

Building local governance for Smart Villages: *The Ballyboughal approach (Ireland)*



Location



Context

- Village Population - 855 (+91% from 2016).
- Population density - 83/km² (EU average 72/km²).
- Younger population than regionally/nationally.
- 68% of housing stock built since 2001.
- Household Median Gross Income - €61,409 (State - €45,256).
- High levels of commuting by private car.
- Proximity to Dublin Airport (15km) and Dublin City Centre (26km).







Seirbhís Séadchomharthaí
Náisiúnta
National Monuments
Service



Oidhreacht Chultúrtha
Dholáimhsithe in Éirinn
Intangible Cultural Heritage in Ireland



An Roinn Cultúir,
Cumarsáide agus Spóirt
Department of Culture,
Communications and Sport



The Project Brief

The project brief sought animation and technical assistance for the development of a *Strategic Vision* and *Action Plan* for the village of Ballyboughal. This required professional knowledge of social, economic and environmental development across multiple thematic domains, aligned to the specifics of the Smart Village concept. The overall project budget was €30,000.

This enabled multi-disciplinary technical support and guidance in research, facilitation, stakeholder engagement and concept development to shape an innovative future-oriented strategy and action plan as well as high quality visuals, schematics and images to illustrate and communicate the spatial design proposals underpinning the plan's ambition and scope.

This Involved...

- Undertaking a comprehensive socio-economic and environmental analysis.
- Bringing to life and animating the smart village concept through an exploration of 'smart' best practice initiatives and actions.
- Further developing these possibilities through facilitated workshops.
- Widening local consultation to build legitimacy & consensus.
- Identifying & prioritising **five** key themes/pillars for development.

The Process

- Articulating a coherent overarching strategic vision.
- Aligning development themes, objectives & actions to vision.
- Developing implementation & governance capacity & skills.
- Identifying and aligning with key enabling policies & funding.
- Recommending methods to monitor, review & adapt.

Core Methodology

1. Understand the Possibilities



2. Adapt & Refine the Possibilities



3. Animate & Enable the Possibilities

Phases & Timeline

Dec 2024

Project Initiation & Preplanning.

Jan to May 2025

Stakeholder Engagement & Consultation.

June to July 2025

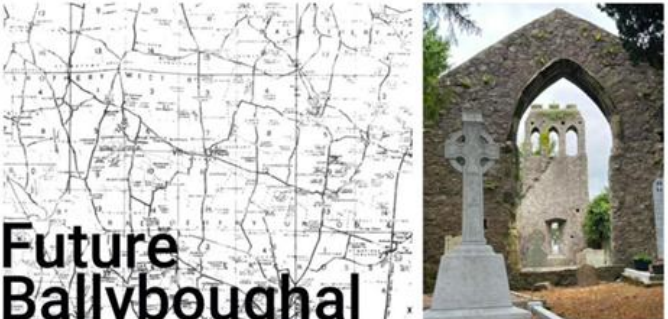
Strategy Development, Iteration & Refinement.

August 2025

Approval & Sign Off.

September 2025

Public Launch of Strategy.



Future Ballyboughal

New Year | New Ideas

Ballyboughal is a great place to live. However, we think it can be even better.

As a first step in the development of our new community vision, we're drawing inspiration from lots of innovative social, economic and environmental projects that have already been developed and funded all around Ireland.


If you'd like to hear more about our plans and learn of exciting new possibilities for Ballyboughal, please come along to an informal, informative and inspiring presentation. All welcome.

Saturday, January 18th, 2025
St. Patrick's Community Hall

First session
10.00am - 12.00pm

Repeated at
2.00pm - 4.00pm

ballyboughalcc@gmail.com



CLLD: Widening the Conversation

“We'd love to hear your ideas on how to make Ballyboughal and its hinterland a better place for all in which to live, work and socialise. Tell us what you think needs to be done. Get involved, be creative and make your voice heard!

All responses are anonymous and confidential.”

Your Future Ballyboughal – A 2 Minute Survey



The Deliverable



Future Ballyboughal
SMART Village Action Plan
August 2025

Project Launch

Please join us as we launch the new Ballyboughal SMART Village Action Plan.

Following the public community workshops earlier in 2025, we have been working towards the development of a new community vision, for Ballyboughal and the surrounding area.

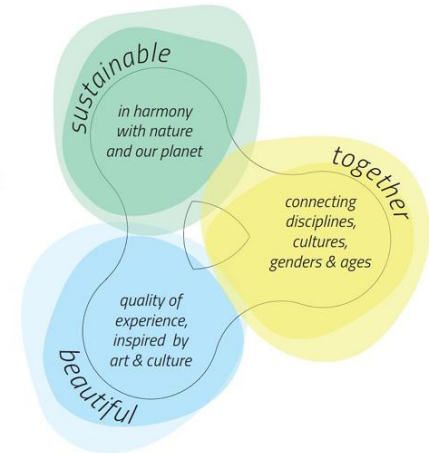
If you'd like to learn more about the plan and view the design proposals, please join us for an informative presentation.

All welcome.

