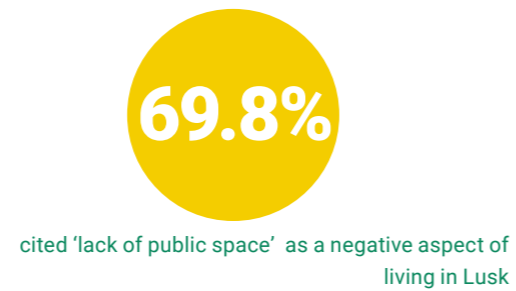
When discussing the challenges of residing in Lusk, respondents frequently highlighted the shortage of facilities and amenities in their respective areas, alongside limited employment prospects.

Specifically, 22.5% of survey participants identified 'lack of facilities/amenities' as the primary challenge of living in Lusk.

The absence of small enterprises (74.2%) and limited availability of public spaces (69.8%) in Lusk featured strongly in survey responses. The number of respondents who cited employment opportunities (54%) was another notable outcome. Interestingly, fewer respondents noted 'Traffic Dominated' as a significant concern (33%) but a higher proportion of respondents (51.7%) noted that 'Footpaths are too narrow', almost half of respondents (47%) saw the lack of transport options as an issue.

Challenges of living in Lusk

- Scarcity of small businesses 74.2%
- Shortage of public space 69.8%
- Limited employment opportunities 54%
- Narrow footpaths 51.7%
- Limited transport options for commuting to work or school 46.7%
- Few facilities for shared workspaces/ start-ups 34.6%
- Difficult to cycle and walk to amenities 34%
- Traffic dominated 32.6%
- High number of empty buildings 30.9%
- Air and noise pollution 11.7%



What do you like about the town now?

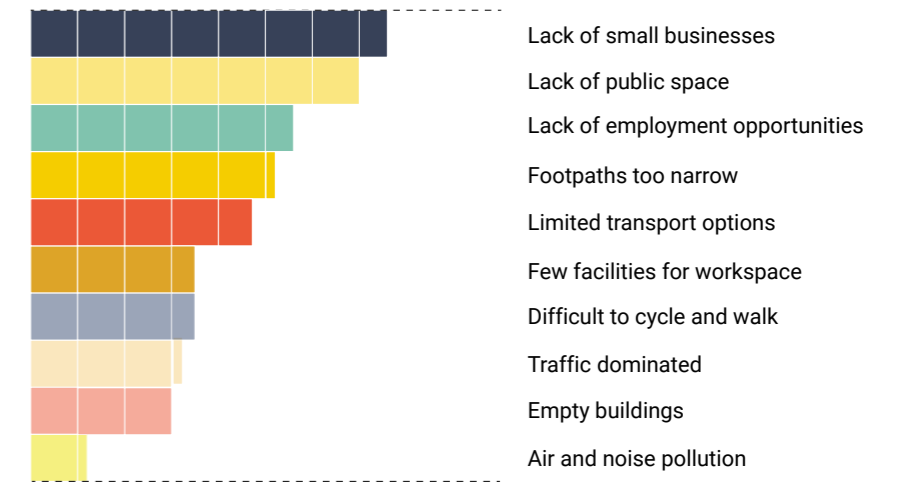
What do you like about the town now?

The main elements highlighted as positive aspects to living in Lusk were proximity to nature (61.1%) and history and heritage (64.1%). Almost half of respondents also like the exercise loop (49.4%). The architectural landscape received low ratings, with only 12.4% expressing appreciation for the buildings, and 12.2% expressing satisfaction with the housing estates.

When asked to identify the most positive aspect of living in Lusk, people and community spirit came across strongly. **26% cited 'community' as the most positive aspect of living in Lusk.**

Positive aspects of living in Lusk

- Its history and heritage 64.1%
- Proximity to nature 61.1%
- The exercise loop 49.4%
- Volunteerism / community spirit 43.1%
- Proximity to Dublin city 40.3%
- The beach 34.3%
- The buildings 12.4%
- Housing estates 12.2%
- Pubs 8.5%



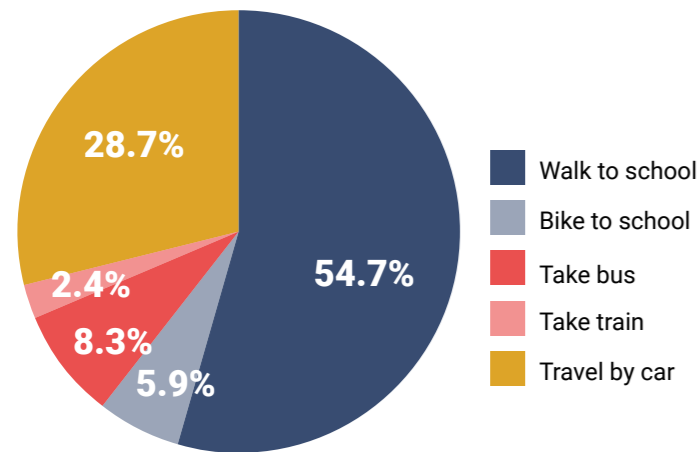
What are the negative issues you see in the town?

'It feels frustrating and upsetting to see our town's needs and our community being mostly ignored...'

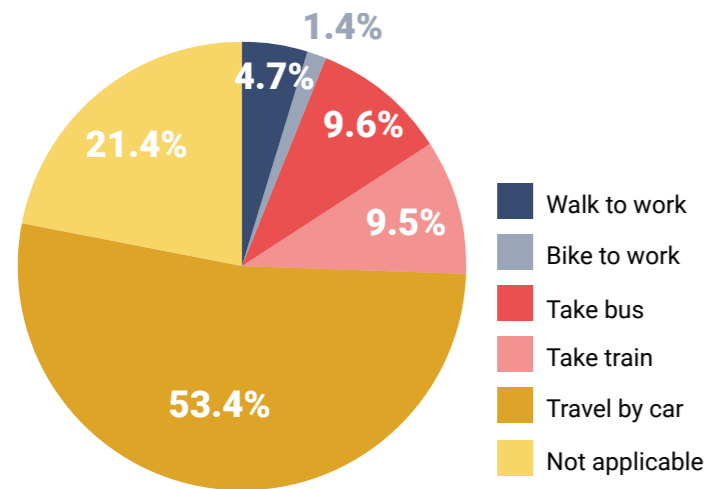
Respondent quote from online survey

Transport / Commuting

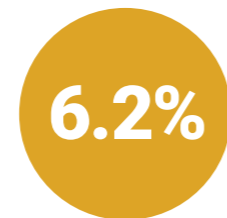
The survey response showed that a majority of children walk to school (54.6%), with a large percentage also travelling by car (28.7%). A majority of people travel to work by car (52.5%), 20% use public transport, just 4.8% walk to work, while only 1.4% of respondents travel to work by bicycle.



If you have children, how do they travel to school?



How do you travel to work?



Walk or cycle to work



Exercise along the ring road

Shopping

A large majority of respondents shop outside of Lusk, (note that the survey was conducted before the completion of the large supermarket on Station Road) with the largest proportion travelling to Swords to shop (64%), Rush was noted as the next most popular destination (21%). Balbriggan and Skerries also featured frequently as retail destinations. There was a notably low percentage (11%) of respondents who stated that they primarily shop in Lusk, many respondents expressed a strong desire for greater retail choices.

A number of respondents expressed a desire to shop locally, but said they had no choice but to travel further for more choice. Over 90% of respondents drive to do their shopping.

Socialising

Most responses state that they need to leave Lusk to find places to socialise, with Skerries being the most popular destination mentioned (24% of responses) and Swords also popular as a recreational destination (15.5%). Sports and sports venues are a notable option for socialising. It is also notable that people feel their friends won't visit Lusk as it is too far away and lacking in facilities, respondents noted that the cost of transport limits possibilities to go elsewhere to socialise.

Exercise

The ring road featured strongly as a local destination that respondents use for exercise (28%), as well as walking on country lanes. The Sports Hub is mentioned by 18% of respondents. Many people travel outside Lusk to exercise, for example to Skerries, Rush, Newbridge, Ardgillan and to the beach. 7% mention using a gym.

'Lusk is seen as too far away for many of my friends to visit and why would they, we have very few facilities here to encourage them.'

Respondent quote from online survey



Do their shopping in Swords



Currently shop in Lusk

What is currently missing in Lusk?



Diagram illustrating the most commonly used words & phrases in response to 'What is currently missing in Lusk'

'In 2030, people in Lusk are proud of the town because...'



Words most commonly used by respondents when describing their aspirations for Lusk in 2030

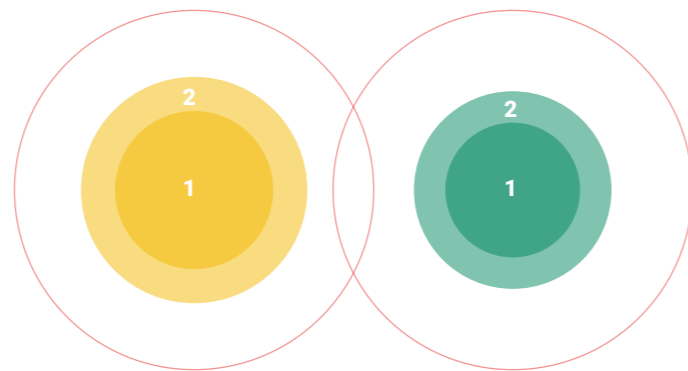
Emerging Themes / Vision

The overwhelming priorities emerging from the survey are **places to meet and socialise, outdoor public amenities**, and an increased sense of **community and connection**. Public realm improvements including **outdoor events spaces** and **outdoor places to socialise** have emerged as a very clear priority among respondents.

It is important to people that Lusk will be safe, with accessible outdoor amenities and sports facilities; a great place to raise a family and not just a commuter town.

Q.1 It's 2030 and Lusk is a really great place to live because...

- 78.1% - There are lots of places to meet friends and socialise in Lusk
- 76.8% - There are great outdoor amenities which are easily accessible
- 73.1% - There is a strong sense of community in Lusk
- 62.8% - It is easy to commute from Lusk to work in the city / other places
- 58.4% - There is a busy town centre with thriving businesses
- 54.2% - Many events and community gatherings take place in the town
- 46.2% - There are well used and high quality community buildings in Lusk
- 44.7% - There are less cars in the town centre and there is good pedestrian and cycle infrastructure
- 23% - There are shared co-working spaces available to make remote work more possible



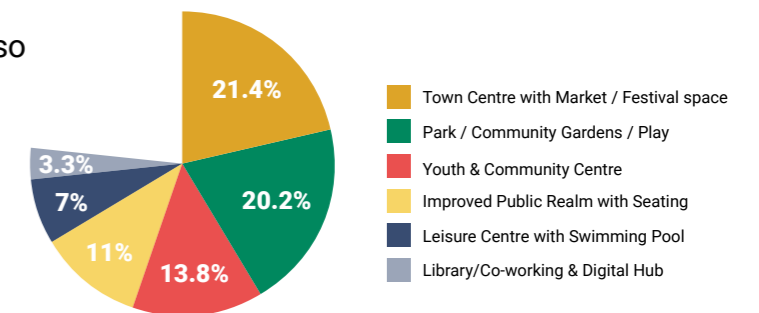
'Pleasant outdoor spaces for meeting and socialising' was listed as the Number 1 priority for 323 people (44%) and number 2 priority for 139 people (19%).

'Community Facilities and Events' was Number 1 priority for 276 people (37.5%) and number 2 priority for 129 people (17.5%).

Public Space

The key concern for public space was that it would be used by people of all ages and communities (85.6% response) and the key uses include gathering (68.%), events (70%) and markets (79.3%) as well as places to sit (76.8%).

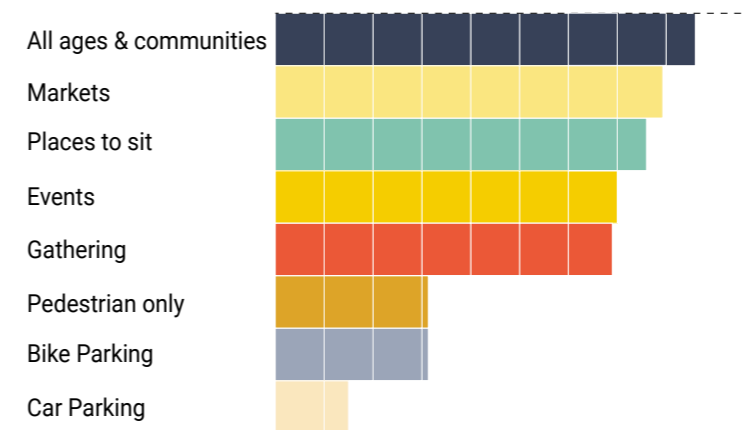
The most popular use listed when people were asked to add any more ideas about how public space could be used in Lusk town centre was a town centre with markets and festival spaces, followed by a dog park, skate park, community gardens and playgrounds. Improved public realm with places to sit was also a recurring priority. Preferred facilities including youth and community centre, leisure centre with pool and library / co-working space & digital hub were also listed.



Could you add any more ideas about how public space could be used in Lusk town centre?

70% of survey respondents listed 'Lack of public space' as a current negative issue in the town.

This was the second most important negative issue / challenge identified, with the highest response for 'Lack of small businesses' at 74%.



How does the public space in the town centre work in 2030? What is it used for?

'A community and village that cares both ecologically & socially for those that live there.'

Respondent quote from online survey



want 'great outdoor amenities which are easily accessible.'

TOWN TEAM PILLARS CONSULTATION COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Since their appointment in August 2023, the consultants have worked closely with the Lusk Town Team and Pillar Groups. The Town Team and Pillar Groups were established by the Fingal Town Regeneration Office in May 2023 to lead the delivery of the TCF Plan for Lusk, and to form necessary community representation to ensure the delivery of *Lusk for Life*. The Pillar group's themes are directly connected to the plan and form four groups:

1. Town Team

The role of the Town Team is to have oversight of the entire project and a wide understanding of *Lusk for Life* in the context of policy, available funding, future government strategy, large scale business interests and local lobby groups.

Town Team Chair:

John Quinlivan- Director of Services Economic Enterprise Tourism and Cultural Development, Fingal County Council

Membership:

Cllr Cathal Boland - Elected Member FCC
Cllr Robert O'Donoghue - Elected Member FCC
Cllr Brian Dennehy - Elected Member FCC
Eilish Harrington - CEO Dublin Rural LEADER Partnership
Siobhan O Donnell - Head of Public Affairs, Fingal Chamber of Commerce
Brian Arnold - Chairperson, Lusk Community Council
Lawrence Ward - Irish Farmers Organisation

The Town Team is supported by the Fingal County Council Town Regeneration Office Staff
- Declan Ryan
- Niall Kelly
- Martina Hilliard

- Aoife Browne
- Joanne Ryan

2. Business & Local Economy Pillar Group

The role of the Business & Local Economy group is to focus on supporting the existing businesses that trade in the town, to facilitate new enterprise opportunities for Lusk.

Town Team Chair:

Cllr Brian Dennehy - Elected Member FCC

Membership:

Padraig Howley - Howley's Butchers
Alan Idowu - WOLLYDEE Associates
Colin Browne - FICOM equipment hire
Ola Ibikunle - D TO LI
Mark Boland - Sceal Creative
James Margene - IFA
Martin Tully - Tully Nurseries
Gabriel Hoey - Country Crest
Michael Hoey - Country Crest
Dorothy Murray - Murrays Pub
Breffini O Donovan - Centra Dun Emer Lusk
John Wilson - The Village Store



Inaugural meeting between the Business & Local Economy Pillar Group and the Consultants at the Lusk Community Cultural Centre (image courtesy of Lusk Community Council)

3. Community Pillar Group

The role of the Community Pillar Group is to bring forward key projects that address the needs of community, sports, and recreation groups. The community Pillar Group worked with the consultants on the development of the Town Centre Plan proposals.

Community Pillar Group Chair:

Cllr Robert O'Donoghue - Elected Member FCC

Membership:

Brian Arnold - Lusk Community Council
Dymphna Sherry - Lusk Community Council
Mark McCann - Lusk Community Council
Karla Pinner - Black Ravens Pipe Band
Alexander Voronov - Lusk Action Group
Natalia Voronova - Lusk Action Group
Mark Boland - Lusk Action Group
Lynne Barker - Lusk Action Group
Ulla O'Riordan - Lusk Community Network
Pastor Habeeb Goodluck - Redeemed Christian Church of God RCCG
Leo McKitterick - Lusk Community Sports Group, Lusk United & Educate Together
Willie McGee - Lusk Community Clean Up
Tadhg Foley - Foroige
Nicole O'Keefe - Foroige
Darren Daly - Scouts Group
Jack Dennis - Lusk Judo
Clare Faulkner - Senior Citizens
Anna Les - Racecourse Common Res Assoc.
Michael Lenehan - Clonrath Residents Assoc.
Cormac McDonagh - Community Development Office, FCC
Paul Comisky - Lusk National School
James Magrane - IFA North Fingal Branch Chair
Aidan Arnold - Lusk Heritage Group
Tricia Lynch - Lusk Autism Friendly Towns

4. Public Realm & Climate Action Pillar Group

The role of the Public Realm & Climate Action Pillar Group is to advise regarding spatial and infrastructural projects. This group is being established in stages, based on the process of this plan going from inception to delivery.

