



Castle Field, Enniscrone

4.2 Key Development Projects

Castle Field, The Hollow and The Pier are prominent areas within the town, which require redevelopment in order to further maximise their potential and usage. It is the aim of this plan to encourage and support these projects, as outlined below.

4.2.1 Castle Field

Castle Field in Enniscrone consists of both active and passive recreational pursuits, including a playing field, walkways and archaeological sites of interest. The park is centrally located. Its south and west sides are flanked by the backlands of buildings fronting Main Street and Pier Road, the aqua leisure centre bounds the parks north-west side and grazing fields form the boundary to the north east. No overlooking of this site occurs. This has led to 'dead' frontages facing onto the park, therefore it lacks a sense of security. The presence of a factory enterprise building does little to enhance the area and must be screened with landscaping and tree planting.

The Town Improvement Society owns the Castle Field land. Presently the site has three pedestrian access points, two adjoining Main Street and one accessed from Pier road. None of these access points are well signposted or visually attractive. This needs to be improved and further access points need to be identified, such as access from the north of the park. Access should be reserved to link into future development areas to the north, with the buildings orientated onto the park.

There is evidence of little maintenance, with the park overgrown and unkempt in many parts, impeding access and views of the many archaeological structures present. A black tarmac path provides access around the park and a stone walkway has been provided to gain access to the castle ruin, however this walkway is narrow and overgrown. There are no benches throughout the site and the playing pitch is prone to waterlogging.



Evidence of waterlogging on the playing fields in Castle Field

A concrete block wall dissects the field pattern of this land, and in doing so dissects an archaeological megalithic tomb. This wall not only disrupts archaeology but also has an extremely negative visual effect on the surrounding landscape, as it has been erected at a height along an esker ridge. The adjoining land is also owned by the Town Improvement Society and leased for grazing. This wall should be demolished, as proposed in the '*Conservation Plan of Castle Field, 2002*' by North West Archaeological Services and in its place the erection of a stock-proof post and wire fence north of the existing concrete block wall could be considered. This would allow for the continued grazing of animals, thus providing the Enniscrone Improvement Society with a viable financial resource. The fence would be less visually intrusive than the previous modern concrete wall and if needed the edge can be softened by planting of native hedgerows.

Care needs to be taken to ensure adequate pedestrian access. A small stream runs parallel to the north eastern boundary of this field. A walkway accessed beside the fire station on Main Street, running parallel to the stream and encircling the extended open space would greatly increase the amenity potential of this site. (see Castle Field Concept Map, Map 8)

To consolidate and enhance the recreational amenity value of this park a number of improvements need to be considered.



Concrete block wall dissecting archaeological feature

Map 8: Castle Field Concept Map





Castle Field walkway to Nolan's Castle

4.2.1.1 Castle Field Policies

It is the policy of the County Council to:

- Require that any future development and/or improvements initiative for the Castle Field area should have regard to the 'Conservation Plan of Castle Field, 2002' prepared by North West Archaeological Services Ltd. on behalf of the Enniscrone & District Community Development Ltd.
- Visually improve the existing access points to Castle Field and identify additional points for access.
- Provide informative signposting about the walking trails and archaeological value of Castle Field at strategic locations throughout the town and provide further detailed information panels within the area itself, explaining the significant aspects of the site.
- Provide lighting at identified points around the open space to strengthen issues of safety.
- Improve the surface of existing walkways to allow for wheelchair accessibility.
- Improve the maintenance and upkeep of the park landscape ensuring that the grass is maintained and manicured to maximise use of walkways so as to reveal archaeological sites.
- Provide a number of benches to be placed at intervals around the circumference of Castle Field. (see section 4.3.8)
- Ensure that the existing statutory protection for the archaeological monuments is observed in relation to any proposed works on the site.

4.2.1.2 Castle Field objectives

It is an objective of the County Council to:

- CF1** Extend the parameters of Castle Field Park to include the adjacent field, using the stream as the natural field boundary as indicated on The Castle Field Objective Map, Map 12.
- CF2** Construct a walkway to run parallel with the stream ensuring that either end connects to the existing paths thereby developing a walkway which circumnavigates the site area. (see Castle Field Objective Map, Map 12)
- CF3** Identify and encourage the development of three additional access points, one to the north of the site by the aqua leisure centre, one to the southeast of the site by the fire station and one to the north of the stream to serve future development thereby allowing greater movement and circulation through the site. (see Castle Field Objective Map, Map 12)
- CF4** Demolish the concrete block wall, which dissects the site and erect appropriate fencing further north of this current structure. Provide stiles in order to allow adequate pedestrian access through the partition. (see Castle Field Objective Map, Map 12)
- CF5** Encourage the screening of the enterprise factory at the southwest corner of the site by the use of tree-planting and landscaping. (see Castle Field Objective Map, Map 12)
- CF6** Facilitate the drainage of the playing pitch in order to assist year round usage. (see Castle Field Objective Map, Map 12)

4.2.2 The Hollow

The Hollow recreational area is located adjacent to the beachfront, bounded by the backlands of Main Street to the south, with sand dunes along its northern edge. Improvements need to be carried out on this site to ensure that its maximum potential as an amenity space is achieved and also to improve its physical appearance.

In general this area is in need of multi-faceted development, which would include the development and improvement of a new promenade orientated towards the sea using the vacant backlands of Main Street and the existing narrow roadway in front of this land. Redevelopment of the central grassed area, involving use of improved materials (such as wooden pole fencing) to enclose the outdoor children’s playground, is necessary. The existing children’s playground can only be accessed upon paid entry, which hinders social inclusion. Work also needs to be carried out on the upgrading of the existing crazy golf course and the materials used for its enclosure. Construction of a market facility and retail outlets should be considered to strengthen the existing building line, creating interesting, vibrant laneways and pedestrian routes, and consolidating the development profile within the specific area. The tarmacadamed back roadway, which currently provides access to the coast fronting car park, should be paved allowing for outdoor café seating and canopies, giving the place a promenade feel.