Saturday
September 13th, 2025
The Community Hub
14.00pm - 15.00pm
ballyboughalcc@gmail.com

Dublin Rural LEADER PRESCIENCE AP+E

New European Bauhaus
From concept to action



https://europea.eu/new-european-bauhaus/about/about-initiative_en

Ballyboughal Smart Village Plan

The Purpose

“The Ballyboughal Strategic Plan is the key resource through which local projects of general community interest and benefit are identified, resourced and developed.

It enables the ambitions of our community to be openly expressed, our ideas to be freely exchanged and our talents and resources to be widely shared.”

“Developed as an enabling framework, this Action Plan sets out a series of recommendations on the development of community-led structures to plan, co-ordinate and implement a range of social, economic and environmental actions.

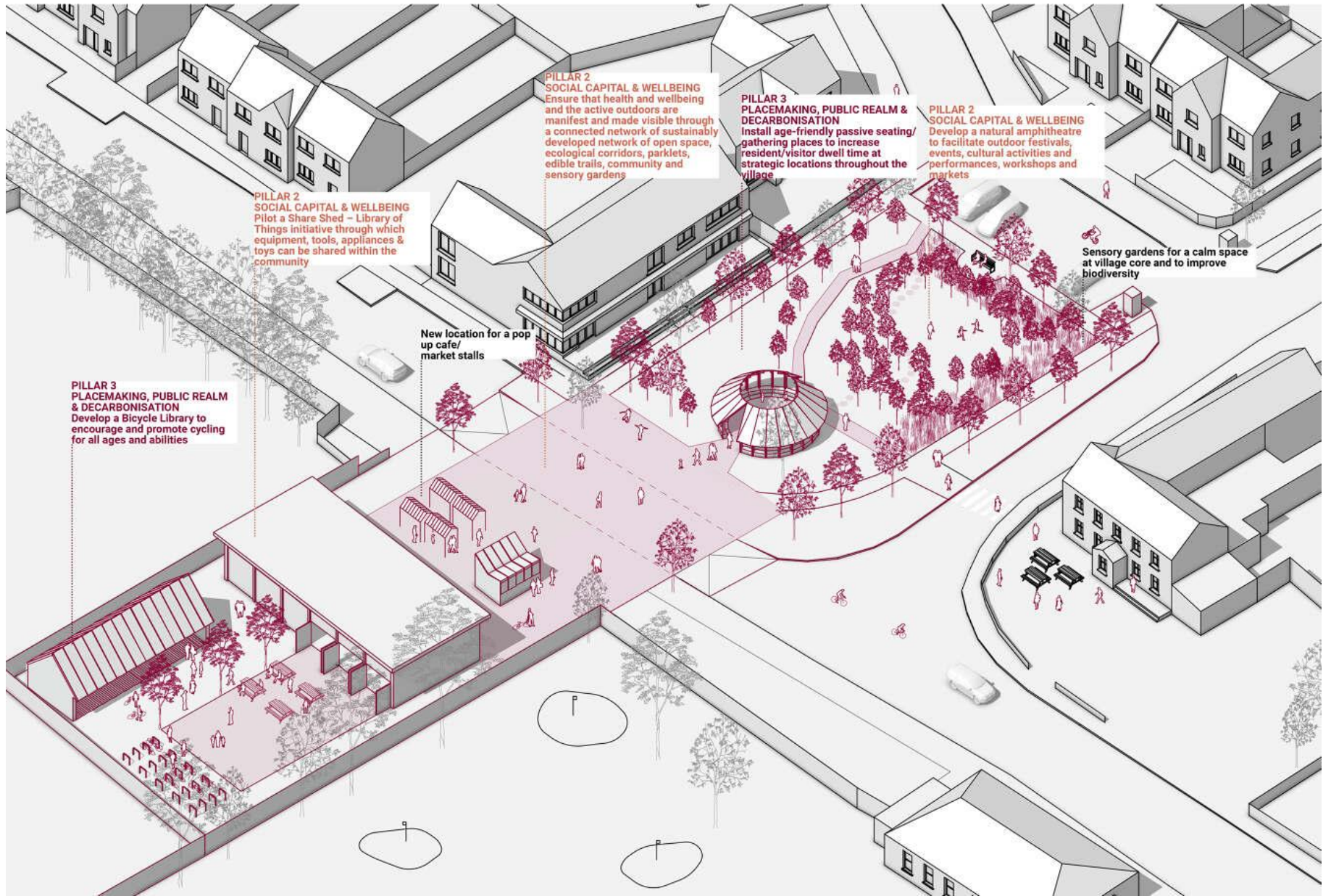
It seeks to build consensus around expected outcomes and intended impacts; suggesting ways in which these results can be measured and communicated to all stakeholders.”

Animating Five Priority Themes...