Public Realm & Climate Action Pillar Group Chair:

Cllr Cathal Boland - Elected Member FCC

A series of consultation meetings were held with the following departments;

- Architects department
- Climate Action & Active Travel department
- Economic, Enterprise, Tourism & Cultural
- Development department
- Environment department
- Planning & Strategic Infrastructure department
- Community & Sports Development department
- Operations department
- Housing department
- Town Regeneration Office

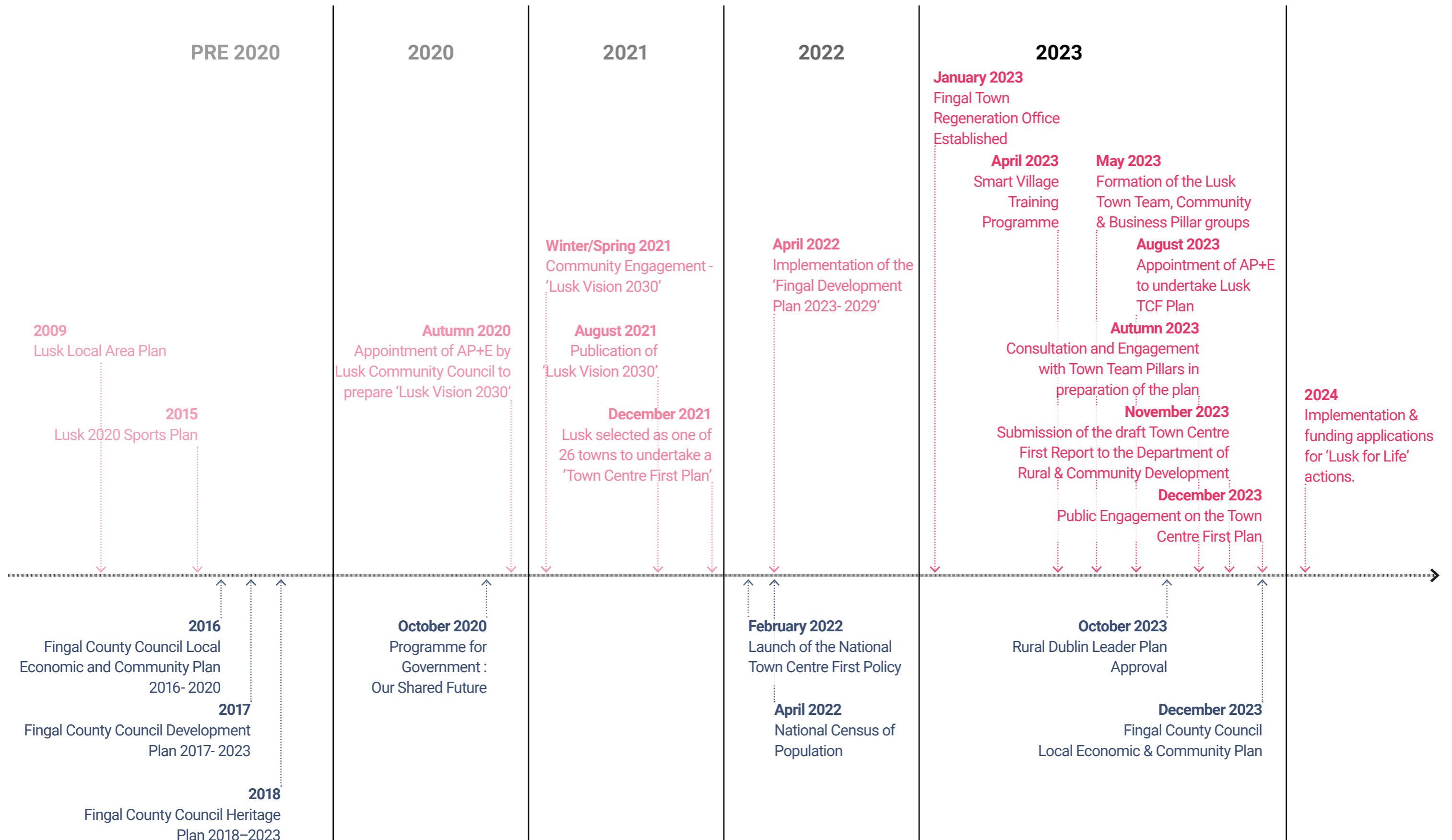


Community Pillar Group meeting at the Lusk Community Cultural Centre (image courtesy of Lusk Community Council)



03
/ DEFINING
THE PLACE

LUSK SO FAR TIMELINE



KEY SITES FOR LUSK DEVELOPMENT

Following on from the *Understanding the Place* analysis and the extensive community consultation, a number of key town centre sites have been identified which will have a significant impact on the future development of Lusk. Some of these are located in the historic town centre, while others are outside the original town core but offer key potential for green infrastructure and community amenities.

The peripheral sites, while outside the historic town centre are easily accessible on foot within a ten minute walk of the town centre. These are integral to the Town Centre First Plan for Lusk.

1. Station Road, Main Street, Church Road & the Round Tower

These main thoroughfares form the central spine of the town. As was identified in the community engagement, the town centre is not evident when you pass through Lusk. These streets need to be addressed in terms of public realm, biodiversity, seating, lighting, signage, parking, shop frontage to encourage a longer dwell time and bring locals and visitors back into the town core. This includes the area around the Round Tower, bringing focus on the rich built heritage and history of Lusk, and opening up the Round Tower to public access



Site 1 showing the sustained visual connection to Lusk Round Tower and the absence of any significant public realm in Lusk Town Centre.

which will require working directly with the Office of Public Works who are the government custodians.

2. Community Cultural Centre

Lusk Community Council have been developing this site adjacent to the Round Tower over a number of years and have delivered the Cultural Centre and Cottage Community Centre. Phase 2 of the Cultural Centre offers a chance to create more community rooms near the centre of the town. A series of community buildings clustered in the area connecting back to the town's focal point, the Round Tower, offers cultural and community amenities for all age groups and visitors.

3. Greenfield site & Car Park

These adjacent sites at the heart of Lusk are critical to the future development of the town centre. There is an opportunity here to create a much needed focal point for the town centre; a town square with reduced through traffic, combined with civic and community facilities. This key location, in close proximity to the Round Tower, brings the newer developments out on Station Road towards Rush closer to the established businesses on Main Street. The site is large enough to offer new places for people to live, work, shop and play close to a new town centre.



Site 2 illustrating the latent potential space at the heart of Lusk.

Options to be explored subject to full planning and archaeological site surveys, assuming that the site becomes available for development.

4. Healthcare Facility

The HSE operated healthcare facility on Main St. serves an important community service. However, as a critical site within the urban core connecting Main Street to the Market Square it's potential for future development should be considered.

5. Vacant site beside Costcutter Lusk

The derelict cottage and unused site beside the local supermarket is one of the few vacant buildings in Lusk. A redevelopment that combines town centre housing and retail would help support the existing businesses in close proximity. It also supports the green connection from the proposed new public realm to Thatcher's Way.

6. Chapel Farm Park

The current Chapel Farm Park is well placed to become a more intensively used amenity. Already easily accessible from the Chapel Farm estates and the Dublin Road, it has an attractive topography with views of the Round Tower and is bordered by a stream. However, despite its geographical advantages it suffers from limited



Site 5 showing the vacant site full of potential on Main Street within a number of existing businesses.

facilities, no direct connection to the town centre, and in a biodiversity context is a monoculture of grass lawns. A playground was previously located on this park but has been removed. Increased biodiversity along with recreational amenities would make this a key green space for Lusk.

7. Orlynn Park

Orlynn Park is currently the site of tennis courts in poor condition and an expansive grass area used as informal playing pitches. This park is embedded within housing estates yet easily accessible from the ring-road and town centre. It will benefit from tree-planting, increased biodiversity, upgraded paths, and the addition of picnic benches and bins. The park should be designed to be safe with passive supervision and lighting considered from the outset.

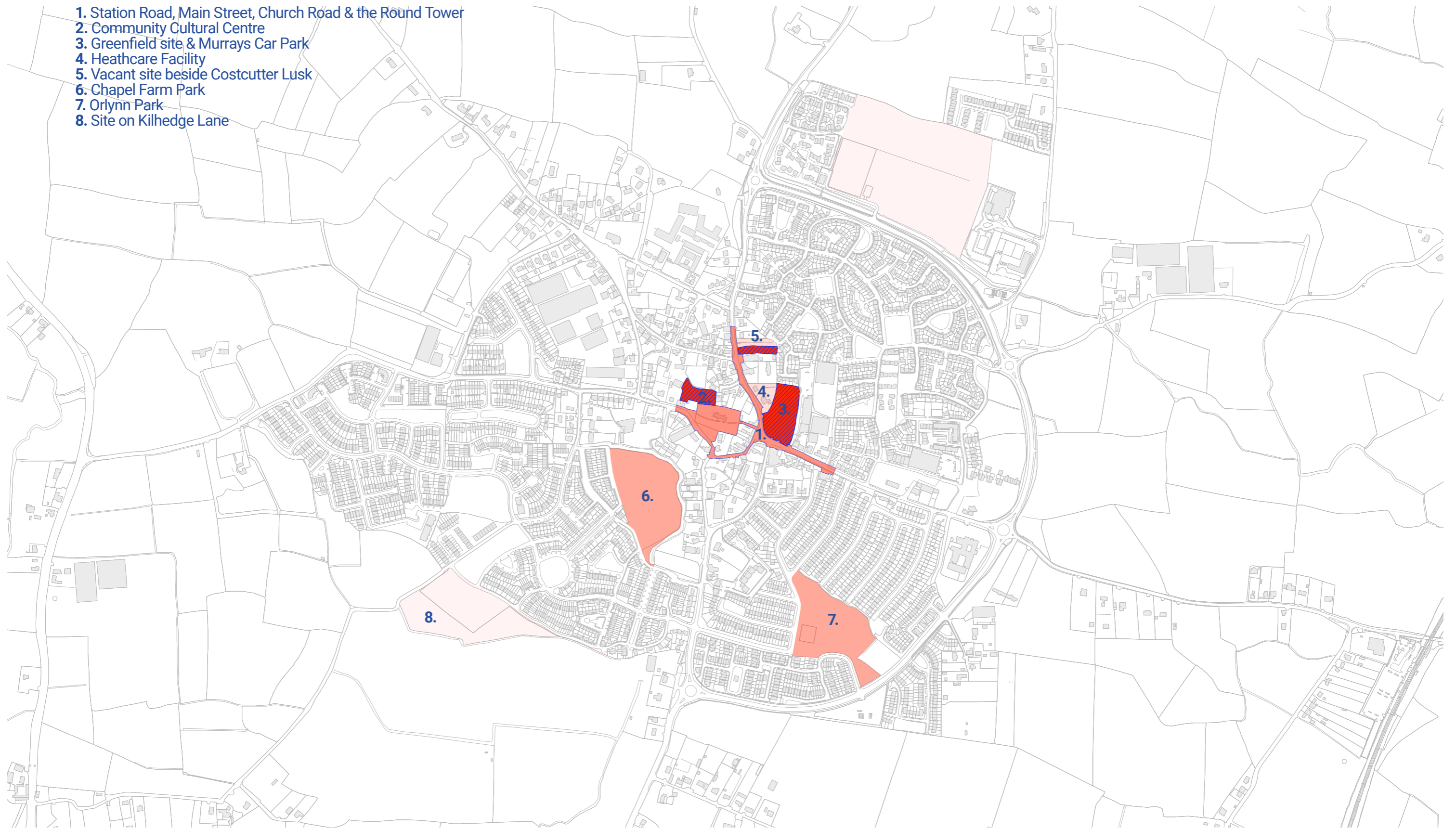
8. Site on Kilhedge Lane

This is a vacant green area, currently used a temporary pitch with banked soil on the southern and eastern edge. It has potential based on close proximity to proposed active travel routes, and its development would not impact adversely on existing housing developments.



Site 6 indicating key green areas, such as Orlynn Park, near Lusk centre that have the opportunity to offer more to all age groups and visitors of Lusk.

1. Station Road, Main Street, Church Road & the Round Tower
2. Community Cultural Centre
3. Greenfield site & Murrays Car Park
4. Heathcare Facility
5. Vacant site beside Costcutter Lusk
6. Chapel Farm Park
7. Orlynn Park
8. Site on Kilhedge Lane



Key sites for Lusk Development

SCOT ANALYSIS

STRENGTHS

- Young town with a large youth population
- Unique historical and architectural heritage in the town centre, such as the Round Tower
- Active community groups that have a successful track record in delivering built projects
- A stable not transitory population
- Established sports groups with own facilities
- Main road between Dublin & Belfast within 1km
- Proximity to Dublin Airport
- Proximity to key employment centres Swords & Dublin
- Proximity to local towns and their facilities, such as Skerries, Rush, Donabate and Balbriggan
- Diverse range of skills of population already living in Lusk
- Proximity to North Dublin food industry (which provides 55% of countries fresh produce)
- Economically active population
- Comparatively high-income levels
- Proposed Fingal Cycle Route
- Green amenities surrounding town such as Rogerstown Park, Turvey Nature Reserve and Ardgillan
- Train station connection nearby
- Strong performance in Tidy Towns competition
- Advanced plans for the development of Recreation Hub masterplan

This SCOT (Strengths, Challenges, Opportunities and Weaknesses) is a combined summary of responses from members of the Lusk Town Team Pillar Groups.

CHALLENGES

- No dedicated town centre
- Limited public realm amenities - street furniture, seating, bins, lighting, bike infrastructure, etc
- Limited non-sporting activities for young people / teenagers
- No business ecosystem or network
- Lack of large-scale event, activity or community meeting facility
- Aligning competing interests to an agreed vision for the development of the town
- Difficulty in finding and navigating the town centre and its attractions
- Limited knowledge of the town's rich heritage and history
- Festivals and events that do occur are limited in scale, scope and duration
- Incomplete cycle infrastructure
- Not many cafés and restaurants in the town centre
- Inadequate evening facilities to support nightlife
- Limited facilities, attractions and accommodation to increase resident or visitor 'dwell time'
- Underutilisation of green spaces near town centre
- Very few play spaces
- Underutilisation of designated lands for enterprise activity in town periphery
- Addressing climate change and sustainability in the town

OPPORTUNITIES

- Development of community-led *smart* strategy
- Develop 'third place' concept to facilitate community building, social inclusion and multi-generational interaction
- Harness social capital through volunteering
- Enhance community leadership and organisational capacity
- A variety of activities for young people
- Development of facilities for arts and creative activities
- Increase of daytime habitation through increased remote or hybrid working
- Create synergies and scale through collaboration and co-development with neighbouring towns
- Promotion of universal design to foster equal access and inclusivity for all
- Development of market facilities and infrastructure to promote direct sales of artisan and craft produce
- Create additional economic activity and employment activity through the development of micro-enterprises
- Improve cycling connection to train station and beyond
- Improved parking management
- Greater access to the Round Tower for all age groups and visitors
- Integration of nature-based solutions in amenity and green space development to mitigate climate impact
- Creating sustainable community facilities while also addressing climate change issues in the town
- Development of diverse public green spaces
- Increased tree planting to enhance climate resilience
- Improved public transport service

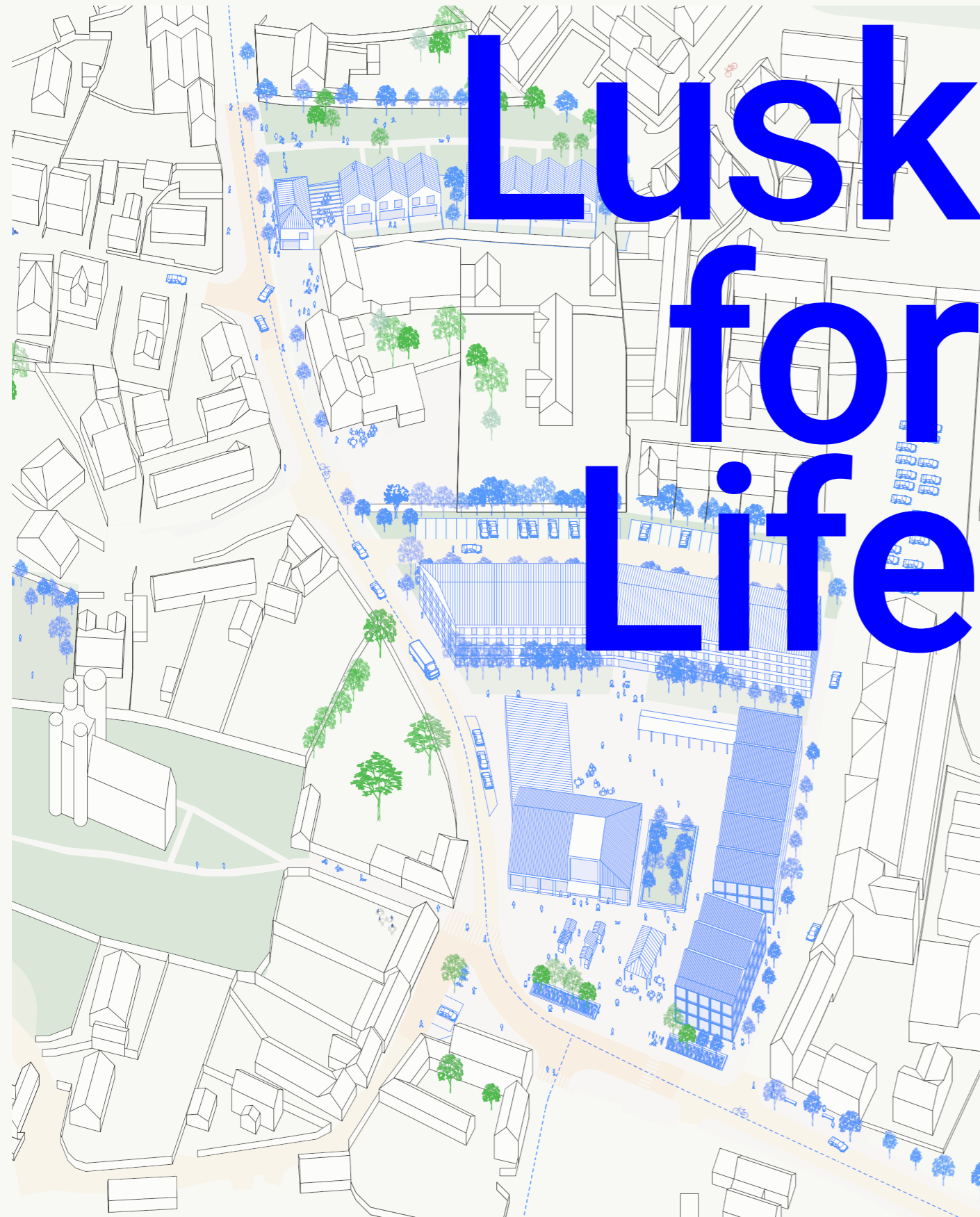
THREATS

- Loss of services and facilities to adjacent towns
- Lack of activities or centres for youth population
- Failure to develop public amenities, facilities and services to match existing and future housing and population growth
- Failure to directly engage with and benefit from available supports for community and business development
- Dependence on commuting for employment
- Limited retail offering
- Decline in already established businesses with no opportunity to grow
- Lack of employees for agricultural sector
- Limited access for the public to key historic structures
- The impact of climate change on local heritage
- Limited integration and synergy between existing older settlement and new town centre
- Continued dependency on private car as a mode of travel



04 / ENABLING THE PLACE

VISION STATEMENT
LUSK FOR LIFE



Lusk for Life:
a resilient, accessible and connected community in which our shared social, economic and environmental assets are sustainably developed to meet the needs of all within our community, now and for the future.