The new building line (where the backlands of Main Street meet the existing narrow roadway adjacent to the Hollow) needs to be properly defined in order to positively strengthen the visual image of this section of land. Mixed infill development is to be encouraged to create a vibrant space, however care must be taken to protect and maintain existing pedestrian linkages and connections between the Hollow and Main Street. Three pedestrian linkages exist between the Main Street and the Hollow. Such pedestrian linkages need to be strengthened by encouraging active frontage (such as shop fronts, cafés etc.), lighting and properly paved routes. Prioritisation of these routes could aid in the re-development process. Due to the sloping nature of this land and its location relevant to the town core, two-storey over basement development is encouraged facing onto Main Street and two-three storey development is encouraged facing onto the Hollow so as to utilise the differences in levels. A mix of ground floor uses at the Hollow would be appropriate to enliven the street space and encourage an extension of the retail/commercial core of the town.

The derelict amusement arcade, constructed from corrugated iron, perched on the sloping hill to the east of the Hollow area, is visually intrusive and regarded by the community as an eyesore. Therefore demolition of this building needs to be considered, or alternatively, if the structure is sound, its redevelopment as a use to benefit the local community.

Currently a dune management system is operated whereby some parts of the dunes are fenced and wooden boardwalks have been constructed to control access through sensitive dune areas preventing further dune erosion. This system needs to be continuously maintained and monitored.



The Hollow amenity area



Children's playground, the Hollow



Overview of backland development in the Hollow



Vacant amusement arcade, the Hollow



Define area of parking so as to prevent random parking and wastage of space



Pedestrian linkage, Priority 1



Pedestrian linkage, Priority 2



Artistic impression of improvements that could be made to Priority Two pedestrian linkage



Pedestrian linkage, Priority 3

4.2.2.1 The Hollow Policies

It is the policy of the County Council to:

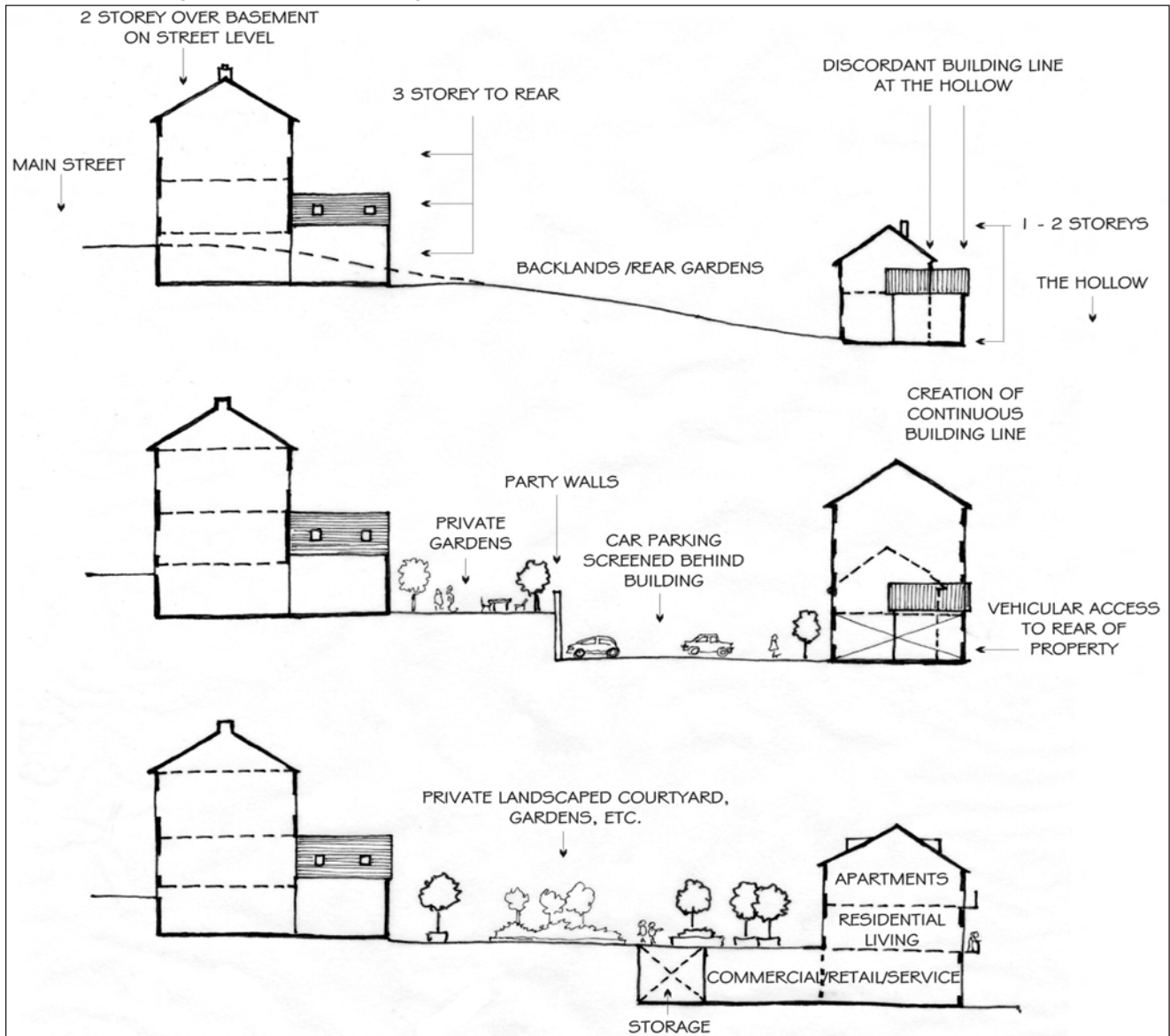
- Redevelop the Hollow as a central public open space/recreational amenity area.
- Protect and improve the existing pedestrian linkages from the Hollow through to Main Street by way of encouraging mixed infill development, promoting active frontage, and introducing lighting and paving.
- Maintain and monitor the existing dune management system to identify the carrying capacity of the area and assess access and visitor numbers to the dunes ecological system.
- Facilitate the continued accommodation of circus, carnival and amusement events in the Hollow.