- Organisation, Governance & Representation *(17 actions)*
- Social Capital & Wellbeing *(12 actions)*
- Placemaking, Public Realm & Decarbonisation *(18 actions)*
- Biodiversity, Sustainability & Natural Environment *(13 actions)*
- Heritage, Recreation & Amenity *(13 actions)*

...Integrated & Visualised as Four Spatial Concepts

- **River Walk** – *Amenity & recreation; environment & biodiversity; flood mitigation.*
- **Connection to Hinterland** – *Wayfinding & active travel; environment & biodiversity; build scale & community with adjacent settlements.*
- **Village Spine** – *Safe & appealing public realm; improved mobility & access; traffic management & parking; public transport & active travel.*
- **Village Heart** – *Third spaces (indoor & outdoor); universal design & access; congregation & gathering; events & activities.*



**PILLAR 2
SOCIAL CAPITAL & WELLBEING**
Ensure that health and wellbeing and the active outdoors are manifest and made visible through a connected network of sustainably developed network of open space, ecological corridors, parklets, edible trails, community and sensory gardens

**PILLAR 3
PLACEMAKING, PUBLIC REALM & DECARBONISATION**
Install age-friendly passive seating/gathering places to increase resident/visitor dwell time at strategic locations throughout the village

**PILLAR 2
SOCIAL CAPITAL & WELLBEING**
Develop a natural amphitheatre to facilitate outdoor festivals, events, cultural activities and performances, workshops and markets

**PILLAR 2
SOCIAL CAPITAL & WELLBEING**
Pilot a Share Shed – Library of Things initiative through which equipment, tools, appliances & toys can be shared within the community

Sensory gardens for a calm space at village core and to improve biodiversity

New location for a pop up cafe/
market stalls

**PILLAR 3
PLACEMAKING, PUBLIC REALM & DECARBONISATION**
Develop a Bicycle Library to encourage and promote cycling for all ages and abilities

PILLAR 2
SOCIAL CAPITAL & WELLBEING Plan the phased development of indoor and outdoor facilities at the Brethren Hall to become a Third Space from which a range of activities and services are made available to and inclusive of all local community demographics, interests and abilities

New location for a pop up cafe/
market stalls

Raised shared surface to
promote pedestrian hierarchy
and traffic calming

PILLAR 3
PLACEMAKING, PUBLIC REALM & DECARBONISATION
Engage with Irish Architectural Foundation & Creative Ireland programmes to encourage and enable youth-oriented creative placemaking initiatives

PILLAR 3
PLACEMAKING, PUBLIC REALM & DECARBONISATION
Cluster private vehicular, public transport and active travel facilities and services in a central Mobility Hub to incorporate public Wi-Fi hotspot, additional car parking, EV charging, bus shelter with lighting, seating and real-time travel information, bicycle stands and repair station, etc



PILLAR 2
SOCIAL CAPITAL & WELLBEING
Develop a natural amphitheatre to facilitate outdoor festivals, events, cultural activities and performances, workshops and markets.

PILLAR 2
SOCIAL CAPITAL & WELLBEING
Ensure that health and wellbeing and the active outdoors are manifest and made visible through a connected network of sustainably developed network of open space, ecological corridors, parklets, edible trails, community and sensory gardens.

PILLAR 3
PLACEMAKING, PUBLIC REALM & DECARBONISATION
Integrate Rain Gardens and Swales within public realm enhancements to manage excess rain/storm water and mitigate flood risk.

PILLAR 4
BIODIVERSITY, SUSTAINABILITY & NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
Develop a community greening, landscaping and tree strategy to create Blue-Green Corridors and 'Reservoirs for Biodiversity' at strategic locations in or on approach to the village.

PILLAR 3
PLACEMAKING, PUBLIC REALM & DECARBONISATION
Install age-friendly passive seating/gathering places to increase resident/visitor dwell time at strategic locations throughout the village.

PILLAR 3
PLACEMAKING, PUBLIC REALM & DECARBONISATION
Integrate Climate Positive Design and Nature-based Solutions in the design of social and community facilities, amenities and public realm and amenities to enhance energy efficiency, mitigate emissions and aid carbon sequestration.



**PILLAR 2
SOCIAL CAPITAL & WELLBEING**
Develop a natural amphitheatre
to facilitate outdoor festivals,
events, cultural activities and
performances, workshops and
markets.

**PILLAR 4
BIODIVERSITY, SUSTAINABILITY
& NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**
Develop a community greening,
landscaping and tree strategy
to create [Blue Spaces](#), [Wildlife](#)
and 'Reservoirs for Biodiversity'
at strategic locations in or on
approach to the village.