This proposed vision seeks to build on Lusk's strengths and opportunities and represents an ambition through which community vibrancy, economic opportunity, sustainability and liveability are enhanced over the medium term. The proposed vision is intended to provide strategic direction for the community-led development

of Lusk and as such it explicitly identifies and communicates a future outcome which can be achieved by aligning multiple themes, perspectives and stakeholder interests in support of agreed programme of goals, objectives and actions.

UNDERSTANDING A SMART STRATEGY

LUSK FOR LIFE

Thinking Smart

Placemaking is a people-centred approach to the planning, design and management of our shared spaces and communities. It involves looking at, listening to and asking questions of the people who live, work and play in a particular community to discover their needs and aspirations. This information shapes a shared vision around which a strategy integrating social, economic and environmental dimensions is then developed and resourced. Projects identified within a strategy, often small-scale and incremental, are seen as stepping stones through which quality of place and citizen wellbeing is progressively improved over time. While scale and population may differ, vibrant places are generally characterised by four essential attributes:

1. They are accessible, well connected & networked.
2. They have an attractive built, natural & cultural environment.
3. They are socially, economically & environmentally sustainable.
4. They are welcoming, inclusive and sociable environments.

Understanding Smart

While these attributes are constant features of great places, they can be achieved through a number of different approaches and methodologies. The *Smart* concept, as developed by the European Commission (EC), offers a viable model for a community-led development of Lusk. Based on the development of a *Smart Strategy*, this requires the engagement of and participation by local people in determining how best their local economic, social and environmental conditions can be improved. Priority is placed on innovation and collaboration and may also focus on the

solutions and efficiencies offered by new digital technologies. However, it is important to note that the use of digital technologies is optional; being simply one of a number of tools which can be used to develop capacity, competence, assets and resources. Social innovation¹⁶ and a stakeholder-led approach are prerequisites, however. Aligned and developed in tandem, these are foundational elements in the twin green and digital transition shaping the journey to carbon neutrality.

Thus defined, the *Smart* concept can be applied to different contexts - city, town or village, irrespective of scale or population. The delineation in this instance is somewhat fluid without specific limitation or restriction with the term *Smart Village* better defining a concept rather than geography, scale, urban character or proximity. Though evidently a town, as defined by land cover and population, Lusk and its rural hinterland meet the criteria set out for inclusion in *Smart Village* initiatives as defined by the EC as follows:

“rural areas and communities which build on their existing strengths and assets as well as on developing new opportunities”, where “traditional and new networks and services are enhanced by means of digital, telecommunication technologies, innovations and better use of knowledge”.

Aligning Smart

Launched in 2016, the *Smart Village* concept has now evolved to become a central theme in rural development policy. It is closely aligned with the LEADER approach; a key instrument for community-led local development based on seven

¹⁶ Social innovations are new ideas that meet social needs, create social relationships and form new collaborations. These innovations can be products, services or models addressing unmet needs more effectively. (Source: European Commission)

key principles explained as follows:

An Area-based Approach forms the basis for active stakeholder representation and decision making in a Local Partnership; a structured organisational and governance model with legitimacy, trust and unity of purpose through which a carefully articulated vision and strategy captures the priorities of the area and its inhabitants as a whole. Stakeholders are active participants and decision makers in a Bottom-Up participatory planning and development processes in which Innovation – new ideas, concepts, solutions and new ways of doing - shape priority actions and projects which are linked and coordinated as a coherent whole to create an Integrated Multi-sectoral Strategy. This holistic approach creates synergies, dependencies and the capacity for collaboration that forms the basis for Networking through which ideas, knowledge and resources are shared and Cooperation is formalised through common structures, goals and methods.

Ireland’s CAP Strategic Plan which determines the scope and nature of Rural Development supports specifically states that *“once all the LEADER principles are applied, it creates the conditions for the development of Smart Village initiatives”*. Moreover, it explicitly states the requirement for *“the Smart Villages concept, climate change mitigation and adaptation and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be overarching elements of LEADER Local Development Strategies/Interventions”*. This is further elaborated in Our Rural Future: Ireland’s Rural Development Policy 2021-2025 which notes that *“the LEADER Programme will be a key policy vehicle to support the development of Smart Towns and Villages in Ireland, particularly through its community-*

led approach to rural development...to improve resilience, build on local strengths and maximise opportunities to create desirable places for people to live and work”.

Planning Smart

The LEADER Programme has three key interdependent themes – Economic, Social and Environmental – under which priorities are established and outlined in a Local Development Strategy (LDS) - a community-led plan designed in partnership with the local community to achieve a collective vision and support the sustainable development of the area. Though generally considered as a funding source, it is better seen as a methodology through which integrated, multi-sectoral initiatives can be progressed through a community-led approach; Development support provided through the programme often exists on a continuum which combines support for predevelopment, needs assessment, capacity building and networking through to capital development support and the integration/mainstreaming of these initiatives within a wider policy, development and funding context.

By way of illustration, a Smart Village Strategy supported under the LEADER Programme could combine projects developed under multiple of the following themes:



Implementing Smart

The *Smart Village* concept already has some traction in Lusk, having been selected as a participant area in a pilot Smart Village Training Programme in 2023. Planned and resourced by Fingal LEADER Partnership, this programme has already provided capacity building, strategic planning support and information resources to the community to enable it develop a community-led *Smart Village Action Plan*. Core themes explored through in-person and online events included *Networking, Leadership and Communication; Digitisation; Health & Wellbeing; Social Research Techniques; Sustainable Tourism & the Local Economy; and Climate Change, Renewable Energy & Emissions Reductions*.



A programme manual, identifying five key steps – *Map, Engage, Identify, Target and Roadmap*, which was produced for the programme sets out the basis for the development of a *Smart Village* Action Plan in Lusk. Though, yet to be done, there is now a significant opportunity to build on this progress and align and integrate the Smart Village process within the Lusk Town Centre First strategy. Done in this way, the *Smart Village* Action Plan becomes a powerful framework

for agreeing a shared vision; setting objectives; identifying, prioritising and implementing projects; understanding sequences and dependencies; developing partnerships and alliances; apportioning tasks and the identifying and managing key enablers and resources. Properly structured, the Action Plan will also help to agree schedules and timelines and allow outputs and impacts to be monitored and evaluated.

While the format for a *Smart Village* Action Plan for Lusk is not prescribed, it is recommended that the following core elements, aligned sequentially, will comprise a useful logic model:

- An agreed **vision**
- Underpinned by up to five development **themes**
- Each elaborated through a limited number of **objectives**
- Each delivered on by the completion of a limited number of **actions/projects**
- Each resourced by lead & supporting **enablers**
- Completed within an agreed **schedule**
- Monitored & evaluated through agreed **Key Performance Indicators**

Within the Action Plan, the use of SMART acronym will also help identify the most appropriate objectives and help prioritise the actions and projects through which these are achieved, ensuring coherence and strategic fit.



The suggested format is sufficiently robust to align the planning and delivery of the community-led *Smart Village* strategy with that of the wider spatial strategy in which Fingal County Council will be the key enabler. Seen in this way, the dependencies between each can be understood, the planning and development process runs in parallel and the prioritised projects are seen as complementary and interdependent; each of which build incrementally towards the attainment of the shared vision. Furthermore, scarce resources – stakeholder attention, time and money – are optimised to deliver scale and impact.

Funding Smart

The Dublin Rural LEADER programme, with the active engagement of Fingal Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and Fingal LEADER Partnership as Implementing Partner, will oversee and deliver the €4.7m LEADER Programme throughout rural Dublin for the period 2023-2027.

The recent approval by Government of the Rural Dublin LDS and its expected launch in early 2024 provides a framework and supporting resources of €225,000 over the period 2023-2027 for the planning, development and implementation of Smart Village strategies through the LEADER programme. In addition to this, the Dublin Rural LEADER LDS has the capacity to provide additional support and funding for complementary social, economic and environmental projects aligned to these Smart Village strategies in Lusk and elsewhere. Furthermore, an expertly planned, integrated, multi-sectoral Smart Village strategy for Lusk can expect to secure resources and funds from other EU and national mainstream development programmes to support social, economic and environmental development.

PROJECT THEMES

LUSK FOR LIFE

What are the Project Themes?

Building on the analysis of the study area and the insights gathered during the community engagement phase, the consultants have defined a set of project themes and objectives for *Lusk for Life*.

These have emerged as tools to structure the report and the *Smart Strategy for Lusk*.

These five project objectives (listed opposite), connect to each strategic action in Project Bundle 01 - Smart Strategy and Project Bundle 02 - Spatial Strategy.



Glasshouses, MacCullen's Close, Lusk.

Stakeholder Engagement & Communications

1. Stakeholder Engagement & Communications

A community communications plan to ensure all age groups living in Lusk are informed participants in the future development of the town

Community Implementation Structures

2. Community Implementation Structures

Strengthening & developing social structures within the communities, including the introduction of sustainable governance structures to develop community-led projects.

Business Implementation Structures

3. Business Implementation Structures

Increasing opportunities for economy, employment, enterprise, connectivity, wayfinding, digitisation & access to services.

Third Space & Social Capital

4. Third Space & Social Capital

Developing the potential for accessible community spaces in Lusk and increase shared community values.

Recreation, Amenity, Spatial & Public Realm

5. Recreation, Amenity, Spatial & Public Realm

Improving public realm & amenities for all age groups in Lusk Town Centre. Using the potential of existing natural sites and amenities to further develop the local shared spaces, recreation & sustainable transport.

SMART STRATEGY FOR LUSK

STRATEGIC ACTION								
Themes	Projects	Community Pillar	Business & Local Economy Pillar	Public Realm & Climate Action Pillar	Suggested Funding	Key Enablers	Timeline	
PROJECT BUNDLE 01 - SMART STRATEGY	1	COMMUNICATION PLAN - Establish Project Dissemination Plan across all three Pillars following on from <i>Lusk for Life</i> delivery. To include Town Hall Meetings, Project Updates and Social Media presence.			Leader / LEO / Fingal Co Co	Lusk Community Pillar / Lusk Business & Local Economy Pillar / Lusk Public Realm & Climate Action Pillar / Fingal Co Co / Fingal LEADER Partnership	Duration of the Project	
	Community Implementation Structures	2	COMMUNITY PILLAR GROUP - Agreement on the terms and governance of the Community Pillar group to form a representative community forum.			Fingal LEADER Partnership / Fingal Co Co Community Dept	Lusk Community Pillar / Fingal Co Co	3 - 6 months
		3	CAPACITY BUILDING - Capacity Building for Town Team - To include Universal Design, Governance and Management training.			Fingal LEADER Partnership / Fingal Co Co Community Dept	Lusk Town Team / Lusk Community Pillar / Fingal Co Co	6 - 9 months
		4	CROSS GENERATIONAL COMMUNITY COHESION - Intergenerational mentorship programme, sharing of crafts, skills between makers and younger generations.			Fingal LEADER Partnership	Lusk Community Pillar / Lusk Ladies / Mens Sheds / TY students	1 year
		5	KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE NIGHTS - Access to information about grants, learning from other towns & villages.			Fingal LEADER Partnership	Lusk Community Pillar / Fingal Co Co / PPN	1 year
		6	INTEGRATION/DIVERSITY/DISABILITY PLAN - Plan to be created to achieve greater understanding of diverse nature of existing and future populations in Lusk.			Fingal Co Co Community Department	Fingal Co Co Community Department / Fingal Co Co Integration Officer	1 year
		7	FACILITIES AUDIT - Carry out facilities audit of Lusk, including to undertake a comprehensive community facilities audit and gap analysis with recommendations to include future proofing community needs.			Fingal Co Co Community Department	Fingal Co Co Community Department	1 year
		8	UNIVERSAL ACCESS & INTEGRATION - Lusk to become an Autism Friendly Town, this includes working with local businesses to include visual guides, sensory garden, Autism Friendly champions and communication boards in public green areas.			Fingal LEADER Partnership / ASIAM / Pobal	Lusk Autism Friendly Committee / Lusk Community Pillar / Lusk Business & Local Economy Pillar / Fingal Co Co / FCC Integration Officer / Love Lusk	2 - 3 years
		9	LUSK IDENTITY - Commission team for long-term identity and rebranding for Lusk, working with existing digital networks and infrastructure.			Fingal LEADER Partnership / LEO / Fingal Co Co	Lusk Community Pillar / Lusk Business & Local Economy Pillar / Fingal Co Co / Love Lusk	6 - 9 months
	Business Implementation Structures	10	BUSINESS NETWORK - Formation of Lusk Business Network and eco-system.			LEO	Lusk Business & Local Economy Pillar / Fingal / Fingal Chamber of Commerce	1 year
		11	TOURISM GROUP - Formation of Lusk Local Tourism group to review the tourism maturity offer from 'Pioneering to Enhancing' with a key focus on opening up the Round Tower to visitors. (Access will require OPW consent.)			Fingal LEADER Partnership / LEO / Fingal Co Co Tourism Dept	Lusk Business & Local Economy Pillar / Fingal Co Co / OPW	1 year
		12	BUSINESS MENTORSHIP - Develop and promote Training and Business Mentorship Program.			Fingal LEADER Partnership / LEO	Lusk Community Pillar / Lusk Business & Local Economy Pillar / Fingal Co Co	1 - 2 years
		13	REMOTE WORKING STRATEGY - Develop strategy to support and increase remote working in Lusk.			Fingal LEADER Partnership / LEO / Fingal Co Co	Lusk Community Council / Fingal Co Co	1 - 2 years
		14	ROAD SAFETY AUDIT - Road safety audit to be carried out to best understand the needs for car parking in the town centre. Particularly addressing accessibility for all, needs with mobility and age-friendly parking.			Fingal Co Co	Lusk Community Council / Fingal Co Co	1 - 2 years
15		INTERIM SPACES AUDIT - Study to ascertain if there are spaces in the town that can be used/rented as 'Meanwhile' project spaces while long term community projects come on stream.			LEO / Fingal Co Co Community Dept	Lusk Business & Local Economy Pillar / Fingal Co Co	1 year	
Third Space & Social Capital	16	MAKERS SPACE/CREATIVE HUB - Review potential for Maker Space/Creative Hub in Lusk in underused existing buildings.			RRDF Cat. 2 / Fingal LEADER Partnership	Lusk Business & Local Economy Pillar / Fingal Co Co / Lusk Community Council	1 - 2 years	
	17	FARMERS' MARKET - Develop a strategy for instigating a regular farmers' market, including a scoping study on the most appropriate locations.			Fingal LEADER Partnership / LEO / Fingal Co Co	Lusk Business & Local Economy Pillar / Fingal Co Co	1 - 2 years	
	18	MULTI-PURPOSE COMMUNITY FACILITY - Scope out the need for the provision of large scale, multi-purpose, community, indoor facility for the town centre. Process to begin with feasibility study to understand the financial consideration.			LEO / Fingal Co Co Community Dept	Lusk Community Pillar / Fingal Co Co	1 - 2 years	
	19			SKATEPARK - Skatepark at Kilhedge Lane green area. (Subject to planning permissions and environmental screening.)	RRDF Cat. 2	Fingal Co Co Parks & Operation / Lusk Town Team / Lusk Community Pillar	2 - 3 years * Phase 1/ 2	
	20	Sports and physical activity Hub - Sports Ireland & Irish Sports Council. (Subject to planning permissions & environmental screening.)		LUSK RECREATION HUB	RRDF Cat. 2	Lusk Community Sports Group / Fingal Sports Partnership	3 - 5 years	
PROJECT BUNDLE 02 - SPATIAL STRATEGY	Recreation, Amenity, Spatial & Public Realm	21	WAYFINDING STRATEGY - Digital and physical wayfinding strategy to include heritage and archaeological promotion, signposting and routeways, to connect Lusk's ancient and modern built heritage within the Architectural Conservation Area, while understanding the need to include disability friendly guides into the Wayfinding Strategy.			RRDF Cat. 2 / Fingal LEADER Partnership	Fingal Co Co / Lusk Community Pillar / Lusk Town Team / Heritage Council / Fingal LEADER Partnership / OPW	1 - 2 years
		22			STREETSCAPE UPGRADE - Benches, bins, lighting, painting upgrades, planting in accordance with Fingal Co Co best practice/guidance.	RRDF Cat. 2	Fingal Co Co / Lusk Town Team	1 - 3 years
		23			CENTRAL PARKS - Chapel Farm & Orlynn Park to be upgraded with pathways, shelter, MUGA pitches & biodiversity planting. (Subject to planning permissions and environmental screening.)	RRDF Cat. 2	Fingal Co Co Parks & Operation / Lusk Town Team	2 - 3 years * Phase 1/ 2
		24	LUSK COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTRE - Proposed expansion to Lusk Community Cultural Centre to include new innovation, work, performance and community spaces. (Subject to archaeological investigation, planning permissions and environmental screening.)			RRDF Cat. 2 / Fingal LEADER Partnership	Fingal Co Co / Lusk Town Team / Lusk Community Council	3 - 5 years
		25			ACTIVE TRAVEL - As per Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan including Greenway- connection to the train station, Rogerstown Park, and proposed Fingal Coastal Route.	NTA	Fingal Co Co Active Travel	3 - 5 years
		26			TOWN CENTRE PUBLIC REALM - Main Street to Market Square public realm and cycle infrastructure, pedestrian infrastructure, market space, climate mitigation and adaptation. (Subject to archaeological investigation, planning permissions and environmental screening.)	RRDF/ Dept of Housing	Fingal Co Co / Lusk Town Team	5 - 8 years
		27			TOWN CENTRE BUILDINGS - Town Centre Plan Youth Community and Commercial Buildings, fronting onto new town square, at the town centre. (Subject to archaeological investigation, planning permissions and environmental screening.)	RRDF/ Dept of Housing	Fingal Co Co / Lusk Community Pillar	5 - 8 years
		28			EDIBLE STREETSCAPE - 2,030 Trees for Lusk, strategy to increase biodiversity within Lusk.	Fingal LEADER Partnership / Pobal	Lusk Community Pillar / Lusk Town Team / Fingal Co Co / Teagasc / EPA / Heritage Council	5 - 8 years