4.2.2.2 The Hollow Objectives

It is an objective of the County Council to:

- H1** Incorporate additional delineated car parking spaces to be sited near to the junction of the two-access roads within the Hollow. (see Hollow Objective Map, Map 13)
- H2** Facilitate the visual enhancement of the children’s play area and crazy golf course by identifying and using softer materials, such as wood for fencing. Appropriate European standards of equipment and supervision need to be maintained and supported at all times. (see Hollow Objective Map 13)
- H3** Extend and delineate parking at the lifeguard lookout tower. (see Hollow Objective Map 13)
- H4** Promote the development of infill sites at the Hollow so as to establish a strong and continuous building line with developments that could support mixed land uses. (see The Hollow Objective Map, Map 13)
- H5** Improve the surfaces of the existing road paving and strengthen the definition of the road edges. (no map reference)
- H6** Encourage the provision of landscaping on the slopes from Pier Road down to the Hollow. (see Hollow Objective Map, Map 13)
- H7** Prioritise pedestrian linkages in the Hollow and strengthen the public right of way:
 - 1 = Priority One**, Land to the west of the link will allow for the development of structures fronting onto the passageway.
 - 2 = Priority Two**, This pedestrian linkage already consists of paving. Further paving and lighting would strengthen this routeway.
 - 3 = Priority Three**, Tarmacadamed pedestrian linkage in ownership of the neighbouring hotel. Slope is quite steep. (see Hollow Objective Map, Map 13)
- H8** Encourage the development, appropriate to design, of active frontage along one of the pedestrian linkages. (see Hollow Objective Map, Map 13)

Cross-Section of possible Hollow development





Pier berthing facilities, Enniscrone

4.2.3 The Pier

The Pier is currently an underutilised resource in terms of its tourism capabilities. Current harbour facilities are inadequate to support local fishermen due to a lack of shelter and the fact that's its not an all tide harbour. A diversification from fishing to other tourism orientated leisure activities, such as dinghy sailing, RIB (rigid inflatable boats) exploration, and small boat sea angling, is also limited due to the lack of facilities and current harbour restrictions.

In order to address this situation a number of measures need to be taken to improve the quality of the harbour and increase marine leisure. The specific objective of the '*Enniscrone Marine Leisure Development Strategy, 2000*' carried out by Countryside Consultancy was the redevelopment of the harbour. Issues such as providing greater shelter at the harbour, improving the slipway and berthing facilities, provision of boat parking for residents and visitors and development of the associated marine services, retail facilities (such as a bait/fishing supplies shop), as well as facilities for those participating in beach watersports were all explored as elements in the redevelopment of the harbour. The interlinking of the Pier with surrounding scenic areas, such as the development of a Cliff walk to the Promontory Fort, and strengthening of the connection with the beach will be encouraged to promote the redevelopment of this area.

As part of the Pier redevelopment, changes will be made to the triangular junction, as well as the redevelopment of the site to facilitate a new public square, viewing point and parking area.

4.2.3.1 The Pier Policies

It is the policy of the County Council to:

- Consider the '*Enniscrone Marine Leisure Development Strategy*' in any future development of the Pier.
- Support the redevelopment of the Pier as part of the strategy to develop marine tourism.
- Promote commercial development associated with the Pier.
- Provide stronger linkages between the Pier and surrounding scenic landscape.

4.2.3.2 The Pier Objectives

It is an objective of the County Council to:

- P1** Provide improved shelter, launching and berthing facilities at the Pier.
- P2** Promote water-based activities, such as sea angling, sailing etc (no map reference)
- P3** Provide a cliff walk from the Pier along the coast to Cahirmore Promontory Fort.



