

Ballinasloe Town Council



Proposed Town Enhancement Scheme

Part VIII Planning

Project Outline

1 Introduction & Policy Context

The proposed Ballinasloe Town Enhancement Scheme is designed to increase the attractiveness of Ballinasloe town centre as a place in which to live, work, visit, and do business, and is considered to be a unique opportunity in the current economic environment. Broadly, the proposed development entails an urban enhancement programme in the townland of Townparks, focusing on the three principal streets in the town centre, i.e. Main Street, Society Street, and Dunlo Street, as well as the central junction area linking the three streets. The specific area within which it is proposed to carry out the development is shown on the accompanying site location plan.

The Ballinasloe Town Development Plan (2009-2015) provides for the protection and enhancement of the “special physical and social character of the existing town centre core and to provide for new and improved town centre facilities” and states that “it is the policy of Ballinasloe Town Council to consolidate the existing structure of the town in a balanced manner and to seek to create a more permeable town, accessible to locals and visitors travelling by foot or motor vehicles.”

It is intended that the proposed development would be funded from the proceeds of pay-parking, which was introduced to the town in 2009.

Furthermore, the progression of the proposed scheme has allowed Galway County Council to seek and receive approval from the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government for the Ballinasloe Main Drainage Advance Works, which it is intended would be carried out in tandem with the town enhancement works.

2 Proposed Development

The proposed development consists of the following:

- a) Resurfacing of the carriageway.
- b) Realignment of the carriageway to provide for a uniform carriageway width in the interests of speed control and pedestrian safety.
- c) Undergrounding of all overhead cables and wires.
- d) Removal of existing public lighting and replacement with new lighting standards.
- e) Removal of existing footpaths and replacement with new paving, which will incorporate the use of limestone at feature areas to reflect the historical character of the town.
- f) Reconfiguration and paving of parking bays, to include 2 no. disabled parking bays on each of the three streets.
- g) Removal of existing ‘yellow boxes’ at entrances to laneways and alleys.
- h) Removal of the railings at the central junction area.
- i) Paving of the central junction area.

- j) Provision of rumbled setts for traffic calming purposes on each of the three approaches to the central junction.
- k) Retention of existing pedestrian crossings at each of the three approaches to the central junction, although it is intended to move the existing crossing on Society Street further back from the junction in the interests of pedestrian safety.
- l) Provision of 2 no. additional informal pedestrian crossing points with dished kerbs on each of the three streets.
- m) Removal of existing street furniture and provision of new benches, litter bins, cycle stands, bollards, street signage and information boards.
- n) Tree planting to include the proposed provision of 51 no. trees, which will have restricted crowns to suit urban areas.
- o) All associated works.

3 Note on Paving and Street Furniture

The pavements shown in the attached drawings represent the types of materials that are being considered; a final decision on the materials to be used will follow the review of samples in terms of appropriateness for use in the town centre. The street furnishings, lighting types etc are style guidelines, and any equivalent product meeting the specification and standards of those specified may be used.

4 Conclusion

Ballinasloe Town Council's intention in preparing the draft plan is to strike a balance between enhancing the public realm and the attractiveness of the town centre, while ensuring that traffic movement is not restricted, ensuring that any reduction in on-street parking is minimised and that road safety standards are complied with. The objective of the scheme is to provide a high quality inner urban environment where the balance of retail shopping and recreational amenity can be supported and enhanced in a safe and accessible way.

5 Submissions and Observations

Plans and particulars of the proposed development will be available for inspection or for purchase at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at:-
 Ballinasloe Town Council, Civic Offices, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, between the hours of 9:30am – 1.00pm and 2:00pm – 5.00pm Monday to Friday, from Friday 5th August to Friday 16th September inclusive, and will also be available on the Ballinasloe Town Council website: www.ballinasloe.ie

Ballinasloe Town Council will hold a 'drop-in' Information Session in the Civic Offices, Ballinasloe, on Thursday 11th August from 3:00pm to 7:30pm, whereby interested parties can view the plans and discuss the proposed works with officials.

Submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the proposed development would be situated, may be made in writing to:

The Town Clerk, Ballinasloe Town Council, Civic Offices, Ballinasloe,
Co. Galway Or by email to : townclerk@ballinasloetc.ie

Closing date for receipt of submissions or observations is 5.00p.m. on Friday 30th September.

6 Schedule of Drawings and Supporting Documentation

Appendix A	-	Cover Letter
Appendix B	-	Project Outline Document
Appendix C	-	Site Notice
Appendix D	-	Newspaper Notice
Appendix E	-	Urban Street Furniture and Lighting Guideline
Drawing No. 01	-	Site Location Map
Drawing No. 2200_p_01	-	Typical (Example) Layout Plan
Drawing No. 2200_p_02	-	Site Layout Plan
Drawing No. 2200_p_03	-	Central Junction Area Layout Plan
Drawing No. 2200_p_04	-	Society Street Layout Plan
Drawing No. 2200_p_05	-	Main Street Layout Plan
Drawing No. 2200_p_06	-	Dunlo Street Layout Plan