**/ PROJECT
BUNDLE 01
SMART STRATEGY**

STRATEGIC ACTION

Themes	Projects	Community Pillar	Business & Local Economy Pillar	Public Realm & Climate Action Pillar	Suggested Funding	Key Enablers	Timeline	
PROJECT BUNDLE 01 - SMART STRATEGY	Stakeholder Engagement & Communications	1	COMMUNICATION PLAN - Establish Project Dissemination Plan across all three Pillars following on from <i>Lusk for Life</i> delivery. To include Town Hall Meetings, Project Updates and Social Media presence.		Leader / LEO / Fingal Co Co	Lusk Community Pillar / Lusk Business & Local Economy Pillar / Lusk Public Realm & Climate Action Pillar / Fingal Co Co / Fingal LEADER Partnership	Duration of the Project	
	Community Implementation Structures	2	COMMUNITY PILLAR GROUP - Agreement on the terms and governance of the Community Pillar group to form a representative community forum.			Fingal LEADER Partnership / Fingal Co Co Community Dept	Lusk Community Pillar / Fingal Co Co	3 - 6 months
		3	CAPACITY BUILDING - Capacity Building for Town Team - To include Universal Design, Governance and Management training.			Fingal LEADER Partnership / Fingal Co Co Community Dept	Lusk Town Team / Lusk Community Pillar / Fingal Co Co	6 - 9 months
		4	CROSS GENERATIONAL COMMUNITY COHESION - Intergenerational mentorship programme, sharing of crafts, skills between makers and younger generations.			Fingal LEADER Partnership	Lusk Community Pillar / Lusk Ladies / Mens Sheds / TY students	1 year
		5	KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE NIGHTS - Access to information about grants, learning from other towns & villages.			Fingal LEADER Partnership	Lusk Community Pillar / Fingal Co Co / PPN	1 year
		6	INTEGRATION/DIVERSITY/DISABILITY PLAN - Plan to be created to achieve greater understanding of diverse nature of existing and future populations in Lusk.			Fingal Co Co Community Department	Fingal Co Co Community Department / Fingal Co Co Integration Officer	1 year
		7	FACILITIES AUDIT - Carry out facilities audit of Lusk, including to undertake a comprehensive community facilities audit and gap analysis with recommendations to include future proofing community needs.			Fingal Co Co Community Department	Fingal Co Co Community Department	1 year
		8	UNIVERSAL ACCESS & INTEGRATION - Lusk to become an Autism Friendly Town, this includes working with local businesses to include visual guides, sensory garden, Autism Friendly champions and communication boards in public green areas.			Fingal LEADER Partnership / ASIAM / Pobal	Lusk Autism Friendly Committee / Lusk Community Pillar / Lusk Business & Local Economy Pillar / Fingal Co Co / FCC Integration Officer / Love Lusk	2 - 3 years
	Business Implementation Structures	9	LUSK IDENTITY - Commission team for long-term identity and rebranding for Lusk, working with existing digital networks and infrastructure.			Fingal LEADER Partnership / LEO / Fingal Co Co	Lusk Community Pillar / Lusk Business & Local Economy Pillar / Fingal Co Co / Love Lusk	6 - 9 months
		10		BUSINESS NETWORK - Formation of Lusk Business Network and eco-system.		LEO	Lusk Business & Local Economy Pillar / Fingal / Fingal Chamber of Commerce	1 year
		11		TOURISM GROUP - Formation of Lusk Local Tourism group - to review the tourism maturity offer from 'Pioneering to Enhancing' with a key focus on opening up the Round Tower to visitors. (Access will require OPW consent.)		Fingal LEADER Partnership / LEO / Fingal Co Co Tourism Dept	Lusk Business & Local Economy Pillar / Fingal Co Co / OPW	1 year
		12		BUSINESS MENTORSHIP - Develop and promote Training and Business Mentorship Program.		Fingal LEADER Partnership / LEO	Lusk Community Pillar / Lusk Business & Local Economy Pillar / Fingal Co Co	1 - 2 years
		13		REMOTE WORKING STRATEGY - Develop strategy to support and increase remote working in Lusk.		Fingal LEADER Partnership / LEO / Fingal Co Co	Lusk Community Council / Fingal Co Co	1 - 2 years
		14		ROAD SAFETY AUDIT - Road safety audit to be carried out to best understand the needs for car parking in the town centre. Particularly addressing accessibility for all, needs with mobility and age-friendly parking.		Fingal Co Co	Lusk Community Council / Fingal Co Co	1 - 2 years
	Third Space & Social Capital	15	INTERIM SPACES AUDIT - Study to ascertain if there are spaces in the town that can be used/rented as 'Meanwhile' project spaces while long term community projects come on stream.			LEO / Fingal Co Co Community Dept	Lusk Business & Local Economy Pillar / Fingal Co Co	1 year
		16		MAKERS SPACE/CREATIVE HUB - Review potential for Maker Space/Creative Hub in Lusk in underused existing buildings.		RRDF Cat. 2 / Fingal LEADER Partnership	Lusk Business & Local Economy Pillar / Fingal Co Co / Lusk Community Council	1 - 2 years
		17		FARMERS' MARKET - Develop a strategy for instigating a regular farmers' market, including a scoping study on the most appropriate locations.		Fingal LEADER Partnership / LEO / Fingal Co Co	Lusk Business & Local Economy Pillar / Fingal Co Co	1 - 2 years
		18	MULTI-PURPOSE COMMUNITY FACILITY - Scope out the need for the provision of large scale, multi-purpose, community, indoor facility for the town centre. Process to begin with feasibility study to understand the financial consideration.			LEO / Fingal Co Co Community Dept	Lusk Community Pillar / Fingal Co Co	1 - 2 years
		19			SKATEPARK - Skatepark at Kilhedge Lane green area. (Subject to planning permissions and environmental screening.)	RRDF Cat. 2	Fingal Co Co Parks & Operation / Lusk Town Team / Lusk Community Pillar	2 - 3 years * Phase 1/ 2
		20	Sports and physical activity Hub - Sports Ireland & Irish Sports Council. (Subject to planning permissions & environmental screening.)		LUSK RECREATION HUB	RRDF Cat. 2	Lusk Community Sports Group / Fingal Sports Partnership	3 - 5 years

PROJECT BUNDLE 01 - SMART STRATEGY

PROJECT BUNDLE 01 - SMART STRATEGY

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATIONS

Project 01 - COMMUNICATION PLAN

- Establish Project Dissemination Plan across all three pillars following on from *Lusk for Life* delivery. To include Town Hall Meetings, Project Updates and Social Media presence.

Timeline - Duration of the Town Centre First Plan

'Sense of community disturbed as a result of the rate of population growth in recent decade. A large influx of new residents, as well as amenities that haven't developed in line with this, and as a result the population of Lusk aren't overly familiar with each other.'

Respondent quote from online survey



Aerial View, Lusk Round Tower in the context of Lusk

Need

- Clear and effective communication of project aims and end goals to a broad demographic is essential to the long-term success of this project.

- Community buy-in; it is critical to the momentum of the project that townspeople can see progress being made on project proposals.

- The overall *Smart Strategy* is designed to be nimble, so elements will need to adjust over time and involve the community at large, the communication plan needs to incorporate those future potential changes.

- The three pillar groups need to be open to new members who can bring new knowledge and fresh impetus.

- It was identified in a number of community engagement meetings that the public do not always feel informed regarding the progress of ambitious projects of this nature. Successes need to be clearly communicated.

- The project proposals include many aspects that require community leadership. Community groups, through the Pillar Groups and Town Team will need to take the lead on actions to ensure delivery of these projects.

Enablers

- Lusk Community Pillar
- Lusk Business & Local Economy Pillar
- Lusk Public Realm & Climate Action Pillar
- Leader
- Fingal County Council Town Regeneration Office
- Fingal County Council Community Department
- Pobal

Impact

- Ongoing communication and connectivity across these community groups will help support the understanding of the overall Lusk for Life project.

- An ongoing social media and public presence is essential for this. Full community transparency is required.

-The initial communications plan can develop and help inform **Project 6 - LUSK IDENTITY.**

Suggested Funders

- Fingal LEADER Partnership
- LEO

'The worry Lusk will be lost in a sprawl of housing estates and somewhere down the line we wouldn't recognise it anymore.'

Respondent quote from online survey

COMMUNITY IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURES

Project 02 - COMMUNITY PILLAR GROUP

- Agreement on the terms and governance of the Community Pillar group to form a representative community forum.

Timeline - 3 - 6 Months

Project 03 - CAPACITY BUILDING

- Capacity Building for Town Team - To include Universal Design, Governance and Management training.

Timeline - 6 - 9 Months

Project 04 - CROSS GENERATIONAL COMMUNITY COHESION

- Intergenerational mentorship programme, sharing of crafts, skills between makers and younger generations.

Timeline - 6 - 12 Months

Project 05 - KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE NIGHTS

- Access to information about grants, learning from other towns and villages. Invited guests from other towns to share successes and skills.

Timeline - 1 year

Project 06 - INTEGRATION/DIVERSITY/DISABILITY PLAN

- Plan to be created to achieve greater understanding of diverse nature of existing and future populations in Lusk.

Timeline - 1 year

Project 07 - FACILITIES AUDIT

- Carry out facilities audit of Lusk, including to undertake a comprehensive community facilities audit and gap analysis with recommendations to include future proofing community needs.

Timeline - 1 year

Project 08 - UNIVERSAL ACCESS & INTEGRATION

- Lusk to become an Autism Friendly Town, this includes working with local businesses to include visual guides, sensory garden, Autism Friendly champions and communication boards in public green areas.

Timeline - 2 - 3 years

'The Round Towers heritage site is the most pleasant site in the town, but it's ruined by anti-social behaviour, litter and graffiti. There is no signage to inform visitors or local residents to the significance of its history and there are no benches to sit on to enjoy the space. The town relies on volunteers to keep the graveyard clean.'

Respondent quote from online survey

Need

- Training and support is required to support the Pillar Groups in achieving the ambitions for *Lusk for Life*.

- By facilitating and assisting the existing ability in the Pillar groups; building capacity, enabling mentorship and accelerating knowledge exchange, the Pillar groups can lead and oversee the delivery of key projects.

- In all aspects of the community engagement process a number of key projects were requested and called for to both improve the community capacity in Lusk but also to facilitate new community connections and learning. The *Smart Strategy for Lusk* consolidates these into fundable and deliverable elements.

- The exemplars demonstrate that well-prepared groups and towns often benefit from repeated funding grants - those communities have a high level of social capital. Lusk's Community Pillar can become the focal point of this community cohesion and social capital within Lusk. Developing the skills to develop projects and support ideas is essential in successful town regeneration.

'There is a shared respect for the local environment and for shared communal spaces and facilities. People are inclusive, friendly and welcoming.'

Survey Quote, Imagining a Vision for Lusk in 2030

Enablers

- Lusk Community Pillar
- Lusk Town Team
- Lusk Business & Local Economy Pillar
- Fingal County Council
- Fingal LEADER Partnership
- PPN
- Lusk Community Council
- Redeemed Christian Church of God
- Irish Men's Sheds Association
- Lusk Ladies Shed
- Lusk Community College
- Irish Society for Autism
- Lusk Autism Friendly Committee
- Love Lusk

Impact

- Success of the project can be measured by those involved. Lusk already has a high level of social capital with 11.9% engaged in volunteerism in the town. This needs to be harnessed with adequate resources and skills to ensure community representatives in Lusk are equipped to lead on and deliver the projects needed to enhance the town.

- *Lusk for Life* can be an opportunity to develop that even further, enabling new groups to form, and to strengthen existing groups. Training and capacity building the Community Pillars will also help support that growth.

Suggested Funders

- Fingal LEADER Partnership
- Fingal County Council Community Department
- LEO
- ASIAM

EXEMPLAR - SOCIAL CAPITAL

MULRANNY COMMUNITY FUTURES, COUNTY MAYO

As it emerged from the 2008-2010 recession, Mulranny sought a new model for community planning and sustainable socio-economic development. It adopted the *Community Futures* model which encourages and enables widespread community participation in the preparation of a five-year Action Plan. This Action Plan enabled the town residents to assess its current context and articulate a vision for the future which in turn would be supported through the implementation of a future-oriented development strategy.

The planning, implementation and review of the Action Plan was shaped by an extensive participatory process which included stakeholder focus group interviews; household surveys; socio-economic profiling and an interactive Futures Workshop. This has ensured the active participation in, and commitment to the plan's implementation by those central to its design, as well as to the identification and prioritisation of key actions. The vision for

Mulranny was built around its core strengths and four defined pillars of sustainability; Social, Economic, Environmental and Organisational. Organisational capacity and leadership capabilities have proven critical to the plan's success; which has allowed capacity and skills to evolve and develop over time. Initiatives and resources, though distinct and separate, were aligned to a shared vision for the social, economic and environmental development.

Now in its third iteration, the *Community Futures* model has made a significant contribution to the social, economic and environmental development of Mulranny. The Action Plan became the main mechanism through which local projects were identified and subsequently aligned to regional, thematic and sectoral development initiatives and resources. In this way, the development process was incremental and iterative as it drew financial, network support and other resources from multiple sources over a medium-term period.



BUSINESS IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURES

Project 09 - LUSK IDENTITY

- Commission team for long-term identity and rebranding for Lusk, working with existing digital networks and infrastructure.

Timeline - 6 - 9 Months

Project 10 - BUSINESS NETWORK

- Formation of Lusk Business Network and eco-system.

Timeline - 6 - 12 Months

Project 11 - TOURISM GROUP

Formation of Lusk Local Tourism group - to review the tourism maturity offer from 'Pioneering to Enhancing' with a key focus on opening up the Round Tower to visitors. (Access will require OPW consent.)

Timeline - 1 year

Project 12 - BUSINESS MENTORSHIP

Develop and promote Training and Business Mentorship Program.

Timeline - 1 - 2 years

Project 13 - REMOTE WORKING STRATEGY

Develop strategy to support and increase remote working in Lusk.

Timeline - 1 - 2 years

Project 14 - ROAD SAFETY AUDIT

- Road safety audit to be carried out to best understand the needs for car parking in the town centre. Particularly addressing accessibility for all, needs with mobility and age-friendly parking.

Timeline - 1 - 2 years

'Employment opportunities can happen with a mixture of technology and ensuring that lands zoned for enterprise are developed for this use. We need higher value job opportunities to enable people to live work and socialize in the town.'

Respondent quote from online survey

Need

- As part of the community engagement both the Business & Local Economy Pillar and the Community Pillar both noted that few people are aware of the rich archaeological and built heritage of Lusk or the proximity to the unique agricultural hinterland that surrounds Lusk. A proposed wayfinding strategy will help address this, and generate awareness of what Lusk has to offer.

- The wayfinding strategy (**Project 21 - WAYFINDING STRATEGY**) connects a number of projects located in the Spatial Strategy will also inform moves to identify and develop Lusk's tourism offering.

- The establishment of the Business Group is a natural progression on from the Business & Local Economy Pillar and will facilitate the important measures to be taken regarding business growth and support in Lusk.

- Lusk has a high percentage of residents with access to high-speed broadband and as a result, work remotely from home. There is little evidence of demand for a remote working hub. However, an important objective of the plan is to encourage those that are working remotely to come into the town and spend time there during the working day.

- Lusk suffers from a lack of awareness of the heritage, businesses and events in the town. The 'Love Lusk' website could be adapted with specialist supports to form a clear brand identity for Lusk, which would align with signage and streetscape upgrades.

Enablers

- Lusk Business & Local Economy Pillar
- Lusk Town Team
- Lusk Community Council
- Fingal County Council
- Love Lusk
- Failte Ireland
- Fingal LEADER Partnership
- Grow Remote
- LEO
- OPW

Impact

- Business growth in the town needs to be nurtured and supported.

- Greater awareness amongst all age groups of events, heritage and enterprise within the town will help establish community pride and social cohesion.

- A clear identity for Lusk will help form awareness and visitor potential outside of the town.

- Mutual support amongst existing businesses will encourage shared resources and knowledge.

Suggested Funders

- Fingal LEADER Partnership
- Fingal County Council Tourism Department
- LEO

THIRD SPACE & SOCIAL CAPITAL

Project 15 - INTERIM SPACES AUDIT

- Study to ascertain if there are spaces in the town that can be used/rented as 'Meanwhile' project spaces while long term community projects come on stream.

Timeline - 1 year

Project 16 - MAKERS SPACE/CREATIVE HUB

- Review potential for Maker Space/Creative Hub in Lusk in underused existing buildings.

Timeline - 1-2 years

Project 17 - FARMERS' MARKET

- Develop a strategy for instigating a regular farmers' market, including a scoping study on the most appropriate locations.

Timeline - 1-2 years

Project 18 - MULTI-PURPOSE COMMUNITY FACILITY

- Scope out the need for the provision of large scale, multi-purpose, community, indoor facility for the town centre. Process to begin with feasibility study to understand the financial consideration.

Timeline - 1-2 years

Project 19 - SKATEPARK

- Skatepark at Kilhedge Lane green area. (Subject to planning permissions & environmental screening.)

Timeline - 2-3 years * Phase 1/2

Project 20 - LUSK RECREATION HUB

Sports and physical activity Hub - Sports Ireland & Irish Sports Council. (Subject to planning permissions & environmental screening.)

Timeline - 3-5 years

'I'm not convinced there is a strong sense of belonging as the level of amenities available in Lusk are minimal and people generally have to travel to shop or socialise. As a result, the sense of belonging is lessened as there is no continuous association with the town.'