Existing triangular junction, the Pier, Enniscrone

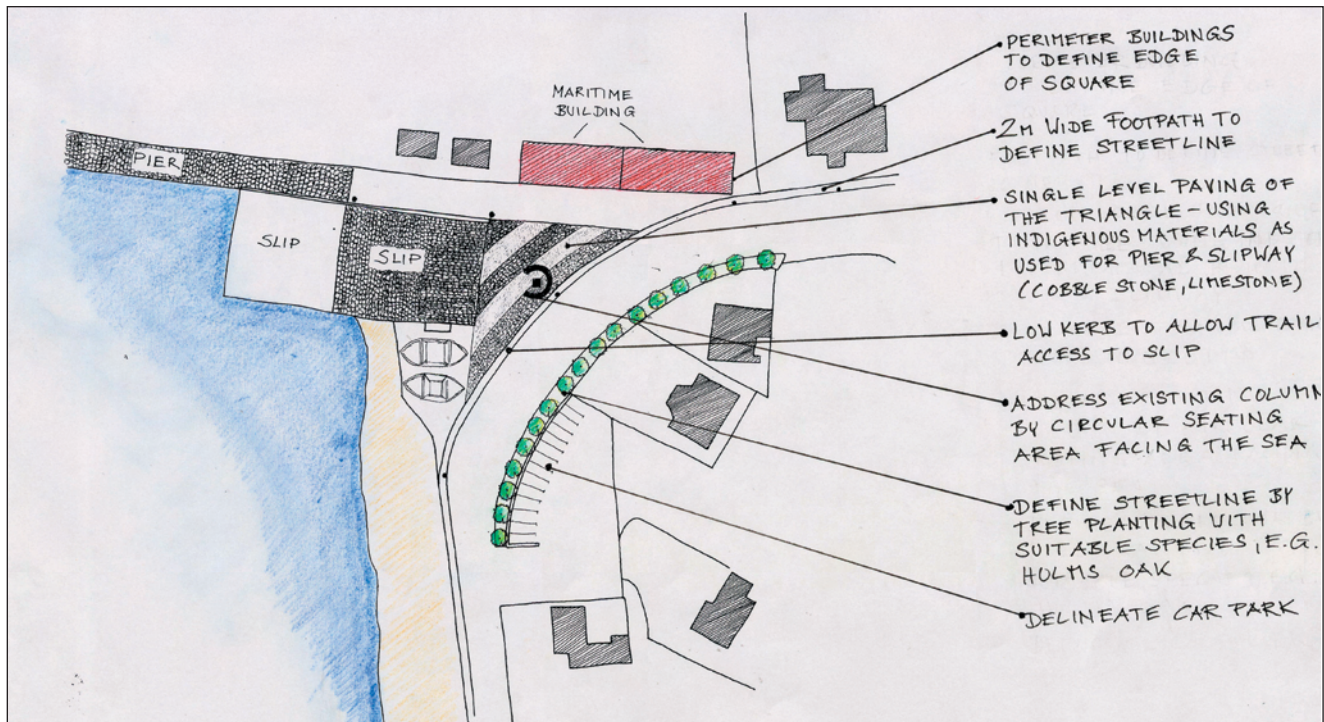


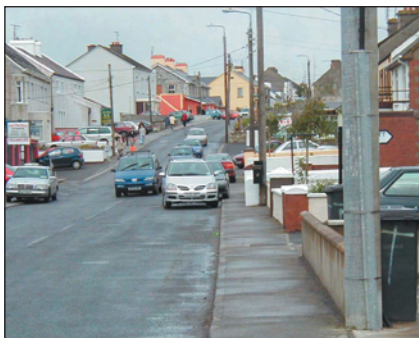
Small boat berthed at the Pier, Enniscrone

- P4** Develop a civic amenity square in the area of the Pier and improve the junction and physical appearance of this area.
- P5** Encourage the long-term development of a Maritime Centre, which would strengthen the building line of the area and provide a focal structure and attraction.
- P6** Delineate car parking spaces.
- P7** Provide vehicular access and car lookout bays to the backlands of the pier area, in order for the public to take advantage of the scenic views.
- P8** Facilitate the development of a key focal structure to strengthen the currently weak visual appearance of this derelict site.

Note: for all the above (see Pier Objectives Map 14 and Sketch 1 below)

Pier Concept: Sketch 1





Main Street, Enniscrone. Bleak view of streetscape - At present the predominant elements are the electricity poles. An effort should be made to encourage planting of shrubs and perhaps a small number of strategically placed trees.

4.3 Designing the Town - An Urban Design Framework

Urban design is about developing and maintaining a quality environment with particular reference to the external design of buildings, the relationship of buildings to one another, the development of key focal areas/squares and the provision of attractive public spaces. The quality of the streetscape is important in establishing an attractive and quality environment, which will attract businesses, tourists and a resident population. The creation of a sense of place, building upon the distinct character of the area, is important in order for people to be able to identify with their surroundings. To build upon the local identity and character of Enniscrone, a number of urban design issues should be considered, particularly with regard to the development of existing streetscapes, maintenance of the character of existing buildings and the design of future developments.

4.3.1 Building Line

The building line can be defined as the position of the building relative to the pavement or road edge and is an important element within the streetscape. It encourages orderly development, enhances the character of the street and creates a distinctive sense of place. The existing building line is uniform upon entering the town from the east, this is particularly evident along the section of street up to Cliff Road. However the western end of Main Street (from Pier Road) has a more haphazard building line, where developments have not always respected the building line or indeed roof pitch of adjoining properties. Properties along this section vary dramatically in height, with a weak streetscape created by 'gaps' between many of the premises. Development has not been approached through a uniformed coherent streetscape.

Future developments, particularly infill buildings along Main Street, must reinforce the existing established building line where one exists, alternatively, such development must create a coherent building line which does not protrude beyond adjoining buildings. The front boundaries of buildings should be defined using consistent materials/landscaping and should be in line with each other. This definition of boundary could assist in strengthening the existing poor building line along the east of Main Street.

4.3.2 Infill Developments

There are a number of sites available for infill development throughout the town, particularly along Main Street. Infill developments can also be instrumental in strengthening the streetscape and building upon the existing pattern of development. New buildings should include the most significant elements of the streetscape (though not necessarily all) within their design in order to respect the local setting and context. In general infill development should have regard for the following elements:

- Reinforce/reinstate the existing building line.
- Encourage the use of materials appropriate to the design and climatic conditions of the area.
- Have regard for fenestration patterns, window types, building heights (or moderate characteristic variations in heights typically found in Irish villages), roof pitches, roof profiles and plot widths, respecting the overall streetscape/ or townscape.
- Ground floor retail developments should respect traditional shop front design with regard to proportion of windows, use of vernacular materials and relationship to the street. Outdoor seating should be considered where appropriate and where space permits.



A recent project worthy of praise located near to the church accommodates a mix of ground floor uses, with residential on the first floor and parking provided discreetly to the rear. Overlooking of the entrance to the rear has also been addressed with commercial premises developed along the ground floor, encouraging commercial activity to the front and along the side street. The archaeological monument to the rear has also been made accessible with the area surrounding it landscaped and a small seating area provided.

- Respect the massing and scale of development.
- New buildings should address the street and where corner sites are concerned, should address both streets.
- The design of new buildings/developments should be assessed upon their compatibility within the overall streetscape/townscape.

4.3.3 Building Materials

The vernacular materials for Enniscrone are stone for walls, rendered surfaces and slate roofs. The following elements of a building within an established streetscape can reinforce the character of the area:

- Fenestration, e.g. windows with a vertical emphasis are the most common form used in older buildings. The type of windows chosen should reflect the style of the existing streetscape.
- Doors, e.g. panelled timber or doors with large glazed panels. Simple panelled doors are the most effective in a traditional building line.
- Colour scheme associated with window surrounds and doors, and occasionally with the entire façade, is a traditional element of many Irish towns and can help in the enlivenment of the streetscape. However tones used should compliment each other and should not be garish or loud.

In allowing change in the style of buildings within the town, emphasis must be placed on good design; where this is lacking alternative styles and use of materials will not be allowed. It is also important that fundamental changes in design and use of materials is integrated within the existing development form through design and landscaping techniques so as not to overshadow the existing character, e.g. by maintaining the essential building line and the style of buildings fronting the street, a uniformity and uniqueness of character can be maintained, while backland development can allow a greater variation in style and development patterns.

