

**Laytown and Bettystown Public Realm Plan,
Implementation Action Plan,
Version 1, January 2022**



Introduction

The Public Realm Plan for Laytown and Bettystown was published in July 2021 accompanied by a Natura Impact Statement. The Plan sets out the future approach for the regeneration of the streets and spaces of both towns with a focus on the centre of each town. Laytown and Bettystown are coastal towns with an attractive expanse of open coastline, attracting many visitors each year, the area is also home to a variety of wildlife. The implementation of the Public Realm Plan will make both town centres more attractive places for people to live, visit and socialise.

The vision statement for Laytown is to:

'Improve the Public Realm through the reintroduction of a beach front park (subject to future environmental studies) and the relocation and control of commuter parking. Links to improved amenities and regeneration opportunities will help enhance the character of the town.'

The vision statement for Bettystown is to:

'Improve the Public Realm through a reorganisation of the centre of the town with better connections to the beach. Parking should be better organised along the main routes with enhanced gateways to the town and the identification of opportunities for regeneration.'

Stakeholders/Partners

Projects should be delivered by a range of stakeholders to share the costs and resources required for implementation and ultimately to provide a sense of ownership for all involved. The plan focuses on enhancing the daily experience of people who live and work in Laytown and Bettystown. The visitor experience of the area is also a key consideration as the opportunity exists for this activity to generate economic benefit.

Key stakeholders include Public and Private Sector bodies, Community Groups and Individuals. Depending on the nature and scope of project/projects different stakeholders will need to take the lead in implementing the proposed strategy. In general terms, Meath County Council, in conjunction and collaboration with the Laytown and Bettystown MD, will take the lead on street and public space projects, whereas community groups, business and property owners and individuals will be responsible for projects relating to private property.

Other inputs from Key Stakeholders include, Meath Chamber of Commerce, Fáilte Ireland, Tidy Towns Committee, Community Groups and Private Sector Individuals.

The engagement / agreement of private landowners is critical for the progression of a number of the projects.

Funding

Each project will be dependent on funding and approvals, which will involve detailed design and public consultation. Community initiatives and funding opportunities should be actively pursued for the delivery of community led projects.

Project Ireland 2040 is a source of funding which supports ambitious and strategic projects which contribute to sustainable urban/rural regeneration and development, the Urban Regeneration Development Fund being of particular relevance in this regard. Other sources will include Fáilte Ireland, Town and Village renewal schemes, outdoor recreation funds etc

Achieving this new vision for Laytown and Bettystown will not happen overnight, the public realm plan for Laytown and Bettystown is the first step towards improving the built environment and streetscape in the town centres. Implementation of the plan needs to be supported to encourage positive change in both town centres. In order for this plan to succeed, close cooperation and coordination is vital between local community groups, the local business community, landowners, the general public and Meath County Council.

Implementing the Plan

The following are the key steps to implementing the Public Realm Plan:

1. The Public Realm Plan identifies a number of strategic projects which will have to be developed and delivered in order to achieve full implementation of the plan. These are listed in the tables below.
2. Establish a project priority list with funding sources clearly identified and planning approvals in place, where applicable. Some projects, for example the relocation of commuter parking will be delivered over the longer term.
3. The construction of the lifeguard station, public toilets and public library including the provision of a public realm space south and east of the proposed building giving access from the town centre to the Bettystown Beach and providing views across the beach will provide a community focus in Bettystown. This scheme supports the key tenets of the public plan.

Laytown			
Projects	Actions	Partners and Stakeholders	Funding
Relocation and Control of Commuter Parking	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Relocate commuter car parking to a site adjacent to Laytown Train Station. 2. The incorporation of this area into the beach front park (see below). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Landowners - MCC Depts - Laytown-Bettystown MD - Iarnród Éireann - NTA - Dept of Transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - URDF - NTA
Laytown Beach Front Park	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Active Park- sequence of dedicated play spaces, exercise areas, temporary event spaces. 2. Natural Park- preserved natural space along the beach. This area is intended accommodate walks and would include paths and boardwalks. Natural heritage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Landowners - MCC Depts: Projects, Transports, Community, Economic Development - Laytown-Bettystown MD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - URDF - Town and Village Funding - Private Investment - Streetscape Enhancement <p>Note: funding received from Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme</p>