Respondent quote from online survey

Need

- Following on from the *Understanding the Place* research in conjunction with the responses from the Community Pillar Group that there is an urgent need for additional spaces to be used by diverse age groups in the community.

- While there are a number of community buildings in the town, they are all at a small to medium scale which cannot facilitate the growing ambition of a number of larger community groups.

- A high level of the activities for the youth in Lusk are affiliated to sports. Currently, there are very few resources or activities available to children or adults not engaged in sports. The development of a Third Space offering to help build social capital outside of sports is required in Lusk.

- Using different congregational techniques such as a Makers Space or a Farmers' Market are not only methods to bring people into the town centre, but also a means to build social capital and develop Third Spaces.

- The Lusk Recreation Hub has been a long time in development; it is a hugely significant project for the development of the town and for the connected sports groups. This project is urgently needed. This project will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála in Q2 2024 for planning approval.

Enablers

- Lusk Community Pillar
- Lusk Business & Local Economy Pillar
- Lusk Town Team
- Lusk Community Council
- Fingal County Council
- Fingal LEADER Partnership
- Lusk Community Sports Group
- Fingal Sports Partnership
- Irish Sports Council

Impact

- Improve intergeneration relations, which will assist in building community cohesion.
- Stronger retail opportunities for small businesses and agri-food businesses through the provision of a farmers market.
- The provision of adequate community spaces will reduce anti-social behaviour.

Suggested Funders

- Rural Regeneration Development Fund Cat 2
- Fingal LEADER Partnership
- Leo

'No town centre, have to leave the town for most recreational activities.'

Respondent quote from online survey

POTENTIAL EXEMPLAR - THIRD SPACE/CREATIVE HUB BALBRIGGAN CREATIVE HUB - FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

The Balbriggan Creative Hub will form part of a wider regeneration project for Balbriggan, entitled, *Our Balbriggan*. Planning permission has been granted for the renovation and adaptive re-use of a historic listed building in the town, which will involve the creation of innovative art spaces, accompanied by digital learning resources, a courtyard, and an art gallery. The future potential of this project points to the importance of incorporating arts and culture buildings as part of a town regeneration programme.



'We desperately need a library that can serve as a community/ arts space and co-working space where people can study, meet, gather, work, be creative and go for quiet time'

Respondent quote from online survey

This building has also been designed and commissioned as a Third Space so that when built it will form an important facility and meeting point for the wider community. The initiative is to receive Arts Council funding of €330,000 over three years, under the Creative Places programme, to provide local people access to the arts in their own community.



EXEMPLAR - MEANWHILE SPACE THE GLASSHOUSE - OMVED GARDENS - HASA



A collection of glasshouse buildings in north London were successfully upgraded and converted into a local event and exhibition space to give a further life to the 320m2 of previously derelict agricultural buildings.

When the greenhouses went on the market originally, they were bought with the intention of being converted into a luxury restaurant, however following local objections, the agenda changed to developing a series of spaces for the wider community. As well as growing figs, jasmine, grapes and warmth-loving crops, the glasshouse is programmatically a blank canvas which can facilitate a diverse range of activities, including exhibition, musical performances, film screenings, workshops, talks, presentations, meetings, cooking demos, meals, yoga classes, etc. The project aims to explore the possibilities of this forgotten piece of the city whilst harnessing a local connection to the agricultural past, with community gardens also developing around the former glasshouses.

EXEMPLAR - MAKER SPACE BENCHSPACE, CORK

benchspace is Ireland's first non-profit, open access, creative hub offering industry grade tools, technology and business support for professional makers & creative start-ups. Established by makers for makers to provide affordable access to workbenches and professional standard machinery to hobbyists, learners, makers and designers, it is managed by a voluntary board and supported by a management team and volunteers. Surplus income generated from its activities is reinvested within the organisation for the growth and improvement of its services to makers.

Its facilities comprise over 450m² of open access, shared space and equipment, workshops, studios, member, conference and social space at two locations in the docklands of Cork City; each of which is equipped with

professional and industry grade equipment for Wood, Fine Metalwork and Digital Fabrication. A Multimedia Design Lab and Product Photography Suite are also available. Services and facilities are made available to members on a subscription basis, either on a monthly or daily basis as required. Aside from prototype and custom production, it engages in extensive upskilling and contract work.

benchspace has now evolved to become an important component of a wider enterprise and circular economy ecosystem, collaborating with many state enterprise agencies, the wider social enterprise, charitable and community organisations as well as the private sector to become an important advocate for maker-based enterprises, product design and circular economy.



PROJECT 19 SKATEPARK

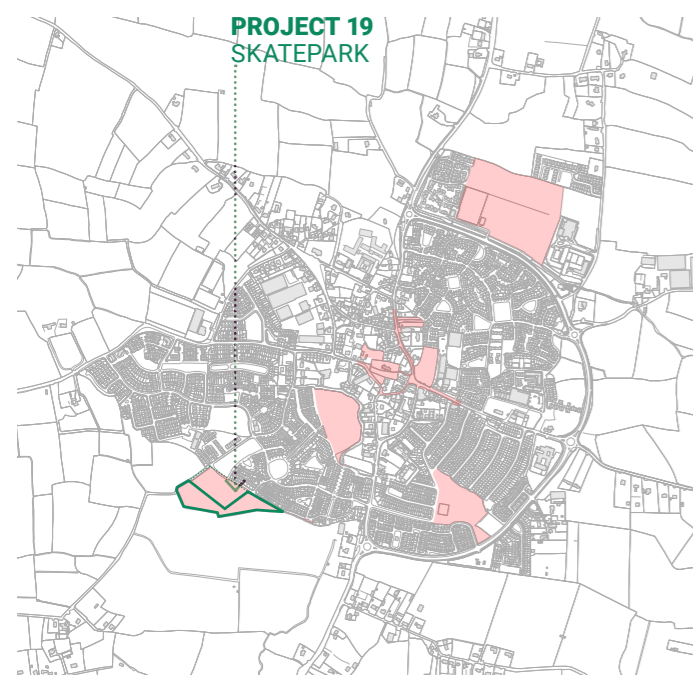
Project 19 - SKATEPARK

Periphery Parks Development - Skatepark at Kilhedge Lane green area

Timeline - 2 - 3 years * Phase 1 / 2

Lusk has a young population with an average age of only 33. This is due in part to the significantly high proportion of teenagers and young adults residing in the town. Community engagement was consistent in the calls to provide opportunities to take part in informal sporting recreational activities, beyond those programmed by sports clubs. Creating a skatepark where different age groups can gather and partake in outdoor activities would offer a space and a facility to successfully cater for this demographic. This amenity would allow for BMX use, congregation, picnics and support the existing field sports.

Using an unused green site located on Kilhedge Lane, owned by Fingal County Council, on



the southern edge of the town, that connects directly into the future cycle routeway (**Project 25 - ACTIVE TRAVEL**) was proposed in a Community Pillar meeting. This difficult site is ideal for this type of amenity. It is close enough to the town to be accessible, but not too close to potentially impact negatively on existing residential developments.

The skatepark would follow the accessible principals used elsewhere in *Lusk for Life* by incorporating **Project 08 - UNIVERSAL ACCESS & INTEGRATION** and would support the biodiversity ambitions by adopting the extensive tree planting scheme **Project 28 - EDIBLE STREETSCAPE**.

All spatial proposals are subject to planning permissions and environmental screening.

Existing green space used as an informal pitch on Kilhedge Lane



Road for proposed Active Travel route to Corduff National School



EXEMPLAR - SKATEPARK AT HOME - LE FANU SKATE PARK - BALLYFERMOT

Le Fanu Skate and Play Park has been an extraordinarily successful local project following on from an international architecture design competition. Located on a difficult site on the edge of Ballyfermot, the BMX-Skate park opens up a corner of the park to a new demographic and offers the youth of the area a space to congregate, socialise and learn.

Following extensive community consultation, an adjacent space for younger residents was realised, with the toddler area located at the entrance. Both these spaces work in tandem to ensure passive surveillance for the entire park. The park now has open access across 24 hours of the day.

'There are no designated gathering places for teens/youths, no skate park or even community buildings for youth groups to establish themselves.'

Respondent quote from online survey



EXEMPLAR - SKATEPARK URBAN SPORTS ZONE - AMSTERDAM - GLIFBERG LYKKE



The Urban Sports Zone is built on Zeeburgereiland, an artificial island located 5km west of Amsterdam City Center, and is part of a newly developed residential area. The overall purpose for the zone & skatepark is to make the area attractive to more people than just the local residents.

Due to the challenging topography of the artificial island, it was not possible to dig down into the ground and raised platforms were created for the integrated skate park instead. The Urban Sports Zone, which has been co-designed with local residents has been designed to create a welcoming and multi-purpose piece of public realm which promotes, play, active movement and meeting.



PROJECT 20 LUSK RECREATION HUB

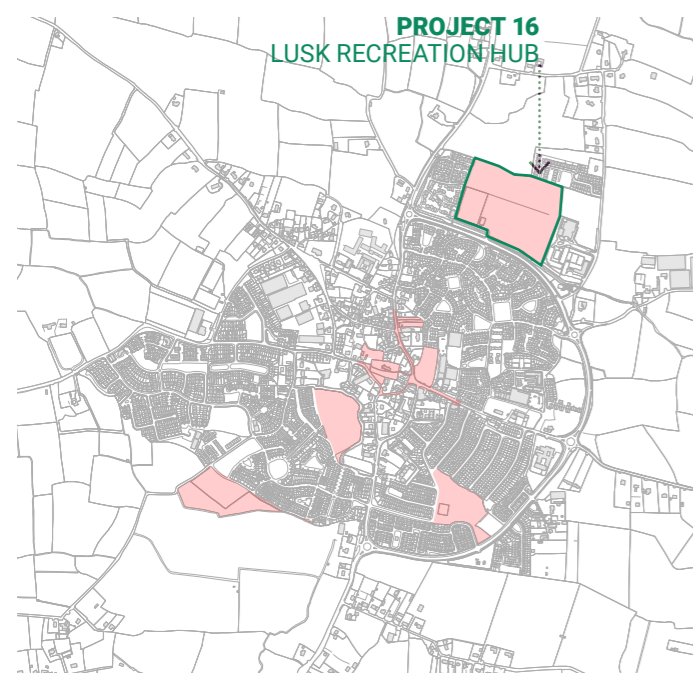
Project 20 - LUSK RECREATION HUB

Sports and physical activity Hub - Sports Ireland & Irish Sports Council

Timeline - 3 - 5 years * Phase 1 / 2

Lusk Recreation Hub is currently the most significant outdoor amenity space in Lusk, it is used by multiple sports groups. The **Lusk Community Sports Plan 2020** put forward proposals for developing this area as a mixed sports area. Some of those proposals have been implemented but the full scope and ambition of the plan will need to be updated.

The development of a high-quality running track is the focus of much community attention following on from the community engagement and needs to be a priority. There is also the opportunity to create links to the adjacent schools for access to their basketball courts in order to maximise its value across multiple sporting groups.



LAYOUT AS PER LUSK COMMUNITY SPORTS PLAN



**/ PROJECT
BUNDLE 02
SPATIAL STRATEGY**

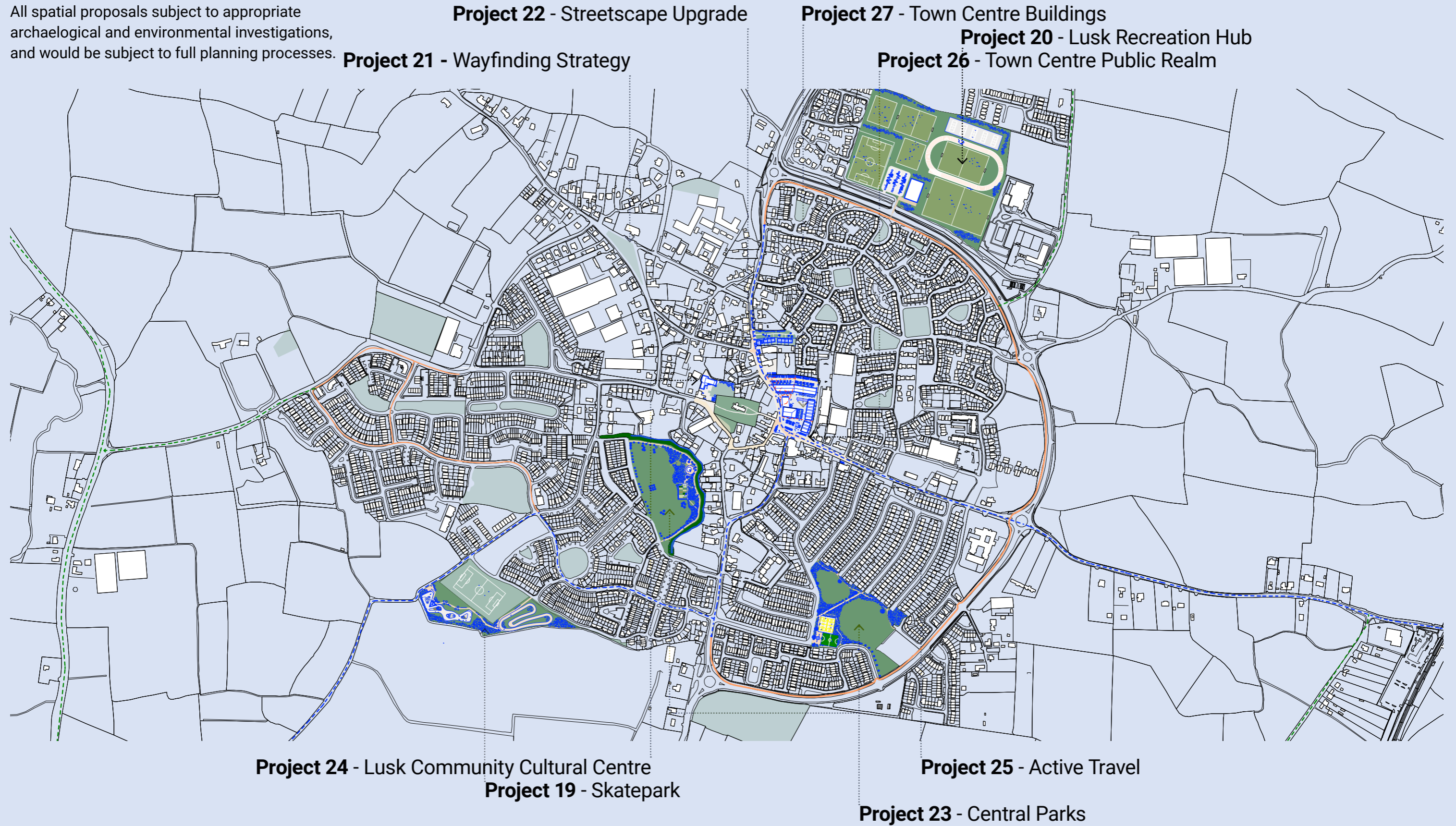
STRATEGIC ACTION

Themes	Projects	Community Pillar	Business & Local Economy Pillar	Public Realm & Climate Action Pillar	Suggested Funding	Key Enablers	Timeline	
PROJECT BUNDLE 02 - SPATIAL STRATEGY	Recreation, Amenity, Spatial & Public Realm	21	WAYFINDING STRATEGY - Digital and physical wayfinding strategy to include heritage and archaeological promotion, signposting and routeways, to connect Lusk's ancient and modern built heritage within the Architectural Conservation Area, while understanding the need to include disability friendly guides into the Wayfinding Strategy.			RRDF Cat. 2 / Fingal LEADER Partnership	Fingal Co Co / Lusk Community Pillar / Lusk Town Team / Heritage Council / Fingal LEADER Partnership / OPW	1 - 2 years
		22			STREETScape UPGRADE - Benches, bins, lighting, painting upgrades, planting in accordance with Fingal Co Co best practice/guidance.	RRDF Cat. 2	Fingal Co Co / Lusk Town Team	1 - 3 years
		23			CENTRAL PARKS - Chapel Farm & Orlynn Park to be upgraded with pathways, shelter, MUGA pitches & biodiversity planting. (Subject to planning permissions and environmental screening.)	RRDF Cat. 2	Fingal Co Co Parks & Operation / Lusk Town Team	2 - 3 years * Phase 1/ 2
		24	LUSK COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTRE - Proposed expansion to Lusk Community Cultural Centre to include new innovation, work, performance and community spaces. (Subject to archaeological investigation, planning permissions and environmental screening.)			RRDF Cat. 2 / Fingal LEADER Partnership	Fingal Co Co / Lusk Town Team / Lusk Community Council	3 - 5 years
		25			ACTIVE TRAVEL - As per Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan including Greenway- connection to the train station, Rogerstown Park, and proposed Fingal Coastal Route.	NTA	Fingal Co Co Active Travel	3 - 5 years
		26			TOWN CENTRE PUBLIC REALM - Main Street to Market Square public realm and cycle infrastructure, pedestrian infrastructure, market space, climate mitigation and adaption. (Subject to archaeological investigation, planning permissions and environmental screening.)	RRDF/ Dept of Housing	Fingal Co Co / Lusk Town Team	5 - 8 years
		27			TOWN CENTRE BUILDINGS - Town Centre Plan Youth Community and Commercial Buildings, fronting onto new town square, at the town centre. (Subject to archaeological investigation, planning permissions and environmental screening.)	RRDF/ Dept of Housing	Fingal Co Co / Lusk Community Pillar	5 - 8 years
		28			EDIBLE STREETScape - 2,030 Trees for Lusk, strategy to increase biodiversity within Lusk.	Fingal LEADER Partnership / Pobal	Lusk Community Pillar / Lusk Town Team / Fingal Co Co / Teagasc / EPA / Heritage Council	5 - 8 years

PROJECT BUNDLE 02 - SPATIAL STRATEGY

RECREATION, AMENITY, SPATIAL & PUBLIC REALM

All spatial proposals subject to appropriate archaeological and environmental investigations, and would be subject to full planning processes.