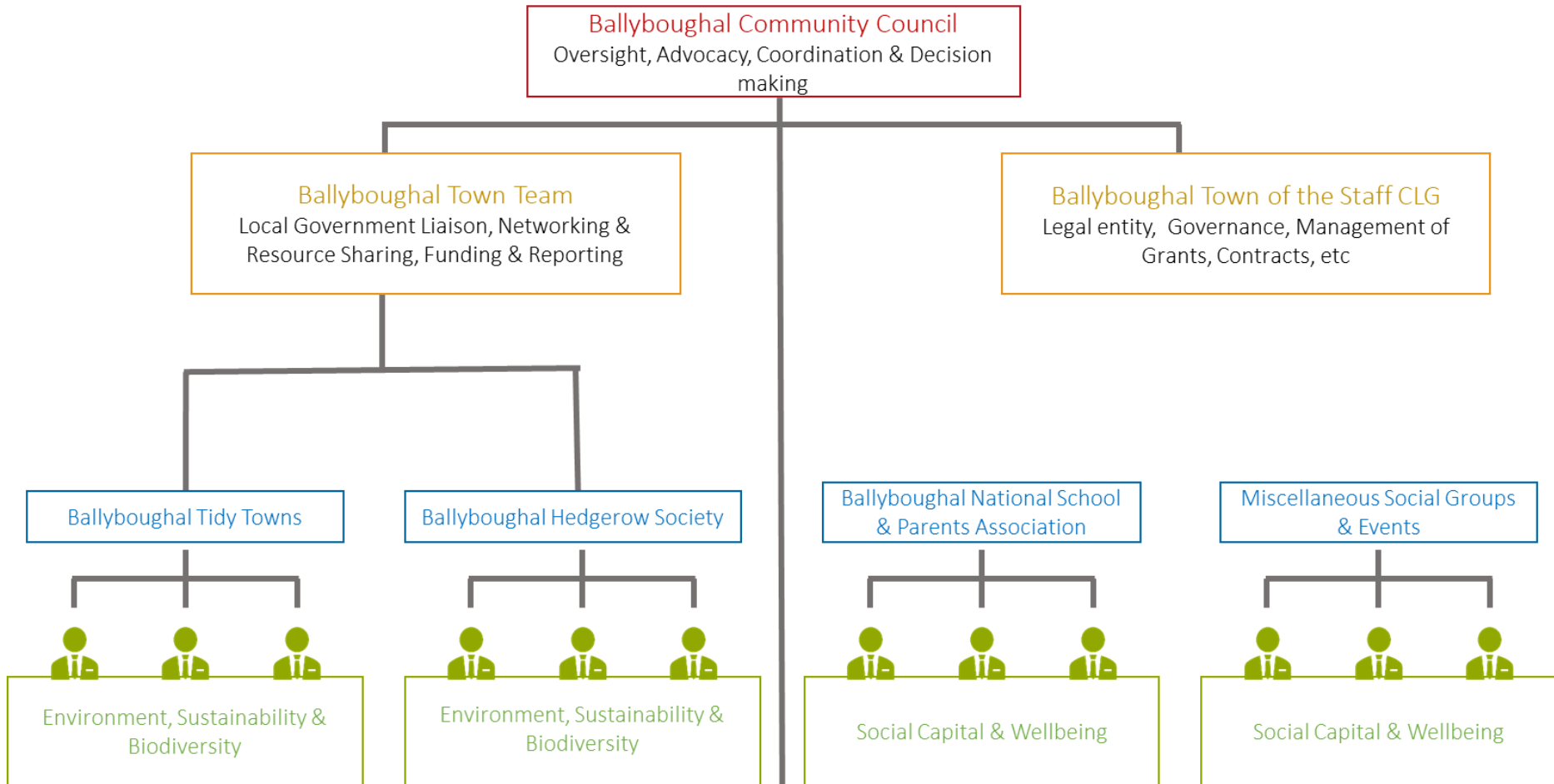
**PILLAR 3
PLACEMAKING, PUBLIC REALM
& DECARBONISATION**
Install age-friendly passive
seating/gathering places to
increase resident/visitor dwell
time at strategic locations
throughout the village.

Organisation, Governance & Representation

Objective	Strategic Action
Align local interests & share resources	All local organisations should formally review and adopt the Strategic Plan (2025-2030), thereafter aligning their interests and pooling their skills and resources in its implementation.
	BCC to evolve as the overarching community-led governance, coordination, decision making and project implementation structure which will represent and advocate for the shared social, economic and environmental interests for all in Ballyboughal.
Develop effective operational systems & protocols	Ensure high standards of governance and accountability through compliance with Charities Regulatory Authority Governance Code.
	Agree a collaboration charter and protocols detailing shared objectives between local organisations aligned to BCC.
	Establish an annual workplan (with clear assignment of roles, responsibilities, timelines, resources and budget), identifying, prioritising and assigning projects to be planned and delivered in the following twelve month period.
	Conduct an annual review of the Strategic Plan to monitor project progress and quantify project outcome and impact.
	Create a number of themed sub-committees and working groups (finance, projects, technical, communications, etc) with agreed terms of reference for each. Equitable representation and new volunteer input should be facilitated from aligned local organisations to the greatest extent possible to aid member continuity, rotation and succession planning
	Codify Standing Orders to establish appropriate representation, governance, decision making and accountability practices.
	Secure support for the necessary administration, caretaking and maintenance roles from labour market activation schemes (CE, RSS, Tus, etc).
	Review BCC board/trustee representation and formally audit skills deficits and needs
Widen experience, skills & networking capability	Create a voluntary Technical Panel with the necessary specialist skills (finance, project management, energy, construction, logistics, communications, admin, etc) to support project planning, implementation and evaluation.
	Increase number of local organisations affiliated to the Fingal Public Participation Network and agree principles and protocols for local representation, collaboration and resource sharing
	Develop and maintain the Ballyboughal website as an accessible, up to date information and communication platform.
Coordinate communications & information sharing	Commit to a regular schedule of communications to stakeholders; the means used should reflect the diverse capacity of the local community (print, electronic, WhatsApp, social media platforms; use of plain English, visual communications, etc.).
	Create and circulate a visual representation/dashboard of key achievements and impacts annually to all stakeholders
	Foster active partnerships with development and funding agencies to ensure local engagement with and implementation of social inclusion, socio-economic and environmental development targeted to local need and opportunity.
Advocate & engage with mutually beneficial networks & partnerships	Promote and coordinate the engagement with and active participation in the preparation and adoption of the Ballyboughal Masterplan.