The majority of infill development along Main Street should, in general, be two storey in height (depending on the Topography) and address the street. Also buildings should have a rendered façade and promote the use of vertically orientated sash windows. New infill developments in the past have neglected to accommodate the uniqueness of Enniscrone's built heritage, particularly along western Main Street, where disproportionate ground floor windows, tiled roofs and single storey developments have been allowed. In order to encourage orderly development and the most efficient use of land in the future, issues such as building line, building materials and design will be key in the development of new projects.

In terms of materials for pedestrian surfaces, tarmac is acceptable, although if resources permit the use of small stone setts would provide the streetscape with a more attractive physical appearance. There is a need for path edges to be more defined than at present through the possible use of granite kerbing. These materials will assist in establishing a more coherent and definitive network of paths.

The access routes to the beach from Main Street could also be more clearly indicated by varying the surface material. An upgrading of the existing surfaces is required.



Vehicular access route to beach

4.3.4 Building Condition

The majority of the buildings in Enniscrone are in 'good' condition (see Building Condition Map, Map 9). This includes most of the buildings in the commercial/retail core along Main Street and the majority of residential properties located throughout the town. The continued upkeep of existing buildings will be encouraged and the redevelopment of vacant buildings facilitated.

The numerous holiday home developments located throughout Enniscrone are seen to be predominantly well designed and to a large extent do not intrude upon the landscape. The Atlantic Caravan Park (which has not been classified in terms of building condition) detracts somewhat from the general high standard of buildings in the area. Further expansion to this caravan park will be restricted for environmental and aesthetic reasons (due to the proximity of the Dunes and cSAC).

Buildings described as being in 'fair' condition (of which there are few) include a small number of older residential properties located throughout the town. The predominance of 'good' conditioned buildings is largely due to the population's sense of pride towards their area regarding maintenance and upkeep of the building stock and also due to the proportion of new and recent developments within the town, i.e. constructed in the last seven years.



R297, East entrance route into Enniscrone

4.3.5 Quality of Entrance Points to the Town

The landscaping of entrance points to the town can be helpful in creating a strong positive image of the town. The entrance from the R297 from the east is well maintained, with grass verges kept trimmed, appropriate landscaping, traditionally maintained stonewall, and welcome sign indicating that one is now entering Enniscrone. However entrance along the R297 from the west is less orderly. This should be addressed, so as to maintain a positive image of the town.

In ensuring the orderly development of the town, it is important to be able to distinguish where the rural environment stops and the town begins. This can be achieved through placing a restriction on development just beyond the development boundary, with an emphasis placed on building within the existing settlement rather than in a more haphazard manner leading to ribbon development along the entrance roads.

4.3.6 Overhead Wires

The effects of electrical and telephone poles can be detrimental to a streetscape where these are provided in a disorderly manner with no regard to the surrounding landscape and their routing. Consultation should be carried out with the relevant service providers to possibly reduce the proliferation of overhead wires and poles within the town and in the case of new developments, encourage the placing of cables underground.

4.3.7 Lighting

The current lighting system is located along one side of Main Street, with lights attached to the top of telephone/electricity poles. This lighting is less than attractive, creating a cluttered appearance. A more uniform system of lighting would be preferable and will be considered in the context of the current funding programme.



Example of Public Lighting

Map 9: Building Condition





Public seating, the Hollow, Enniscrone



Muckduff, Public art, Enniscrone

4.3.8 Street Furniture

Street furniture, including benches, litter bins, and signage should be provided in a coherent minimalist manner and ensure that pedestrian movement is not impeded.

There are a number of benches situated throughout Enniscrone, in front of the church along Main Street, in the Hollow area, along the beach promenade and at the Pier. However, the condition of some of these benches is less than desirable. Improvements need to be made to the existing benches and Castle Field and along the cliff edge would also benefit from the provision of seating.

4.3.9 Public Art

A programme of public art will also be encouraged, with art pieces located at specific positions to add to the uniqueness of Enniscrone, for example at the entrances to the laneways leading from Main Street to the Hollow, at the entrance to the Castle Field Park, on the verges entering the town with associated landscaping, and by the Pier. Such areas act as key focal points within the town and as such would benefit from the provision of central pieces of artwork and landscaping.

4.3.10 Signposting

There is currently a lack of tourist signposts to highlight the various points of interest, both historical, archaeological and of a scenic nature within Enniscrone. Such signposts should be located strategically upon entrance to the town to create an awareness of elements of interest and should then be further signposted within the centre at the points of entrance to such sights.

Parking signs will also be strategically placed to indicate parking at the lifeguard house, at the Hollow, and off Main Street. These signs should not be obtrusive in size and should be strategically located to be of maximum benefit.

Tourist Information Boards/Points need to be strategically located to be of maximum benefit and should be of modern durable material. Additional information points need to be located in the centre along Main Street to highlight things to do in Enniscrone.

4.3.11 Commercial Signage

Such signage should be of an appropriate scale to fit in with the facades of buildings and the overall streetscape, should not be overly obtrusive, nor act as an obstacle to pedestrians.

4.3.12 Policies

It is a policy of the County Council to:

- Reinforce and re-establish existing building lines through infill developments where appropriate.
- Preserve vernacular stonewalling and significant tree and hedgerow groups.
- Encourage planting of species native to the area and ensure suitability to a coastal climate, i.e. sea-salt spray and wind resistant.
- Highlight the various archaeological and significant sites through the improvement of signage.
- Improve the quality of paving along streets and footpaths.
- Provide a coherent network of pedestrian paths throughout the town, particularly along the Main Street and toward the Pier.



Signposting Enniscrone, no mention of attractions such as the Pier and Castle Field

- Encourage the landscaping and subsequent maintenance of streetscapes within the town to soften the built environment. Trees can also assist in improving a streetscape in the absence of a coherent building line.
- Develop a network of walking/cycling routes around the town, connecting areas of scenic value.
- Encourage a reduction in the cluttered impact of electricity and telephone poles on the streetscape, through their placement underground.
- Ensure signage along the streetscape is of an appropriate scale and design.
- Derivations of the spelling of 'Enniscrone' are used throughout the Country, Region and Town on maps, signposts, brochures and websites etc. The spelling of the name 'Enniscrone' dates back throughout history and can be found in the topographical dictionary of Ireland by Samuel Lewis, 1837. This spelling of the name should be solely recognised and comprehensively used throughout the town and in references to it, so as to avoid confusion and lack of recognition for the area.