PROJECT 21 WAYFINDING STRATEGY

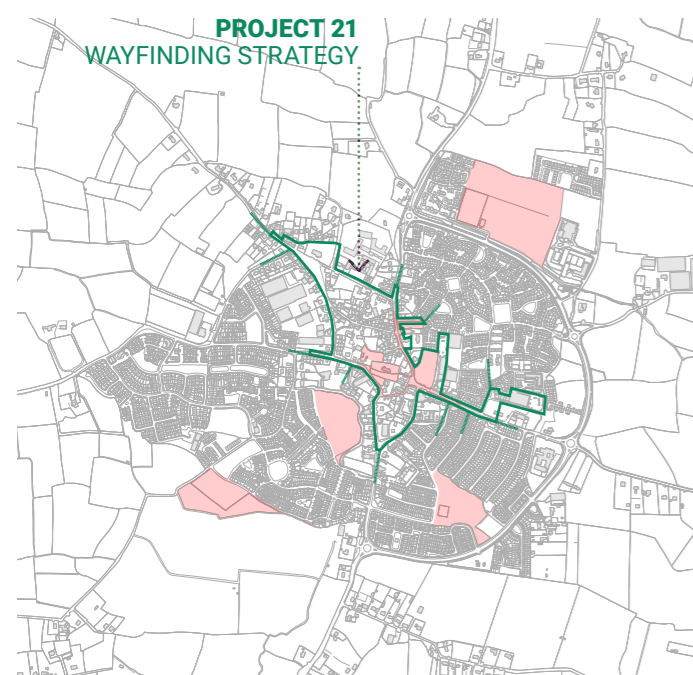
Project 21 - WAYFINDING STRATEGY

- Digital and physical wayfinding strategy to include heritage and archaeological promotion, signposting and routeways, to connect Lusk's ancient and modern built heritage within the Architectural Conservation Area, while understanding the need to include disability friendly guides into the Wayfinding Strategy.

Timeline 1 - 2 years

As a continuation of **Project 1 - COMMUNICATION PLAN** and **Project 9 - LUSK IDENTITY** Lusk town wayfinding strategy is a plan designed to help all age groups and visitors navigate through the town efficiently and effectively. There is a rich archaeological and built heritage in Lusk, but there is a limited knowledge of this heritage beyond the community.

Using a combination of both digital technology and physical elements, this strategy connects



to **Project 8 - UNIVERSAL ACCESS & INTEGRATION** which typically involves the use of signage, maps, landmarks, and digital tools to guide pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers to various destinations within the town. An example of universal access and integration would be to incorporate Communication Boards in green spaces and encourage Autism friendly shopping projects with local businesses.

'There is a huge amount of history in Lusk. Some heritage plaques around the town would be a great addition to the town.'

Respondent quote from online survey

'The town still has a fine character but this must be developed and promoted to give a strong town brand.'

Respondent quote from online survey



Lusk Round Tower dominating the townscape.

EXEMPLARS - WAYFINDING HOME & AWAY



A successful way-finding strategy is one that is legible and easy to recognise, both digitally and physically and is carefully integrated into the public realm as to not impose itself on the streetscape. Lusk is a heritage town, with an important history that should be shared in a non-obtrusive way for visitors and residents in Lusk.

There are a number of excellent exemplars of this in different locations both in Ireland and internationally. A number have been selected here including the 'People's Island' footprints embedded in the pavements near O'Connell Bridge in Dublin, by Rachel Joynt, the embedded wayfinding which remember a forgotten aviation pioneer Piet Soer, in his hometown of Havelte in The Netherlands as well as the iconic shells from the Camino de Santiago. An understated physical strategy combined with a smart digital strategy would set Lusk apart from other towns where heritage clutter has become an issue. The vision for the town centre of Lusk is one of a resilient, accessible and connected community in which the wayfinding can set the tone for how the town develops.



Wayfinding exemplars both at home & abroad including the Ode to Piet Soerplein in Havelte, 'People's Island' embedded footprints in Dublin & the painted shell on the Camino de Santiago.

PROJECT 22 STREETSCAPE UPGRADE

Project 22 - STREETSCAPE UPGRADE

Streetscape Upgrade Project; benches, bins, lighting, painting upgrades, planting in accordance with Fingal best practice/guidance.

Timeline - 1 - 3 years

Our Rural Future: Rural Development Policy

2021-2025 provides funding for a thriving rural Ireland which is integral to our national economic, social, cultural and environmental wellbeing and development, under the Streetscape Enhancement Project.

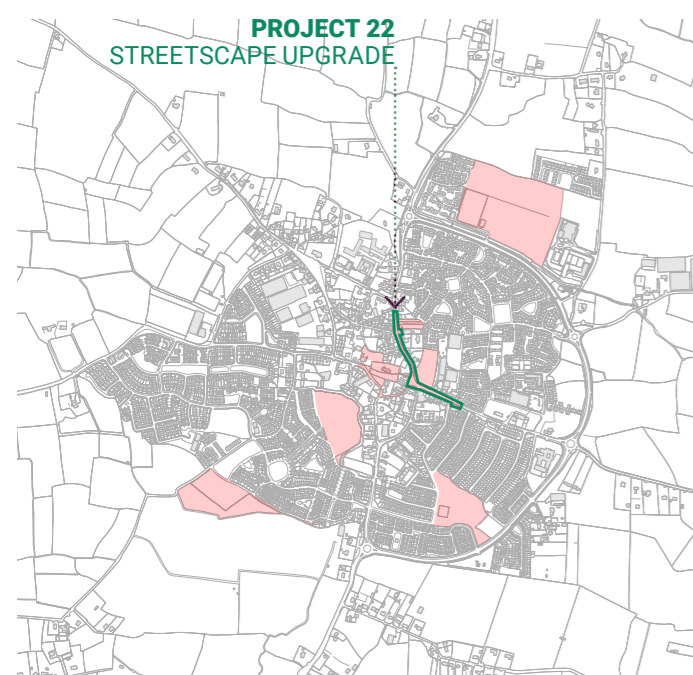
Streetscape Enhancement projects involve the revitalisation, enhancement, or redesign of the visual and functional aspects of a street or urban area. These projects typically aim to improve

the overall appearance, functionality, safety, and accessibility of a street or neighbourhood, often incorporating elements such as landscaping, street furniture, lighting, signage, pedestrian walkways, bike lanes, public art installations, and infrastructure upgrades. Fingal County Council have a successful track record of drawing funding & completing Streetscape Enhancement Schemes in nearby towns of Rush and Donabate.

A Streetscape Enhancement for Lusk would assist the local community to enhance the attractiveness and vibrancy of Lusk.

Additionally, it would be an opportunity to work with stakeholders including local businesses to incorporate the aims for **Project 8 - UNIVERSAL ACCESS & INTEGRATION.**

Main Street shopfronts in Lusk



Donabate under Fingal secured €40,000 funding for a similar project in May 2023.



Photographs by Our Type of Irish shopfronts including J. McGing in Westport, Hall's in Skibereen, J. S. Murray's in Knockcroghery & O'Connell's in Emly.

PROJECT 23 CENTRAL PARKS

Project 23 - CENTRAL PARKS

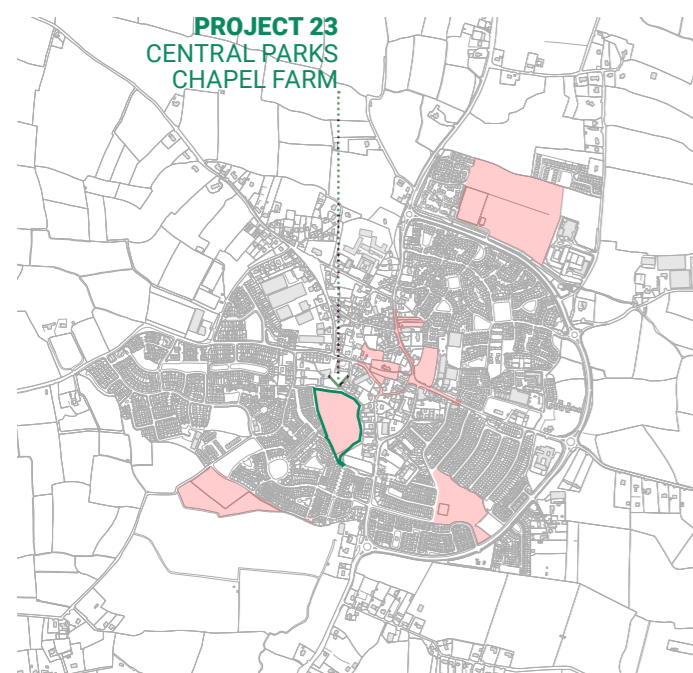
- Chapel Farm & Orlynn Park to be upgraded with pathways, shelter, MUGA pitches & biodiversity planting. (Subject to planning permissions and environmental screening.)

Timeline - 2 - 3 years * Phase 1/ 2

Chapel Farm

Chapel Farm Park is well placed to become a substantial amenity for the town of Lusk; it is very close to the town centre, easily accessible from the local estates and the Dublin Road, it has an attractive topography with views of the Round Tower and bordered by a stream. However, despite its geographical advantages it does not have a direct connection to the town centre. Currently there are limited public facilities in the park, but further additions would significantly increase the dwell time, enjoyment factor and use. The park is currently a predominantly mown grass with a tree lined edge.

A revitalised Chapel Farm Park could act as a



cornerstone project for the future green and recreational development of Lusk. A proposed pedestrian bridge connecting the Town Park to Macullin's Close, making the most of the proximity to the town centre. Building on the existing perimeter walkway, running alongside the stream, the addition of further trees and park furniture would benefit the future use of the park.

The key new additions to this pathway are increased seating points, streetlighting, bins and biodiverse planting. As part of the overall biodiversity strategy, Chapel Farm Park would benefit from an extensive tree planting scheme as part of **Project 28 - EDIBLE STREETSCAPE** and form designated 'no-mow' areas creating new biodiversity corridors without impacting on the potential archaeology beneath.

Directly connected to **Project 8 - UNIVERSAL ACCESS & INTEGRATION**, we propose a covered canopy area for outdoor entertainment beside a Sensory Garden. This would offer a much-needed quiet space in Lusk. As with both redeveloped



parks in Lusk, a Communication Board is proposed at the key pedestrian entrance points to Chapel Farm Park on Chapel Farm Avenue to signpost the activities that happen there. This is also connected back to **Project 21 - WAYFINDING STRATEGY**.

In conjunction with the Sensory Gardens, we propose Community Allotments. In almost all cases these are a very successful method of building intergenerational connectivity and promoting biodiversity.

The attractive stream which borders the Town Park is currently fully railed off, it may be worth exploring removing the railings to allow access to the stream as a biodiverse amenity and designating an area adjacent to the stream to provide a resource and outdoor activities.



'... a public garden for people to relax in.'

Survey Quote, Imagining a Vision for Lusk in 2030

'There are more places to safely walk and enjoy parklands away from traffic.'

Survey Quote, Imagining a Vision for Lusk in 2030

Current photos of Chapel Town Park - showing underused park and the potential for the town.



- NEW PEDESTRIAN & CYCLE BRIDGE CONNECTING TO TOWN CENTRE
- AUTISM COMMUNICATION BOARD
- OPENING UP EXISTING STREAM
- NEW SEATING AREAS
- COVERED CANOPY
- SENSORY GARDENS
- QUIET SPACE FOR LUSK
- COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT
- 2,030 TREES FOR LUSK
- NO-MOW AREAS
- STREET FURNITURE INCLUDING STREET LIGHTING, BINS, SEATING & BICYCLE PARKING TO FOLLOW FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL BEST PRACTICE
- INCREASED BIODIVERSITY
- AUTISM COMMUNICATION BOARD
- PEDESTRIAN CONNECTION TO TOWN CENTRE VIA DUBLIN ROAD



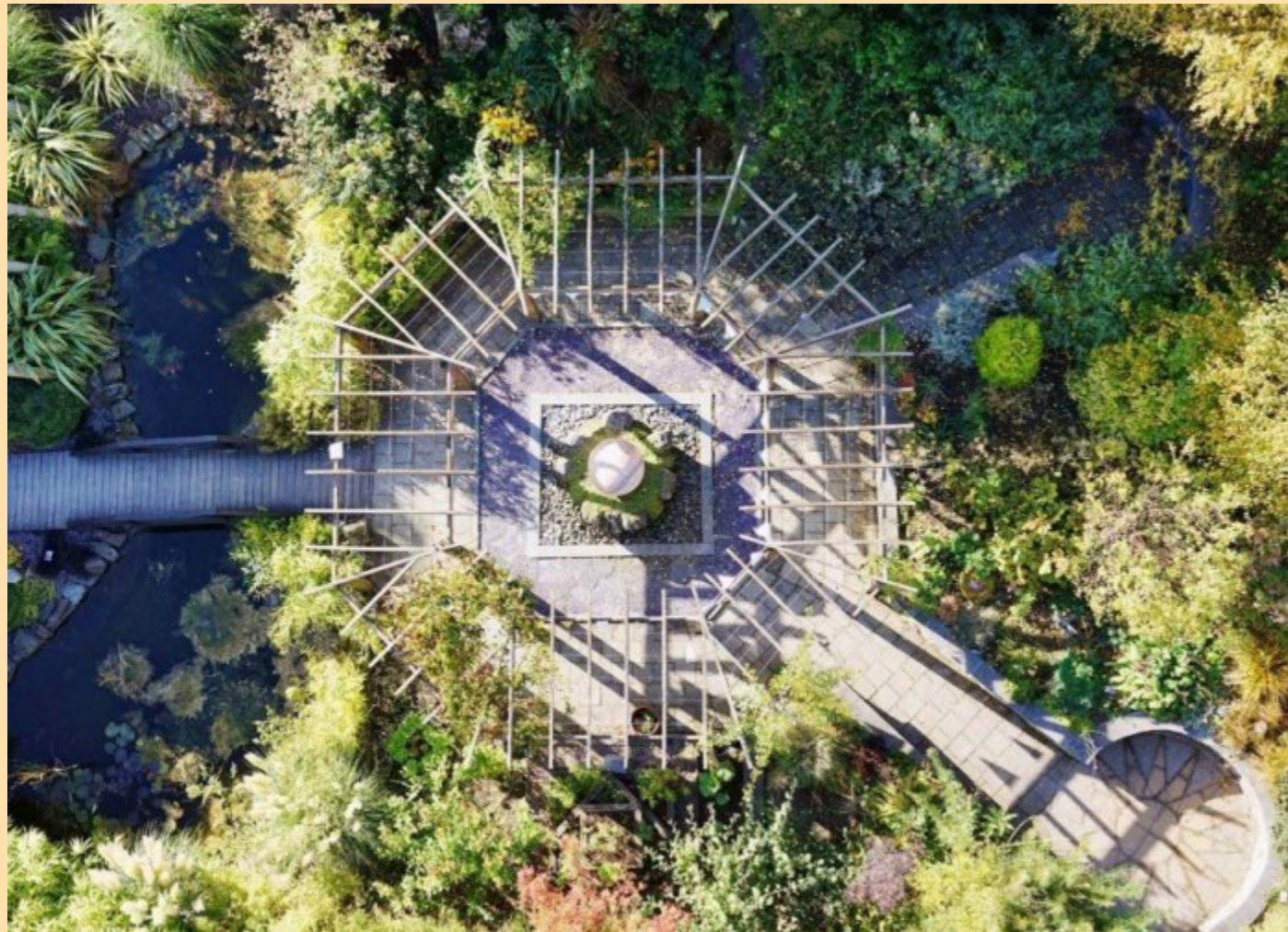
'Unless they are into sports there is nowhere for large number of young people can use on a daily basis.'

Respondent quote from online survey



EXEMPLARS - SENSORY GARDENS

DELTA SENSORY GARDENS



The Delta Sensory Gardens, part of the Delta Centre in County Carlow which provides training, residential, respite, day and multi-sensory services to adults with learning disabilities. Laid out on just over a hectare on the outskirts of Carlow town, the twenty gardens, many of which feature distinctive local cultural or heritage themes and influences, consist of a series of interconnecting gardens of a multi-sensory nature; each laid out to stimulate and engage the five basic senses of sight, smell, sound, touch and taste. An audio tour app is also provided. The gardens also feature a fifty seat café serving locally sourced produce and an indoor activities room; each fully wheelchair accessible.

The gardens, the first of its kind to be developed in Ireland, form an integral part of a countywide garden tourism network, which not only allow visitors to connect to nature but also encourages greater awareness of and interaction with the natural and built environment. Beyond its tourism, recreational and wellbeing appeal, the gardens are also an inclusive educational tool, particularly for children with special educational needs and are a helpful way of lessening some of the sensory challenges they may experience while also encouraging greater interaction with nature.

EXEMPLAR - GROWING FOOD TOGETHER

COMMUNITY ROOTS



Community Roots (formerly *Space to Grow*) is a volunteer-led initiative helping to tackle social isolation and improve health and wellbeing for all. It envisions climate-resilient and connected communities where every person living in an urban community is able to grow and share some of their own food. In this way partnerships and friendship can be formed between neighbours who have been long resident and those who are new to the community, bridging socio-economic, cultural and generational divides.

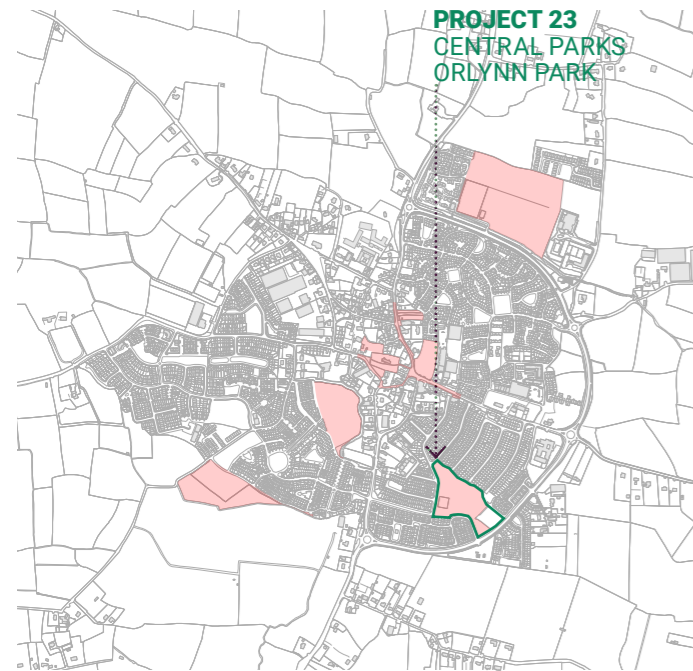
Currently operating as a pilot project in Dublin 7, it seeks to achieve its goal through multi-generational skill sharing where garden owners are paired with garden-less, budding growers living nearby and looking for a patch to grow their own food. A high quality raised bed, compost, starter growbox and an 'how to grow' online course are provided, as well as guidance and support throughout the experience – all of which are provided free of charge.