Key Enablers	When
BCC, BTT, BTTC, BGFC, etc	Q3 2025
BCC,CRA	Q3 2025
BCC, CRA	Q3 2025 & Ongoing
BCC, BTT, BTTC, BGFC, etc	Q3 2025
BCC, BTT, BTTC, BGFC, etc	Annually 2025-2030
BCC	Annually 2025-2030
BCC, BTT, BTTC, BGFC, etc FVC	Q3 2025
BCC, FLP, FPPN,CRA	Q4 2025
BCC, FLP, Intreo, FVC	Q1 2026 & Ongoing
BCC, BM, FVC	Biennially 2025-2030
BCC, BM, FVC, FLP	Q4 2025 & Ongoing
BCC, FPPN,	Annually 2025-2030
BCC, FCC, FLP	Q3 2025 & Ongoing
BCC	Q3 2025 & Ongoing
BCC, BTT, BTTC, BGFC, etc	Annually 2025-2030
BCC, BTT, BTTC, BGFC, etc FCC	Annually 2025-2030
BCC, BTT, BTTC, BGFC, etc FCC	2026-2028

Alignment & Co-ordination



Implementation is Based on...

- Entirely volunteer-led combining formal & informal structures.
- High level of inter-group representation & inter-group alignment, co-ordination and trust.
- Agreement on common purpose defined by vision & enabled by strategy.
- Capable and trusted voices to represent & advocate.
- Stakeholders aligned, task and outcome-oriented.
- A desire for mutual problem solving and possibilities for co-design/creation.

Implementation is Based On...

- Emphasis on inclusive, participative, multi-generational activities for community wellbeing & social capital.
- Emphasis on developing practical solutions to *liveability* & *quality of life* issues.
- Incremental and multi-phase implementation.
- Keen understanding of and alignment with development strategies & frameworks.
- Strongly networked to and trusted by enabling agencies.
- Smart Village strategy seen as a critical stepping stone and evidence basis for proposed *Ballyboughal Masterplan* (*land use, residential zoning, essential services, etc*)

So...



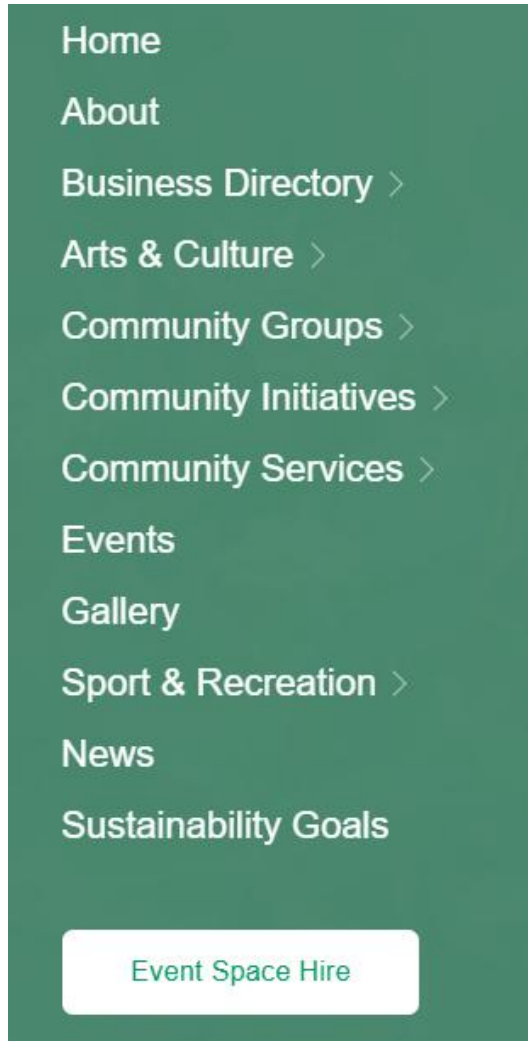
since September 2025...