4.3.13 Objectives

It is an objective of the County Council to:

- UD1** Establish a strong building line along the west of the main street through infill developments and through a definition of front boundaries to the road through street planting and low stonewalls where appropriate. (no map reference)
- UD2** Preserve the vernacular stonewalling located on the R297 from the eastern approach road. (see Objectives Map 11)
- UD3** Improve approach roads to the town through appropriate landscaping and tree planting. (see Objectives Map 11)
- UD4** Restrict development along the approach roads to Enniscrone beyond the set development limit. (see Objectives Map 11)
- UD5** Enhance the entrance points leading to the beach on either side of Bellawaddy Bridge through specialised paving. (see Objectives Map 11)
- UD6** Improve the design of the three existing laneways linking Main Street to the Hollow. Such pedestrian linkages to the Hollow should be named using local references, adding further to the uniqueness and character of the town. These passageways could have additional planting along their entrance, and blank walls could be further enhanced through, for example, hanging baskets. Terminating vistas from the passageways at either the Hollow end or the entrance point from the street should have some feature which may attract the visitor from the Main Street, for example the careful positioning of a bench among the dunes, view of the children's playground, piece of public art invitingly placed at the entrance etc. (see Objectives Map 11 and site specific Hollow Objectives Map, Map 13)
- UD7** Provide improved signposts to indicate scenic areas/areas of interest to tourists, particularly at the following locations:
 - The entrance to the beach.
 - The Pier and Harbour at the junction of Pier Road and Main Street.
 - The Castle at entrance points to town.
 - The Hollow at entrance points to town.



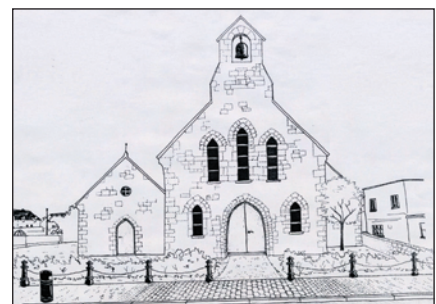
Bellawaddy Pedestrian Bridge, quite bleak and unattractive



Possible Improvements to Bellawaddy pedestrian bridge crossing



Vacant Church, Main Street Enniscrone



Possible Improvements to Vacant Church Building

These signs should be of white lettering with a brown background, which is the standard recognised format for tourists signs. (no map reference)

UD8 Provide new benches at the following key locations in the town at appropriate intervals: Castle Field Park, the Pier, outside the Church of Our Lady. (no map reference)

UD9 Encourage public art within the Hollow, in proximity to the laneways from Main Street to the Hollow, at Pier Rd junction with Main St, at Cliff Rd junction with Main St, Castle Field Park, and at the Pier. (no map reference)

4.4 Implementation and Finance

Finance

The success of the policies and objectives related to this Local Area Plan, are dependent on the degree of funding available, and hence the level of implementation achievable. The funding of the plan falls within the scope of three sectors: the county council, the national government and the private sector. As the funding available to each sector is dependant on a number of variables, it is advisable to phase the implementation of the plan to ensure a rational and sequential approach to the proposed development strategy, and to ensure essential facilities (such as road infrastructure, water, sewerage etc.) are secured to enable future development projects to proceed.

Where appropriate, the County Council will seek financing from specified sources, both public and private sector, as well as from EU programmes and grants. Existing objectives may also be implemented by means of conditions on developers and their associated development proposals.

Implementation

The implementation of a plan may be constrained by a number of elements, namely, the economic climate, political support, allocated county council funding, and funding from other sources. To overcome such limitations it is important to consider planning mechanisms currently in place to aid implementation, such as the Development Contribution Scheme. It is also relevant to examine the possibility of alternatives to county council funding, from National to EU level.

Development Contribution Scheme

According to the Development Contribution Scheme, a planning authority may when granting permissions include conditions for requiring the payment of a contribution in respect of public infrastructure and facilities benefiting development in the area of the planning authority. (Part 3, Section 48 of the *Planning and Development Act 2000*). Levies for public infrastructure and facilities can relate to:

- The acquisition of land.
- The provision of open spaces, recreational and community facilities and amenities and landscaping works.
- The provision of roads, car parks, car parking places, sewers, waste water and water treatment facilities, drains and watermains.
- The provision of bus corridors and lanes, bus interchange facilities (including car parks for those facilities), infrastructure to facilitate public transport, cycle and pedestrian facilities, and traffic calming measures.
- The refurbishment, upgrading, enlargement or replacement of roads, car parks, car parking places, sewers, waste water and water treatment facilities, drains or watermains.
- Any matters ancillary to the above.

Additional national and EU level programmes include, the CLÁR programme, the programme for Peace and Reconciliation, the approach of Public Participation Programmes (PPPs), National Lottery Facility Funding, Community Support Framework, as well as other funding mechanisms available from the various government departments. Such bodies have varying criteria regarding the type of developments they fund and may be useful to consider in the achievement of development objectives.



CLÁR Programme 2002

CLÁR is a two-year programme, which has evolved from RAPID (Revitalising Areas by Planning, Investment and Development) – Investment for this initial programme comes under the remit of the National Development Plan (NDP). This programme targets towns and particularly rural communities, which are run-down/deprived and have not fully shared in Ireland's recent prosperity. CLÁR is a programme designed to tackle the problem of deprivation, decline and lack of services in rural areas. Enniscrone has recently been identified as one of the towns that will be targeted for renewal, revitalisation and urban enhancement schemes. The scheme is funded equally between CLÁR and Sligo County Council with a total provision of 120,000 Euro. A special co-ordinator from Sligo County Council will work in co-operation with community groups from Enniscrone to ensure the successful completion of these programmes. The targeted areas will then be prioritised for investment and development in a number of key areas, including infrastructure, health, education, housing, and childcare.

Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (PEACE 11)

This programme was established to facilitate reconciliation between communities in the border counties by supporting ideas, activities and projects put forward by local communities through community-led and community based actions. There are different strands to this programme, one of which relates to urban and rural community led development and also relating to social inclusion (through promoting the inclusion of children and young people, support through accompanying infrastructure and equipment support). As Sligo is a border County, development in the area of peace and reconciliation is seen as an important step toward inclusion, with a community-orientated focus to development. The Sligo County Council led task force was established under this programme and is responsible for (measure 3.3) building better communities and improving our rural communities (measure 3.4).

Urban and Village Renewal Measure 2000 – 2006

The *Urban and Village Renewal Measure* or *Urban Enhancement Scheme* is being implemented at national level by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and is managed by the Regional Assemblies. At local level the measure is operated by the County Council. The aim of this measure is to provide financial support for a range of interventions to upgrade towns and villages to make them more attractive places in which to live and work, encourage social and economic development and facilitate and support the development of tourism and tourism-related activity. The sum of €60,000 has been allocated under the Urban Enhancement Scheme for Enniscrone.

Public Private Partnerships

A Public Private Partnership involves a partnership agreement between the public and private sector for the delivery of specific projects relating to public services and infrastructure. Such an approach can ensure a commitment to funding due to interlinked public and private assistance, and aims at ensuring the most economically efficient manner of development. Education, local services, health, housing, public transport, roads, solid waste, water/waste water and other public services can benefit from the approach of a PPP.

The Department of Tourism, Sports and Recreation

Through the availability of National Lottery Facility Funding, the Department of Tourism Sports and Recreation administer the Sports Capital Programme, which is funded from the proceeds of the National Lottery. This programme provides funding to voluntary sporting and community organisations at local, regional and national level towards the provision of sport and recreational programmes. The Recreational Facilities Scheme enables voluntary community organisations to further improve and equip recreational, leisure and community facilities. This body in its support of community organisations and the development of sporting/recreational facilities, acts as a valuable source of funding for the implementation of recreational and community facility objectives. This department also supports local drugs task forces and community-based responses to drug issues.

Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform

Under this government department, The Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme 2000-2006 is operated. This is part funded by the Irish Government and the European Union Structural Funds (ERDF and ESF). The total funding available for this programme is €436.8 million.

Grant schemes operated under this programme include:

- Capital grants to community groups and organisations which operate on a “not for profit” basis for the establishment, upgrading and enhancement of childcare facilities;
- Staffing grants to community groups and organisations which operate on a “not for profit” basis for childcare personnel in childcare services;
- Capital grants for self-employed/private childcare service providers of up to €50,790 subject to a maximum of 65% of the total capital cost of the childcare project.

The Combat Poverty Agency

This Agency, which comes under the aegis of the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs, provides funding for voluntary and community groups engaged in anti-poverty work.

E.U. Structural Funds

This programme identifies a number of areas for funding, two of which are the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund. There also exists a separate programme, which is co-financed by the structural funds called Community Initiatives. Such E.U. programmes can be a valuable source of investment, through which specific policies and objectives, as identified in this plan, can be implemented.

Interreg III

The EU provides a range of programmes to facilitate improvements in the balance of social and economic developments. Interreg (which is funded under community initiatives) promotes cross-border, transnational and inter-regional co-operation within the EU, aiming to promote the creation and development of networks of cross border co-operation and where relevant in the linking of these networks to wider community networks.

Bord Fáilte

The *regional operational programme for the border, midlands and west region* provides funding through the local enterprise development priority. Sligo is considered a ‘developing tourism area’. Investment incentives have to be concentrated on the ‘developing tourism areas’ to help them realise their

potential to absorb a higher share growth. This targets five specific sub-areas to aid tourism investment:

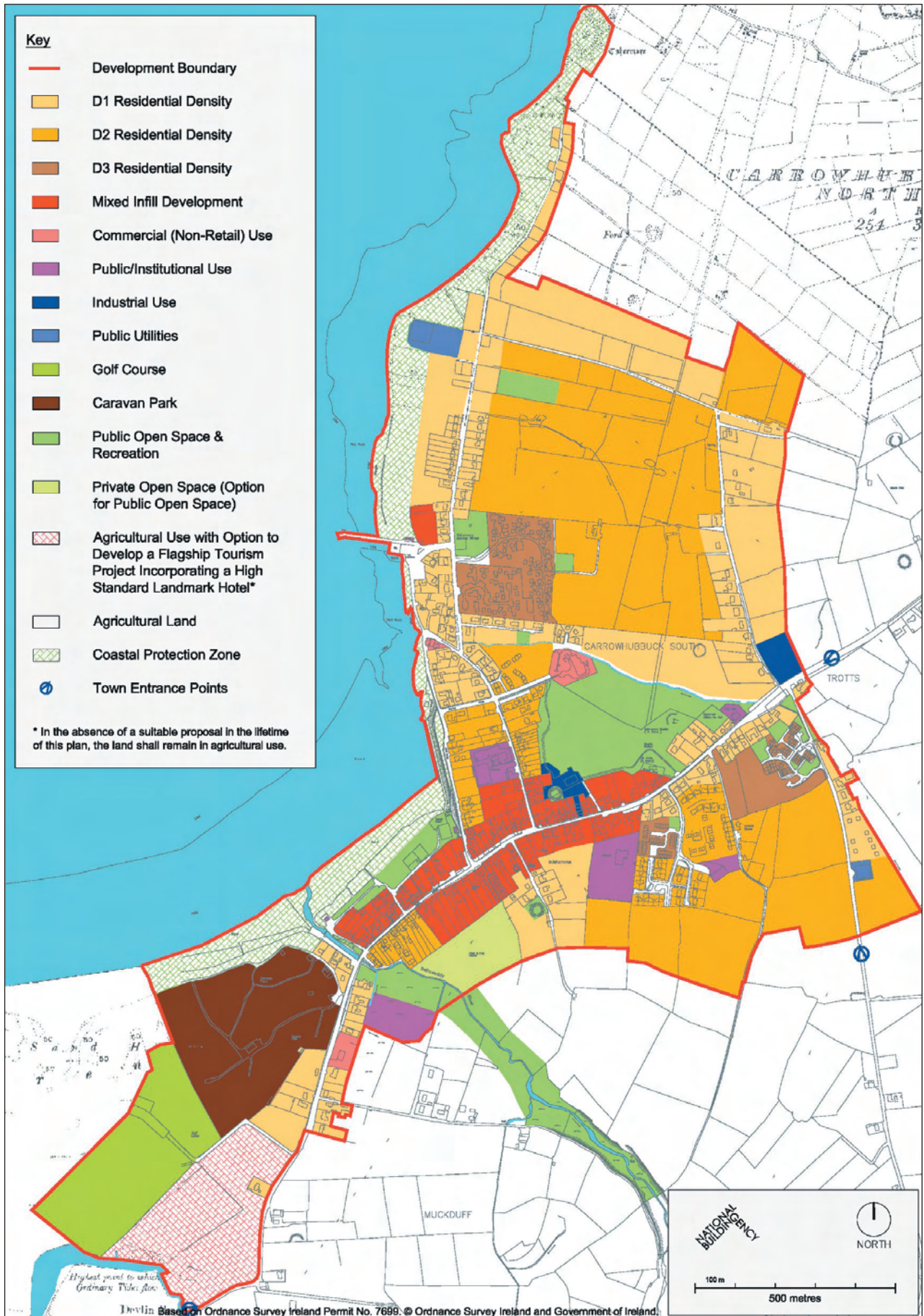
- Development of major attractions
- Special interest pursuits
- Tourism/Environment management
- Tourism and recreational angling
- Marine tourism