Orlynn Park

Orlynn Park is a residential park area, enclosed by housing developments including the Forge and Orlynn Park with direct access to the ring-road. Two tennis courts are located in Orlynn Park but these are in poor condition and require upgrading. along with expansive grass areas which are used as informal pitches. The park is currently well used by younger age groups with Lusk United AFC for training on informal pitches. There are a few clusters of mature trees, however it has the space and would benefit significantly from increased biodiversity. The tree-planting proposal connected to **Project 28 - EDIBLE STREETSCAPE** would work seamlessly in Orlynn and be very welcome locally based on the community engagement.

The Orlynn Park proposal clusters outdoor recreational amenities suitable for teenagers and young adults. One of the dominant responses to the community engagement was the request for more facilities for teenagers. Formal sports facilities within the town (sports pitches, running tracks, indoor facilities) are vitally important, but



so too are informal recreation spaces that allow locals to congregate and exercise outside of programmed training sessions. We propose a MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) for this site, along with upgrading works to the tennis courts so that the courts can also be used for both tennis and basketball. An integrated park design is proposed with upgraded paths, and the addition of picnic benches, streetlighting and bins. The park should be designed to be safe with passive supervision considered from the outset.

Clustering youth facilities supports mixed use by wider age cohorts. This promotes both informal games for recreation use and intergenerational connections. MUGA facilities in neighbouring towns have proven hugely popular, they include basketball and five-a-side facilities. These facilities would be open access and allow young people to use them without prior booking or club membership.

One key aspect of the design is the importance of inclusivity; 'Make Space for Girls' a UK based non-



profit organisation which campaigns for facilities and public spaces for teenage girls. Parks, play equipment and public spaces for teenagers are typically and unintentionally designed primarily for boys. The absence of safe spaces where girls can meet socialise and congregate is common. This absence has important implications for how active girls are, for their health in later life, and for how they see themselves as belonging in public spaces. The mixing of genders has positive implications not just in terms of health and socialising but also in reducing anti-social behaviour. We suggest that the design of Orlynn Park would be specifically designed with gender inclusivity at its core connected to **Project 8 - UNIVERSAL ACCESS & INTEGRATION**.

As with Chapel Farm Park, a Communication Board for Orlynn Park is proposed at the key pedestrian entrance points on Forge Avenue and through Orlynn Park estate to signpost the activities that occur in the park. The detail design of the upgrades to Orlynn Park should take cognisance of the diverse needs of park users and



Current photos of Orlynn Park - showing underused park and the potential for Lusk.

include disabled parking to facilitate accessibility. Even though the park is designed with local use in mind, there is value in including an amenity of this nature as part of **Project 21 - WAYFINDING STRATEGY**.

'Key to making space work for girls is talking to teenage girls, to understand their take on their local spaces, the barriers they face to enjoying these spaces and involving them in the design process.'

Make Space for Girls.
Make Space for Girls campaigns for facilities and public spaces for teenage girls.



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2,030 TREES FOR LUSK

INCREASED BIODIVERSITY

AUTISM COMMUNICATION BOARD

STREET FURNITURE INCLUDING STREET LIGHTING, BINS, SEATING & BICYCLE PARKING TO FOLLOW FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL BEST PRACTICE

NEW PATHWAY ACROSS PARK THROUGH EXISTING TREES

REFURBISHED TENNIS COURTS THAT CAN ALSO HOST BASKETBALL MATCHES

PROVISION OF FULLY ACCESSIBLE CAR PARKING

NEW 5-ASIDE MULTI-USE GAMES AREA PITCH

NEW SEATING AREAS

AUTISM COMMUNICATION BOARD

COVERED EXTERNAL SPACE - UNPROGRAMMED 'MAKE SPACE FOR GIRLS'

CONNECTION TO CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

'There is something for everyone, all ages and abilities can find leisure, cultural, social and sporting events / services.'

Survey Quote, Imagining a Vision for Lusk in 2030

'Spaces available for children to play safely - proper sports facilities.'

Survey Quote, Imagining a Vision for Lusk in 2030



Make Space for Girls, advocates for parks and public spaces to be designed for girls & young women & Freizeitanlage Westerholt Herten, Germany, a well lit park that stretches the daily use by DTP.

PROJECT 24 LUSK COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTRE

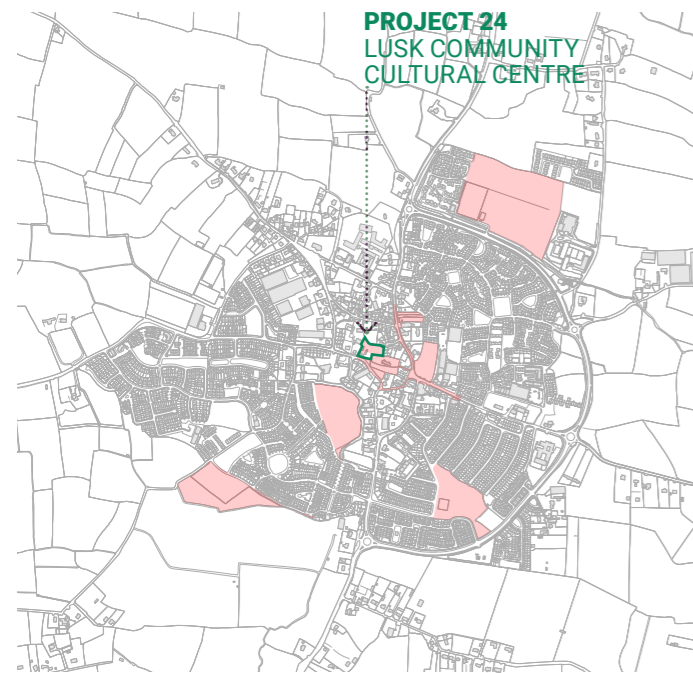
Project 24 - LUSK COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTRE

Lusk Community and Cultural Centre Expansion. - to include new innovation, work, performance and community spaces. (Subject to archaeological investigation, planning permissions and environmental screening.)

Timeline - 3 - 5 years

Lusk Community Council have a strong track record in delivering and managing community projects in Lusk. They have recently completed Phase 1 of the Lusk Community Cultural Centre on Church Road.

The development of Lusk Cultural Centre involved the conversion of an old cottage into a community space at the heart of Lusk, directly beside the Round Tower. It has been very well used in its first year open as a space for meetings, exhibitions, music events, cultural exchange evenings, classes and talks.



Lusk Community Council have initiated Phase 2 of the project for the Cultural Centre which includes community options under consideration. These new community and cultural spaces would be a welcome resource for Lusk, enabling the potential for the further development of enterprise and community connections.

All building proposals are subject to planning permissions, archaeology and environmental screening.



Meadow space to the east of the Lusk Community Cultural Centre being used as a learning resource.



The recently completed Phase 1 of the Lusk Community Cultural Centre both in use and from the outside.

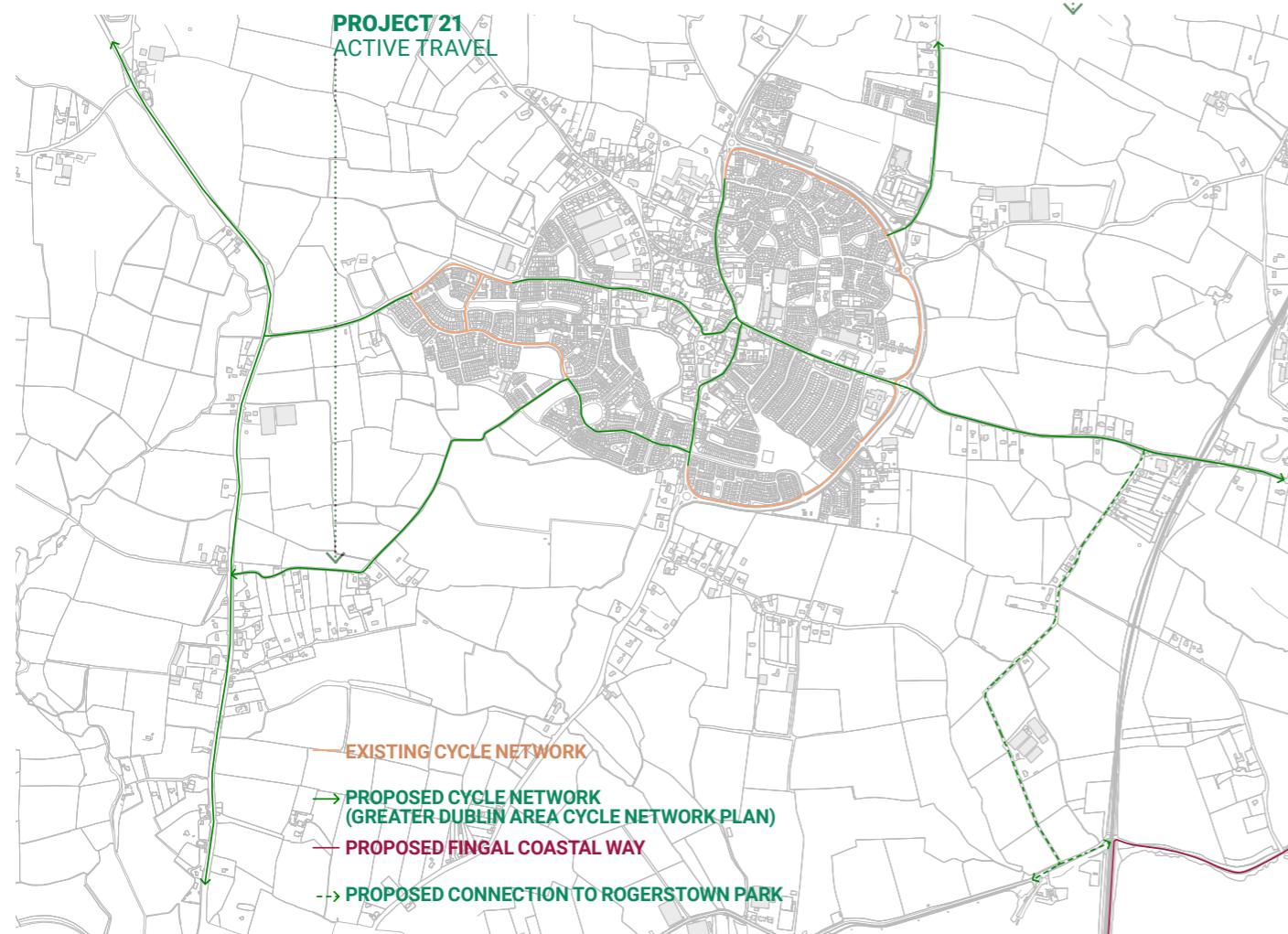
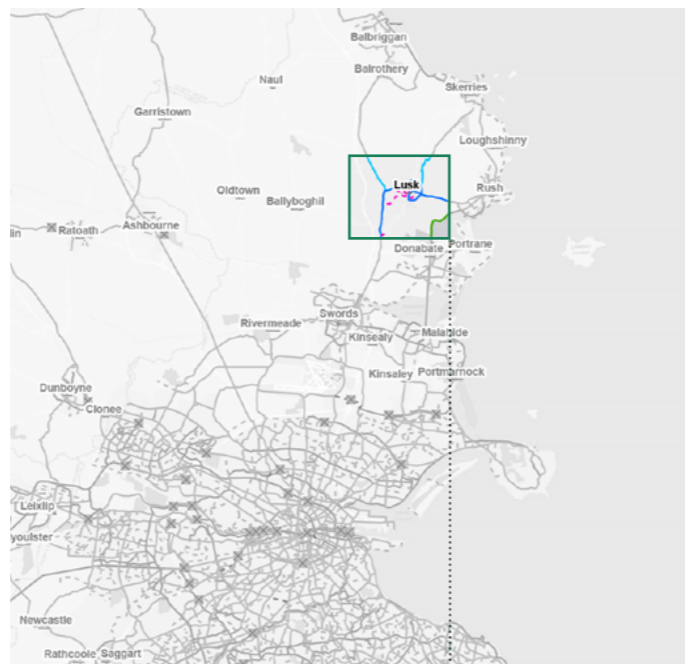
PROJECT 25 ACTIVE TRAVEL

Project 25 - ACTIVE TRAVEL

Active travel infrastructure as per Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan including Greenway-connection to the train station, Rogerstown Park, and proposed Fingal Coastal Route

Timeline - 3 - 5 years

The cycling infrastructure in Lusk is extremely limited relative to the road infrastructure network (please refer to Road Network page 63). Currently there is a cycle path on the ring road and an incomplete loop out to Minister's Road and back in via Dun Emer Avenue. While these cycle tracks are very welcome and do promote use, they are not connected and substantial



Proposed Cycle Network around Lusk, taken from 2022 Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network with additional spur connecting south to Rogerstown Park.

investment is required to ensure cycling is a safe and convenient option for short travel distances.

In accordance with the Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network there is currently a plan in place to greatly enhance and develop the cycling network in and around Lusk. The proposal is to connect Lusk town centre with a new cycling route to the east to Rush. This will connect Lusk town centre (**Project 26 - TOWN CENTRE PUBLIC REALM**) to the train station. This would be a transformative project in terms of how residents of Lusk get to and from work.

To the west there is a proposed route out to the old N1 (R132) via Corduff National School on Kilhedge Lane, which is a potential direct connection to **Project 15 - SKATEPARK**.

Another significant proposal for cycling infrastructure is the plan to connect Lusk to Rush and south to Rogerstown Park via Rogerstown Lane. This would maximise the potential of this local green asset to all age groups. Furthermore, this connection facilitates Lusk's connection to the Fingal Coastal Way when complete, which is 32km of proposed Greenway extending from the Fingal County Boundary north of Balbriggan south to Newbridge Demesne in Donabate. Connecting Lusk to the Fingal Coastal Way would benefit the citizens of Lusk, but also the population of the wider North Fingal Hinterland as it opens the significant heritage sites of Lusk to users of the Coastal Way.

'It is almost impossible to live in Lusk without a car.'

Respondent quote from online survey

'If you live in Lusk you're trapped, as there are no safe footpaths or cycle paths out of the town to access the other local towns.'

Respondent quote from online survey

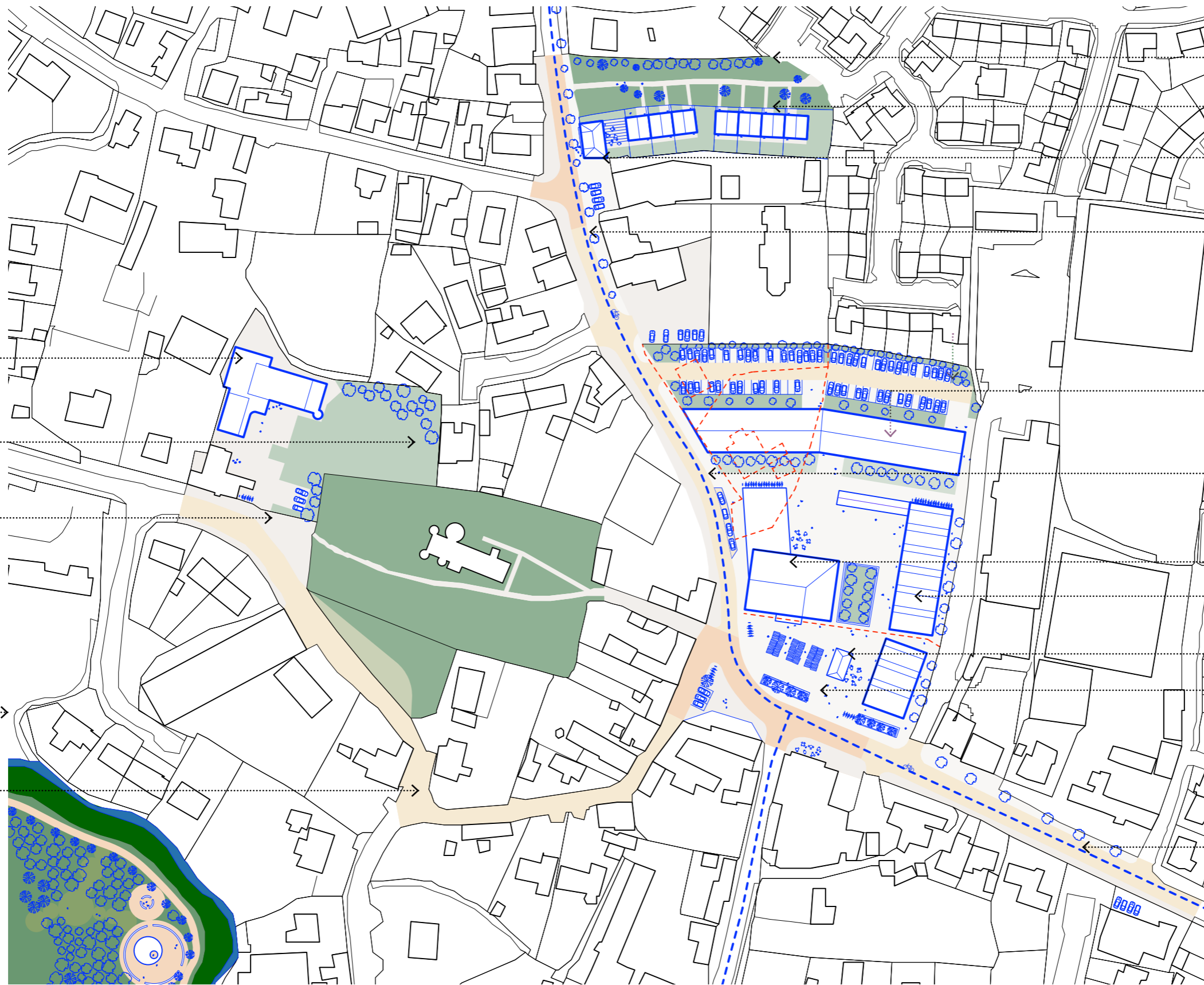


Proposed Cycling infrastructure between Lusk & Rush connecting Lusk to the Train Station.