A First Community Hub





A First Website



New Public Realm & Amenity Upgrades

- €26 million funding for over 100 projects in rural communities across the country
- Funding will stimulate town centre economic and social regeneration and resilience

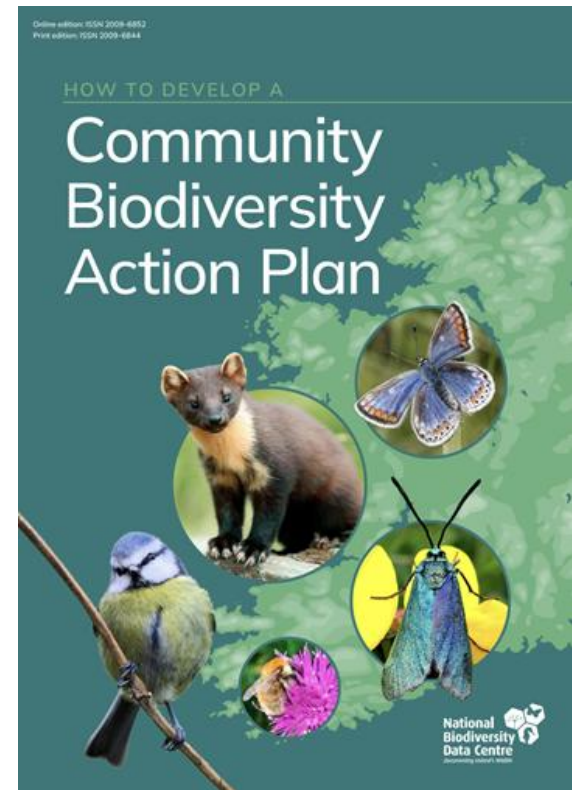
Town and Village Renewal Scheme



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

€218,000 of Government funding provided to support village centre public realm enhancements, illumination of key landmarks, gathering spaces for events and a wayfinding strategy to highlight local points of interest and improve access to the river walk, heritage trails, and biodiversity corridors.

A First Biodiversity Action Plan



New Events & Activities



Fingal Social Inclusion Week Ballyboughal

SATURDAY 22nd November

Come celebrate community, connection & kindness with us.

Ballyboughal Tidy Towns

Bulb planting event in the village 11am - 1pm

Ballyboughal Community Council Meet and Greet

in the Ballyboughal Community Hub
1pm to 3pm - meet volunteers and neighbours,
and enjoy a chat over a cuppa - everyone is welcome.



Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council



COMMUNITY CLEAN

SATURDAY 28TH MARCH
10AM - 12 NOON

Help us keep Ballyboughal clean, green and beautiful - one street at a time!

Collect Your Supplies:
O'Connor's The Village Inn
Pick up bin bags, litter pickers & gloves to get started.

We're asking everyone to take the supplies, clean up roadsides and streets in your own areas, and help make a real difference in your community.

All are welcome - every little bit helps!

Hosted by
BALLYBOUGHAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Ballyboughal Bat Walk

SUNDAY JUNE 1ST
21:00

MEET AT BALLYBOUGHAL CHURCH
A4ICX49

JOIN THE FUN WALK WITH DUBLIN BAT GROUP!

EXPLORE THE NATURE RESERVE WITH
BAT DETECTORS TO DISCOVER
NOCTURNAL BIODIVERSITY
CHILDREN WELCOME
CONTACT ANN TO BOOK
0863638487

We will be showcasing our new Biodiversity Plan, our Smart Village Plan, our new Heritage Sign, the "Town Centre First Catalogue and launching our brand new Ballyboughal community website.

The Ballyboughal Hedgerow Society

Paddy White 5km Run

from O'Connor's Pub @11.30am on Sunday, 23rd November. in celebration of marathon hero Paddy White - with great prizes to be won.

www.Ballyboughal.ie

There's lots happening in Ballyboughal - come be part of it!



Bottle Cage Recycling Initiative



Water Conservation



Reuse & Upcycling

Ballyboughal Hedgerow Round

Slí na Sceacha

The map shows a network of roads and hedgerows in the Ballyboughal area. Key locations include Knightstown, Bettyville, The River, Devine's Lane, Wimpletown Bridge, Wimpletown, Irishtown, Annabrook, Old Cash Road, Mainscourt (Great Roscall), Newtown House, The 40 Acres, Roscall, Ballyboughal, Grange, Dooroge, and Browstown Boggs. The map is decorated with illustrations of a kingfisher, a bird, and a badger.

Ballyboughal Summer Festival

Saturday, 20th June 2026

Save the Date

A celebration for the whole community
Live music • Family fun • Parade • Entertainment

Festivities begin at 4:00 PM
Stay tuned for full programme...

Hosted by
Ballyboughal Community Council

BALLYBOUGHAL CHRISTMAS FAIR

Sat 13TH DECEMBER
12 NOON - 5 PM

ST. PATRICK'S HALL
AND THE COMMUNITY HUB

Crafts & Gifts

A World Wetlands Day Webinar

Community Led River Restoration

Join us on Microsoft Teams
3rd February 2026
10am-12pm
Bring a cup of teal

Scan to register

Or click here

SPEAKERS
Eva Ford, Catchment Officer
MARY RIVER CATCHMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA
Dr. Trish Murphy, Project Officer
INSHOWN RIVERS TRUST, CO. DONEGAL