	<p>considerations are key considerations for delivery of this element of the project. Existing trails will be utilised where possible.</p> <p>3. Places to dwell in the park.</p> <p>4. Destination building, with a view of the sea with potential to provide visitor facilities for park users.</p>		(ORIS), 2021 for this project.
Enhanced Streetscape	<p>1. Declutter uncoordinated street furniture. (upstand walls and bollards)</p> <p>2. Introduce high quality paving, lighting, street furniture, planting and signage.</p> <p>3. Introduce traffic calming measures to create a pedestrian friendly environment (narrow existing road going through the town)</p> <p>4. Introduce timed restrictions for parking next to the shops and for the use of the playground/park area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MCC Depts: Transport, Community, Economic Development - Landowners - Local Business - Tidy Towns - Community Groups - NTA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Streetscape Enhancement - URDF - NTA - Town and Village Funding
Access to the South	<p>1. Access to recreation area south of town centre (Seafield – St. Colmcille’s GAA Club)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MCC Depts: Transport, Community, Economic Development - Laytown-Bettystown MD - Landowners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - URDF - Active Travel Fund
Wayfinding and Signage	<p>Signage for;</p> <p>1. Train Station</p> <p>2. Public car parks/ commuter parking</p> <p>3. Tourist attractions – Laytown Beach Front Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MCC Depts; Projects, Community Economic Development - Laytown-Bettystown MD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - URDF - Private Investment - Streetscape Enhancement - Town and Village Funding

Bettystown

Projects	Actions	Partners and Stakeholders	Funding
Reorganisation of the Town Centre	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rationalise street furniture. 2. Improve street lighting throughout the town centre. 3. Introduce a consistent palette of materials (Paving, Street Furniture, Planting and Signage) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MCC Depts: Transport, Community Economic Development - Laytown-Bettystown MD - Landowners - Local Business - Tidy Towns - Community Groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - URDF - Private Investment - Streetscape Enhancement - Town and Village Funding
Enhanced Pedestrian and Cyclist Movement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create more regular safe crossing points, especially in the main square. (Combination of controlled, zebra and uncontrolled crossing types, at least every 150m) 2. Introduce traffic calming measures. (Reduce carriageway to 7.3m, introduce a mini roundabout at town centre junction) 3. Improve links to beach 4. Visible and well positioned cycle parking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MCC Transport Department - NTA - Laytown-Bettystown MD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active Travel Fund - Streetscape Enhancement
New Outer Town Park	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Potential for a new town park located outside of the town centre (associated with Spine Road.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Landowners - MCC Depts: Projects, Transport, Community Economic Development - Laytown-Bettystown MD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Private Investment
Organised Parking in Town Centre	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduce time restrictions for parking in town centre 2. Remove perpendicular parking and replace with parallel. 3. Phased removal of contained car parking facility on the beach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MCC Transport Department - NTA - Laytown-Bettystown MD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active Travel Fund - Streetscape Enhancement

Rejuvenation of the Square	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a pedestrian space/square as a focus to the town centre 2. Regeneration of derelict building in the centre of the town to create a pedestrian space/square as a focus to the town centre. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Landowners - MCC Depts: Projects, Community Economic Development - Laytown-Bettystown MD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - URDF - Private Investment - Streetscape Enhancement - Shop Front Improvement Scheme.
Enhanced Gateways into Town	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commission and install distinctive welcome features at the gateways into the town 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MCC Depts; Projects, Community Economic Development - Laytown-Bettystown MD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - URDF - Private Investment - Streetscape Enhancement - Community Amenity Project Scheme.

Conclusion

The success of the Laytown-Bettystown Public Realm Plan will depend exclusively on the buy-in and ownership taken by all stakeholders involved in the town. The number and range of stakeholders have been identified in the above table in order to highlight the level of coordination and collaboration that will be required to implement the plan. Detailed analysis and assessment of both Laytown and Bettystown town centres, together with the views of the people of Laytown and Bettystown, has informed the content of the public realm plan.

Meath County Council, together with Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District Staff and Members will be central to plan implementation, ultimately it will be about the combined efforts of all stakeholders to deliver on this plan for a better Laytown and Bettystown in which to live, work, play and visit.

This implementation plan is a live document and will be updated as the projects are actioned.