This source of investment should be examined within the context of tourism related activities, which could be developed within the Enniscrone area, focusing on special interest pursuits, tourism and recreational angling.

Conclusion

Many other programmes, alongside those listed above, may be of value with regard to the implementation and finance of this Local Area Plan. It is intended that various agencies, including voluntary groups, professional institutions, public and private bodies, and other organisations will be encouraged to participate whenever possible. It is also the aim of the County Council to review this plan during the 6 years for which it is valid in order to determine the degree of success of the phasing and implementation process. Where there is an underachievement of policies and related objectives, a revised implementation plan will be established.

Map 10: Zoning Map



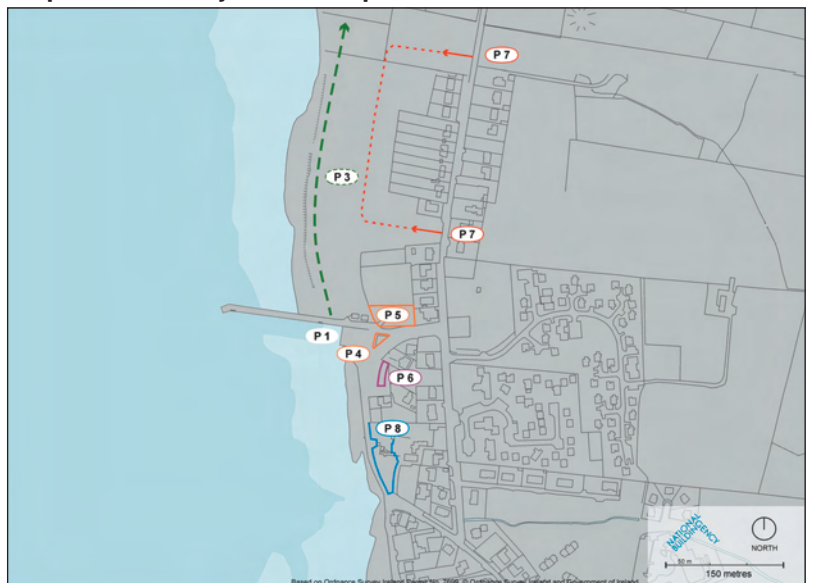
Map 12: Castle Field Objectives Map



Map 13: Hollow Objectives Map



Map 14: Pier Objectives Map



Appendix A Strategic Environmental Assessment

Introduction

This section has been prepared in compliance with section 19(4)(a) of the *Planning and Development Act 2000*, which states that “a local area plan shall contain information on the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan”. The strategic environmental assessment (SEA) is an important and valuable part of the local area plan process as it identifies key policies that have the potential to conflict with one another and also the environmental implications of those policies, it also identifies the positive environmental effects of the plan, how it has addressed environmental issues and reinforces the proposed strategies. This process is intended to appraise the plan and is not a detailed assessment that is typically prepared in an Environmental Impact Assessment. While the process is not site-specific or project related, it had regard for strategic options for the town’s growth and selected the one with the most positive environmental impact.

The purpose of SEA is to ensure that the environmental consequences of policies, plans and programmes are taken into account at the earliest possible stage in the process. The SEA process is at the developmental stage in Ireland with no ministerial guidelines or formal procedures in place and a lack of information on experience in an Irish context to date. However, during the process of preparing the local area plan for Enniscrone the county council had regard to the environmental consequences of the proposed objectives.

Sustainability – the key to SEA

The process of developing the framework for this local area plan has incorporated the principle of sustainability as a central theme. Before developing the future framework for development, the plan examined all relevant plans, policies and government guidelines that relate to planning, development and heritage in general and specifically to the area.

The selected strategy of facilitating sequential development, consolidating the town core and focusing on three key areas within the town is outlined in section 4 of the plan. This strategy has been chosen for the following reasons:

- It protects key environmentally sensitive areas on a strategic level - namely the more environmentally sensitive areas to the west, south west and centre of the town, including Bartragh Island, Killala Bay and Moy Estuary, Views of the Atlantic and areas adjacent to the coast, Castle Field archaeological amenity area and Cahirmore Promontory Fort (to the north). These areas encompass the national environmental designations identified by DoEHLG, including European Sites of interest.
- Future commercial and retail development is encouraged to be located within the town core, provided for on infill sites. This will consolidate and strengthen the town centre and in doing so will protect the vitality and vibrancy of the town.
- The strategy encourages the development of under-utilised and possible infill sites in and around the town core.
- The strategy places future residential development within reasonable walking and cycling distance from the town core thus minimising the demand for car generated trips.
- The strategy minimises ribbon development by focusing on consolidating the town core and opening up backlands for development through the development of auxiliary roads.