HEDGE LAYING COURSE

BALLYBOUGHAL HEDGEROW SOCIETY

- Training includes: Pleaching, Binding, Hinge Cutting, Building & Staking a hedge, Trimming Stakes, Mulching Brush
- Friday 20th February 10am - 4pm
- Saturday 21st February 10am - 4pm
- Suggested Donation €30 per day including Lunch, Drinks & Snacks
- Meet at 10am White's Agri Eircode K45FD78
- Experts Robert & Emma Birtwistle David & Ross Thompson
- To Book Email:
lynchjustice@gmail.com or 086 3638487
tidytownslusk@gmail.com

facebook: Ballyboughal Hedgerow Society
www.lusktidytowns.com

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall Fingal County Council



Education & Awareness



Pollinator & Biodiversity Support



Circular Gardening & Plant Sharing

A New Heritage Guide

Ballyboughal Heritage Guide

Treoir Oidhreachta Bhaile Bachtaille

A Village steeped in History
Sráidbhaile lán le stair

The hugely important relic the Bacall Iosa or St Patrick's crozier was venerated in Ballyboughal in the 12th Century - which gives the village its name. In the 13th century Ballyboughal (Ballyboghil) was the 'breadbasket' for St Mary's Cistercian Abbey, Dublin, because of its abbey farm (Grange). In 1798 the last battle occurred between fleeing Wexford rebels and British Crown forces by Drishogue Lane. In 1836 it acquired a new beautiful chapel and then in 1921 in the War of Independence two men from opposite sides died in a shooting at O'Connors Pub. There have been moments of huge celebration too as in 1968 when the GAA Club won the Intermediate Dublin Championship and there were great celebrations at the Bridge.



Monument Park

The park site was donated to the village by the local Grogan family. Its Celtic Decorated Cross tells how Ceallach Bishop of Armagh and hereditary Keeper of the Bacall Iosa or St Patrick's Crozier, granted it to Ballyboughal in 1106. Ballyboughal was made part of the Armagh Diocese because of this great honour - Town of the Staff. Oaths were sworn on it, feuds settled and promises made. It was removed in 1173 by Strongbow to Christchurch Cathedral and burnt in 1538 during the Reformation.



Ballyboughal Bridge

Ballyboughal was located on the 18th century Passenger Mail Coach route from Church St, Dublin via Glasnevin and Ballymun to Drogheda. The river was called the Clochar or Ballyboughal Brook. Clochar refers to the Grace Dieu Augustinian nunnery nearby founded in 1504 where young ladies of the Pale were educated until the Reformation in 1541. An early wooden bridge spanned it, replaced in 1925 by the present bridge. In 1838 there was an impressive avenue of elms to the west of Ballyboughal according to D'Alton. The adjacent field is called the Mill Field although the 2 most important mills were Westpalstown and Grace Dieu.



The Church of Our Lady of the Assumption

The present Church of Our Lady of the Assumption has a plaque above the entrance door with the date of 1836. Originally all the windows had brick surrounds and the altar faced East. It was redesigned in c.1890 with a new added gallery and steeple and again in 1968 when the unstable wooden steeple was removed. The fine wrought iron railings matched those of the adjacent two-storey house and also surrounded the central tomb of the Byrne family in the nearby graveyard - first owners of that former Georgian house



St. Patrick's Community Hall

It was formerly Ballyboughal National School, opened in 1834 and replaced by a new school in 1964. The School - it was worth £7 in 1847, whilst the chapel was worth £23. Dalton described the new Chapel in Grange townland as a 'spacious new Roman Catholic church' but described the school as 'very poor, attended by 127 children. It was refurbished in the 1970's and today is used as a play school and for all community events. Locals remember this school with its 2 classrooms. The children collected sticks on their way to school for the big fire where the Headmaster, Mr Connolly sat. Times were very harsh - one boy served a short prison sentence for standing up to a harsh beating. The old school roll books dating to 1836 are still held in the village. The schoolchildren contributed to the Schools Collection (Dúchas) with many local stories in the 1930s (www.duchas.ie)

O'Connor's Public House



This was a Georgian building and is marked on maps from 1810. On April 18th 1921 a shooting took place at the pub during an attack on a Royal Irish Constabulary vehicle. Two people died following the shooting - one a local man named Peter White of Roscall and the other an RIC Constable by the name of Sargent Kinvan. But for the intervention of the RIC Garristown Sergeant entering into dialogue with Mr Edward O'Connor, the proprietor at the time, it is likely that the premises would have been burnt down that night.

The Old Church Ruins



This original Church of the Assumption, dates to the 13th century. It was built by the powerful Cistercian Abbey of St Mary in Dublin which had an extensive Grange (Farm) here to produce hay and cereals. The most notable feature is the unusual triple bell cote, a feature found also in the ruined medieval churches of Hollywood, Howth and Malahide Castle. Note too the gothic East Window with an exterior bust of the Virgin. It was a ruin by the mid 1600s because of the Reformation but it chapel in Barnanstown continued to be used in secret instead.

The mass grave of some 200 United Irishmen (Pikemen) from Wexford is by the south church wall. They had lost a battle in Drishogue in 1798 against the 500 strong Dumfries Light Dragoons. The oldest gravestone is from 1720 and there are also grave inscriptions on the church walls for people who could not afford a grave plot.