PROJECT 26 TOWN CENTRE PUBLIC REALM

'Centre of village not dominated by traffic.'

Respondent quote from online survey



2,030 TREES FOR LUSK / EDIBLE STREETSCAPE

HOUSING SCHEME FOR SUPPORTED LIVING

NEW CAFE TO STIMULATE VIBRANT PUBLIC SPACE

PROPOSED NEW CYCLING PATH THROUGH LUSK TOWN CENTRE

PUBLIC USE BUILDING

NEW HIGH QUALITY PUBLIC REALM ON SHARED SURFACE WITH TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES

NEW COMMUNITY BUILDING (1000M2)
NEW COMMERCIAL/ ENTERPRISE (3000M2)

COVERED CANOPY

NEW OUTDOOR MARKET SPACE - HARD LANDSCAPED CIVIC AREA TO ACCOMMODATE OUTDOOR DINING AND GATHERING RETAINING EXISTING TREES

TRAFFIC CALMING SHARED SURFACE

SITE FOR PHASE 2 OF LUSK COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTRE

INCREASED BIODIVERSITY

STREET FURNITURE INCLUDING STREET LIGHTING, BINS, SEATING & BICYCLE PARKING TO FOLLOW FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL BEST PRACTICE

NEW PEDESTRIAN & CYCLE BRIDGE CONNECTING TO TOWN CENTRE

TRAFFIC CALMING SHARED SURFACE SUPPORTING DISTINCTIVE MEDIEVAL STREET MORPHOLOGY



PROJECT 26

TOWN CENTRE PUBLIC REALM

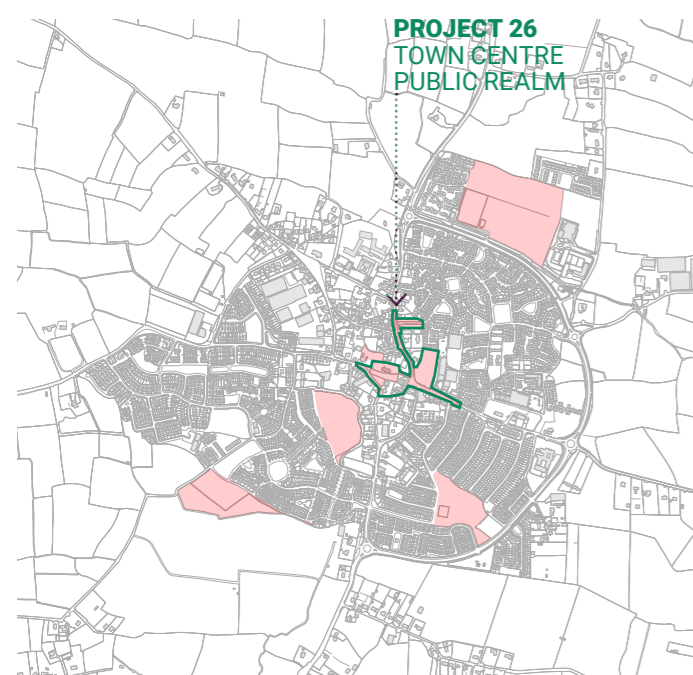
Project 26 - TOWN CENTRE PUBLIC REALM
- Main Street to Market Square public realm and cycle infrastructure, pedestrian infrastructure, market space, climate mitigation and adaptation. (Subject to archaeological Investigation, planning permissions and environmental screening.)

Timeline - 5 -8 years

Town Centre Public Realm

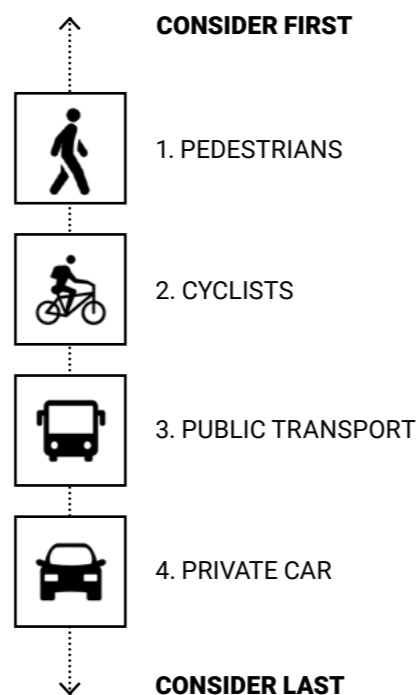
Creating a Market Square in the new town centre of Lusk has the potential to be a transformative project. The strategic proposal is an exemplar of a 'town centre' development, in line with the national objectives on town centre living. At the core of this strategy is the upgrading of the public realm on Station Road from the cluster of shops including the Dental Surgery and Pharmacy to those on Main Street including the Take-Aways, Pharmacy and Barbers.

The public realm works include the incorporation of traffic calming shared surfaces. Following



the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS) best practice, we are proposing a User Hierarchy that promotes and priorities sustainable forms of transportation, with pedestrians at the top and private motor vehicles at the bottom. In response to numerous comments in the community consultation, the strategy also includes additional street lighting, bins, seating and bicycle parking all following Fingal County Council best practice along with robust & considered surface treatment in line with a heritage town. Appropriate material choices in the regeneration of the public realm supports **Project 21 – WAYFINDING STRATEGY** and **Project 8 - UNIVERSAL ACCESS & INTEGRATION**.

A significant part of the public realm strategy proposes to significantly increase biodiversity into the parks and streets as part of Project 28 - EDIBLE STREETScape. This involves increasing the biodiversity and greenery which not only increases the sustainable attributes of Lusk but



DMURS user hierarchy that promotes and priorities sustainable forms of transportation.

also will increase the dwell time as Lusk Town Centre will be a place that people will want to spend time in.

As part of **Project 25 - ACTIVE TRAVEL**, cycling routeways through Lusk town centre, will encourage an increase in active mobility and bring vibrancy to the Town centre. This will result in improved business access and footfall, and more attractive town centre amenity spaces. Integrated into the public realm works, a further 30 car parking spaces have been incorporated to facilitate all age groups with different mobility needs demographics to access the new town centre.

The single most critical urban concern for the future of Lusk is the creation of a functioning Town Centre. On the private surface car park located at the heart of the town, a town square for outdoor markets is proposed. This public space could accommodate a multitude of different social gatherings that is much needed in Lusk. The space would have seating, shelter, existing trees and would make a vibrant south facing heart for the town. This is connected to **Project 17 - FARMERS' MARKET**. In addition, as part of the design of the town centre several buildings are proposed which include residential, community and commercial use. These are covered in more detail in **Project 27 - TOWN CENTRE BUILDINGS**.

Off the main thoroughfare, care must be taken with the St MacCullins Centre, Round Tower and the distinctive medieval street morphology of Lusk. This visual and heritage focus requires strong protection; the Round Tower adjoining St MacCullins Centre is a National Monument, which makes it the most important landmark

in the town. The landscape around the church and graveyard, and the medieval street structure need careful attention - street furniture, paving and landscaping should be of the highest quality, reflecting the status of the medieval town core.

Networks for ease of pedestrian access need to be provided, as many of the smaller narrower streets in the town centre do not have adequate or safe provision for walkers or cyclists. The provision of seating for all age groups, but particularly for older people needs to be prioritised. Our design proposal for Lusk town centre proposes enhancing the medieval streetscape through provision of high-quality shared surfaces. Connectivity is prioritised with a pedestrian bridge proposed to Chapel Farm to enable residents of Chapel Farm and Dun Emer an easier walk to the town centre. The existing pedestrian pathway between Treen Hill and Post Office Road is a significant link, which needs improved lighting to ensure safety.

The existing Cottage Community Centre, Lusk Community Cultural Centre and St MacCullins Centre already work collectively to provide a community and cultural campus for Lusk. This will be strengthened with the addition of **Project 24 - LUSK COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTRE - Phase 2**. When complete, these facilities will provide a much-needed amenity for cultural activities and a visitor attraction for Lusk.

It will become an important node linking the heavily used footpath through the graveyard to the west of the town at the Lusk Cultural Centre. The small triangular piece of land to the south of St MacCullins Centre can accommodate a traffic lay-by for the passing of larger vehicles.

PROJECT 27 TOWN CENTRE BUILDINGS

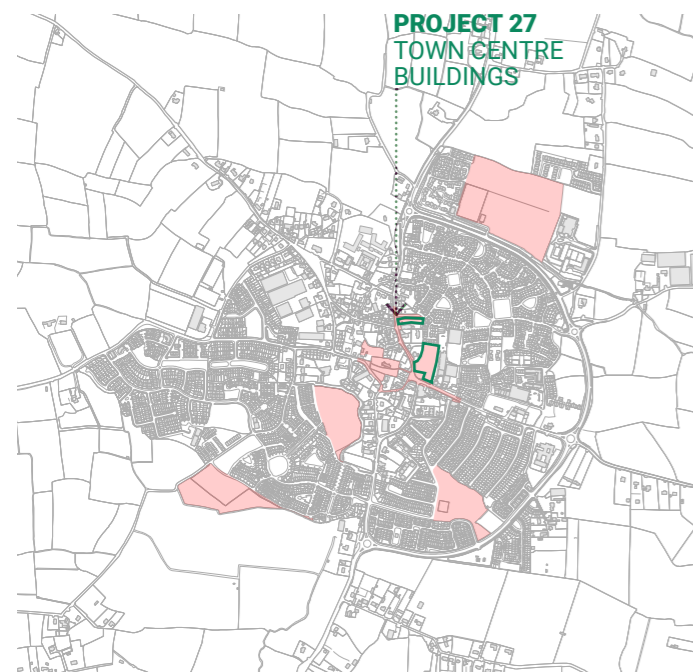
Project 27 - TOWN CENTRE BUILDINGS

Town Centre Plan Youth Community and Commercial Buildings, fronting onto new town square, at the town centre. (Subject to archaeological investigation, planning permissions and environmental screening.)

Timeline - 5-8 years

A number of critical town centre sites are held in private ownership, with the likelihood of future development. The long-term success of the Lusk TCF plan is dependent on appropriate uses and development of these sites.

The most critical sites are clustered in the town centre, and include a privately owned car-park on the site of the old Market Square, the field immediately north of the car-park (opposite the Supervalu supermarket), and the residential sites to the west of this field, fronting onto Main St (one currently in use as a HSE facility). These prominent sites are the ideal location for a much-needed large scale community building and a



town square for public use including suggested market, festival and events as per **Project 17 - FARMERS' MARKET**. This area is also an appropriate site for commercial units and social housing. This housing should be designed to conserve resources, optimise energy and have a density in line with the heritage character of Lusk. In the diagram opposite, one potential configuration of the vacant sites is illustrated. The improvement of the public realm at the Market Square is suggested, creating a space, prioritising pedestrians over vehicular traffic.

Another significant site with development potential is the vacant cottage adjacent to the local supermarket on Lusk Main Street. This is an ideal location for providing a focus for outdoor congregation with the provision of seating and planting. This outdoor area would support a new potential café long with outdoor dining functions. The proximity to the school, with high levels of footfall would make this an appropriate site for a cafe or restaurant business. The site directly behind the cottage is an excellent location for a housing scheme appropriate to the town centre location.

CAFÉ - LIVE ABOVE THE SHOP -
CURRENTLY VACANT COTTAGE
BESIDE COSTCUTTER

7 X TERRACED HOUSING

COMMUNITY BUILDING

PUBLIC CANOPY

COMMERCIAL/ENTERPRISE





Proposed image of Lusk Town Centre.

'The town center has a lovely small square instead of an abandoned car park in centre and there are a few places where people can enjoy a meal out and some company...'

Survey Quote, Imagining a Vision for Lusk in 2030



VIEW OF THE ROUND TOWER FROM STATION ROAD MAINTAINED

NEW COMMUNITY BUILDING

PUBLIC CANOPY

NEW OUTDOOR MARKET SPACE - HARD LANDSCAPED CIVIC AREA TO ACCOMMODATE OUTDOOR DINING AND GATHERING

PROPOSED NEW CYCLING PATH THROUGH LUSK TOWN CENTRE

NEW HIGH QUALITY PUBLIC REALM ON SHARED SURFACE WITH TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES



Current image of Lusk Town Centre.

EXEMPLAR - LIBRARY EAST STREET EXCHANGE - WE MADE THAT



A well-considered and small-scale addition to a public building in Southwark London, the East Street Exchange, has had a transformative effect locally. The existing East Street Library was overlooked, underused and the facility was facing a strategy to be relocated out of the neighbourhood.



The new design has resolved these issues with a new addition, opening up a gable end on the existing building, which now enables the library to host a flexible range of new uses. *It offers an affordable space for local businesses, entrepreneurs and community groups; provides a much-needed flexible space for groups in the area to meet... and makes space for a homework club and peer-to-peer language assistance.* This intervention builds on existing Third Spaces to continue to develop social capital in the area, quickly becoming a vital community asset.

EXEMPLAR - COVERED SPACE STRADBALLY MARKET - LOTT'S ARCHITECTS

Situated at the heart of Stradbally, County Laois, this unique structure was completed in 1899 to commemorate the life of a local doctor. Originally constructed with wrought iron and steel supports, with a curved corrugated roof. It has offered shelter and given a space to converse to the public of Stradbally for over a century. It was recently restored and brought back to life by Lotts Architecture &. Urbanism to stand proudly again in the town centre preserved and now with the original market tables intact.

By giving shelter it can host a multitude of different events for a wide demographic. Everything from a market, to an outdoor performance space, a place to meet friends, a place to rest or even just a place to hang out. Without the walls, it works well for passive security and brings all day life to the town centre.





Proposed image of Lusk Town Centre.

TERRACED HOUSING ON VACANT SITE

NEW CAFE TO STIMULATE VIBRANT PUBLIC SPACE

NEW HIGH QUALITY PUBLIC REALM ON SHARED SURFACE WITH TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES

PROPOSED NEW CYCLING PATH THROUGH LUSK TOWN CENTRE



Current image of Lusk Town Centre.

EXEMPLAR - PASSIVE HOUSING GOLDSMITH STREET - MIKHAIL RICHES HAWLEY

Goldsmith Street is a multi-award-winning social housing scheme in Norwich, England. Located near the city centre, the housing development comprises 105 terraced dwellings designed to be an affordable high-density alternative to apartment blocks. While the number of dwellings within the development was dictated by the brief, it was the studio's desire to create a passive solar scheme that led it to design terraces. The buildings needed to be low-rise to prevent overshadowing.

Each home faces south to maximise solar gain and is designed with practical detailing that ensures the scheme has achieved Passivhaus Certification, being the first project of this type in the UK. The design is a high-density urban scheme and includes a holistic approach to friendly street building, generous daylight

and public spaces to help build the sense of neighbourhood also. Each south facing home can easily access a shared outdoor area without having to cross the road to deal with cars. An open alley runs through the centre of the scheme, which was developed to double as a shared communal garden and safe play area for children. There are also two other landscaped play areas onsite.



EXEMPLAR - THE VILLAGE ARCHITECTURE TOOLKIT AR-TUR (BELGIUM)

AR-TUR, a Belgian platform for architecture and culture have been documenting successful housing projects in Belgian rural towns over a number of years. AR-TUR's research stemmed from concerns regarding rising population level and rapid housing developments in rural towns, which overwhelmed historical town cores. They sought to address this alongside concerns, with housing diversification, climate adaptation and biodiversity loss.

In the recent publication 'Toolbox Village Architecture' (Toolbox Dorpse Architectuur), AR-TUR investigates what qualitative village architecture really means and how to achieve this. The publication presents a broad selection of inspiring housing projects on the scale of the village and town. The book provides design instruments such as town 'figures' and 'tactics' for small and medium scale housing projects in town centres whilst also setting out the necessary conditions for a successful process.

AR-TUR lays out a clear route for the sustainable and inclusive development of towns through the construction of new high quality housing. Due to the many similarities between Belgian and Irish contexts this Toolbox for Village Architecture is a useful tool for Irish towns & villages confronted with similar issues.



PROJECT 28 EDIBLE STREETSCAPE

Project 28 - EDIBLE STREETSCAPE

- 2,030 Trees for Lusk, strategy to increase biodiversity within Lusk.

Timeline - 5 - 8 years

As part of all the spatial projects an extensive tree planting scheme for Lusk town is proposed. The physical benefits to this proposal include; improved air quality and urban shading, increased biodiversity and flood mitigation. As a communal project, it would also have a multi-generational approach, building social cohesion and generating a positive image of Lusk.

The strategy proposes planting a range of tree species which will greatly enhance the visual character of Lusk, provide shelter, strengthen natural drainage and biodiversity. Edible trees

are proposed to be incorporated within the streetscape including fruit trees, berries, and herbs, creating an educational and appetising street.

The Edible Streetscape would become a striking collective enterprise across multiple community groups in Lusk - it is an immediately accessible idea which can be initiated in the short term and would generate a highly attractive, positive message about Lusk to local and national media. The tree planting could be organised as annual events across a number of years, with a 'big day out' for planting each spring. Groups such as the UK 'Trees for Cities' have advocated for urban tree planting, but as of yet no town in Ireland has taken up such a challenge on this scale.



Potential green sites for Edible Streetscape sites.

Lusk is an ideal location for this ambitious proposal, it is a town with a rural agricultural heritage, it will provide a focus for town pride, and create a festival like atmosphere bringing together diverse social groups and age demographics including youth groups such as Lusk Scouts and Foroige, as well as the local schools.

'Edible landscape, public art and furniture, playful spaces, intergenerational opportunities.'

Survey Quote, Imagining a Vision for Lusk in 2030

'A community and village that cares both ecologically and socially for those that live there.'

Survey Quote, Imagining a Vision for Lusk in 2030



International exemplars for community tree planting & edible streetscapes for towns & local communities.

AP+E



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