The Forge




The forge stood where the M4 petrol pumps are now located and this is where the Donnelly's lived. Donnelly's were the blacksmiths for generations. The warm forge was a place to meet and exchange news, like the internet today! It is likely that during the 1798 rising pikes were made for the figal rebels here. Sometimes gates were melted to make pikes as iron was scarce.

Beside the Forge were double cottages where the cobbler Dickie McCarrin mended shoes and were the Donnelly's lived. The green corrugated steel library was located at the end and was run by the gentle librarian. Mrs Emery who lived onsite and dispensed water as she had an outdoor tap (as well as books!)" The ham was stored in a wire cage outside as there were no fridges then. The yellow bungalow with 4 chimneys was a Post Office/Grocery established by Paddy Dowdican in c.1950 The ham was stored in a wire cage as there were no fridges. Sugar came in huge bags and was then decanted into smaller ones.




Source:
Map of Dublin and
County of Dublin, 1836
by John Rocque
and
The Ordnance Survey
of Ireland, 1840
by the Ordnance Survey
of Ireland, 1840
by the Ordnance Survey
of Ireland, 1840

New Information Signage



Aquatic Habitat Flora and Fauna (Gnáthóga na h-Abhainn)



Biodiversity on Ballyboughal River

(Bithéagsúlacht ar abhainn Baile Bachaille)

Trees (Crainn):
Alder (Fearnog) Willow (Saileach)

Amphibia (Débheathaith):
Frog (Frog) Newt (Niút)

Insects (Feithídi):
Moth (Leamhan) Grasshopper (Dreoilin)
Dragonfly (Snáthaid Mhór)

Flowers (Blathanna):
Yellow Iris (Feileastram)
Marsh Marigold (Lus Bui)
Rush (Luachra)

Fish (Iasc) : Salmon (Bradán) Trout (Breac)

Mammals (Mamach): Otter (Dobharchú)

Birds (Éin):
Water Hen (Cearc Fhraoigh) Kingfisher (Riogán)
Heron (Corr Réisc) Dipper (Gabha Dubh)

Frog (Frog) Newt (Niút)

Moth (Leamhan)

Mayfly (Cuil Bhealtaine)

Grasshopper (Dreoilin)

Dragonfly (Dreigin)

Dipper (Gabha Dubh)




Heron (Corr Réisc)

Funded by LA/WFO (Local Authorities Water Programme)

Local Authority's
Waters
Programme

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council

National Biodiversity Data Centre
Bioscience Ireland's 2000+

New Information Signage



WINTER

Deadwood provides nesting and breeding sites for insects. Fruits and berries are a vital source of food for birds and mammals.

AUTUMN

Ivy flowers in autumn, providing a critical supply of nectar for insects before they hibernate. Mammals find safe places to spend the winter.



Welcome To Ballyboughal Nature Reserve

SPRING

The hedgerow bursts into life. Nectar and pollen rich plants flower in succession, feeding pollinators as they emerge from hibernation.

SUMMER

As the weather warms, birds use trees as song posts. Caterpillars of moths and butterflies feed on the hedgerow plants. Bats feed on the abundant insects.

Funded by:

Fingal County Council.



Improved Tidy Towns Performance

Tidy Towns Competition 2025

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyboughal - Baile Bachaille** Ref: **155**
 County: **Dublin** Mark: **356**
 Category: **B** Date(s): **12/07/2025**

Tidy Towns Competition 2024

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyboughal - Baile Bachaille** Ref: **155**
 County: **Dublin** Mark: **339**
 Category: **C** Date(s): **04/07/2024**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2024	Mark Awarded 2025		Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2023	Mark Awarded 2024
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	53	56	Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	51	53
Streetscape & Public Places	80	44	46	Streetscape & Public Places	80	42	44
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	49	51	Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	46	49
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	35	38	Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	32	35
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	17	19	Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	15	17
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	61	63	Tidiness and Litter Control	90	59	61
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	43	45	Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	41	43
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	37	38	Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	36	37
TOTAL MARK	550	339	356	TOTAL MARK	550	322	339

Critical Success Factors

- Consider *Smart* as a proxy for resilience, liveability and quality of life.
- Always define the '*problem*' to be addressed.
- Animate the Concept. Ask '*What if?*' and take time to explore new possibilities.
- '*Storytelling*' animates case studies and best practice exemplars.
- Design for People!
- Create opportunities for dialogue & collaboration.
- Build alliances & networks.

Critical Success Factors

- Create physical connections to build scale & impact.
- Enable the *'doing' by inspiring the 'doers'*.
- Use the full range of available development supports.
- Work towards co-design/creation.
- Ensure strategic coherence, alignment and agility.
- Use strategic planning to *'Think Slow, Act Fast'*.
- Use visuals to communicate possibilities and outcomes.
- Acknowledge & celebrate success!

An American President Once Said...

DO WHAT YOU CAN
WITH WHAT YOU HAVE
WHERE YOU ARE.

—Theodore Roosevelt

THANK YOU





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