16 September 2016

To: The Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council

TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL, HINTERLAND AND TOURISM PROJECTS

A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

Introduction

Limerick City and County Council is committed to improving the quality of life for people and communities and to support, develop and maintain quality recreational, cultural and civic facilities. It is an objective of the Council to provide safe and sustainable communities where people of all ages enjoy a good quality of life, a good home and a sense of pride in their place.

The projects described below will improve tourism, leisure and urban renewal across county Limerick while increasing the attractiveness of Limerick as a place to live, work and visit and improving the safety of facilities and public spaces which are fully accessible to all in our community. Some of the projects will be delivered in partnership with organisations and communities, focussing on recreation, health and well being and social integration.

By improving the public realm infrastructure, people can live, work and access culture and recreation in a safe and friendly environment while providing attractive and safe facilities and public spaces which are fully accessible to all in our community. The development of high quality recreational and cultural amenities and infrastructure will help to promote a welcoming and dynamic Limerick which values its heritage and culture.

In addition to the projects listed below, the Limerick Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) oversees the implementation of the rural development programme which includes Leader funding (to the value of €9.276 M up to 2020).
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Summary of projects

The projected expenditure on the various tourism, leisure and urban renewal projects from 2014-2021 is detailed in the following table under: Development Projects, Hinterland Funding Projects, Failte Ireland Capital Grant Scheme, Arts and Culture Capital Scheme 2016 and Town and Village Renewal. Tourism, Leisure & Urban Renewal Projects

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>District</th>
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## Section 1 Hinterland Funding Projects

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| Total Expenditure on Hinterland Projects | €3,000,000 |

### Project 1: Kilmalock Pedestrian Bridge

The purpose of the proposed footbridge in Kilmallock over the River Maigue is to serve the growing numbers of pedestrians at the Bruree entrance to Kilmallock. The existing bridge has very narrow footpaths and the area is attracting increasing numbers of pedestrians at the retail centre, the recently extended industrial estate as well as the increase in pedestrians that will arise from the extensions to the primary and secondary schools and the planned medical centre. The Council has previously constructed an amenity footpath along the north bank of the river heading westwards from the bridge which has proved popular and also has the potential to provide access to the industrial estate area. The project will support the development of the public realm and the general health and

5
wellbeing for the Kilmallock community. The footbridge will link Kilmallock town with the recently constructed River Loobag walk. The Part 8 was approved in February 2016. The contract documents are nearing completion and tendering can commence in the near future.

Project 2: Great Southern Greenway

The Great Southern Trail (GST) is a unique 85km stretch of countryside in West Limerick/North Kerry. It is the route taken by the Limerick - Tralee railway line, which opened in 1867/1880 and closed in 1975/1977. The line was built to link the city of Limerick with the town of Tralee in north Kerry. It ran westwards across County Limerick, through the towns of Adare, Rathkeale, Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale and then on into County Kerry.

Today the Great Southern Trail is suitable for walking and cycling off road along a approximately 40km route connecting the towns of Rathkeale, Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale. The trail has the potential to be extended by a further 28km and serve as an off road walking and cycling Greenway connecting Limerick City with the settlement towns of Patrickswell, Adare, Rathkeale, Newcastle West, and Abbeyfeale.

In order to secure the future development and potential of the Great Southern Trail it is necessary that the following is undertaken:-

i) Remedial Works undertaken to upgrade existing 40 km route. €418,000 for the remedial works (Appendix A – Great Southern Trail Inspection Report 2015)

ii) Extend Great Southern Trail to take in further 28 km and connect Limerick City with the settlement towns of Patrickswell, Adare, Rathkeale, Newcastle West, and Abbeyfeale. Feasibility report and capital works not costed but balance of €1m allocation will be earmarked for these capital works.

The development of the Great Southern Trail will be a key community, recreational, transport, economic and tourist amenity. It will provide appropriate services, amenities and infrastructures for a population of circa 12,000 in 5 settlement towns as well as a surrounding wider population of 16,000 in the Southern Environs of Limerick City. The proposal is consistent with national, economic, transport and tourism strategies i.e. the the Mid-West Action Plan for Jobs for Limerick, Clare and Tipperary, the National Cycle Policy Framework 2009- 2020 and Fáilte Ireland’s strategy for the Development of Irish Cycle Tourism (Fáilte Ireland, 2007). The proposal will support future community, amenity, transport and social requirements of the 5 settlement towns and will act as an important economic development stimulus to support the development of jobs across a number of sectors.
There are no obstacles to the delivery of the remedial works and these will be undertaken following procurement of contractors to undertake these works. It is also opportune to undertake a feasibility report to examine the feasibility of extending the Greenway from Rathkeale to Limerick, Irish Rail are currently examining the feasibility of bringing this rail line into re-use as a freight line carrying goods from Shannon Foynes Port Company, it would be useful to explore as part of this exercise if a greenway could run parallel to the rail line as is common in many European countries.

The development and expansion of the Great Southern Trail has the following key potential opportunity outcomes:

- Act as a tourist attraction in itself;
- Provide a linkage between the main tourist attractions in Limerick City and County.
- Link one of the main employment campuses (Raheen Business Park, Limerick) with towns of West Limerick.
- Promote well being and provide an amenity along the picturesque countryside of West Limerick for the 70,000 residents that live within 30 minutes of the route.

**Project 3: Murroe Sports Facility**

Murroe is a settlement that has experienced high population growth and the village does not have basic amenities such as parks and playgrounds to serve the young population that is now resident here. Murroe has the highest proportion of workforce commuting to Limerick City and the suburbs for employment purposes.

In September 2014, Murroe Community Council, with the help of the JP McManus Foundation, bought six areas of land in the village for the development of community facilities. In March 2015 a survey was carried out to determine what facilities the community wanted in this space. The results were: A lit Walking Track; An All Weather Training Facility; An Indoor Multipurpose Building; and a Skatepark.

Since then planning permission has been granted and a Business Plan is being developed. Work on phase one will commence in Spring of 2017 and it is hoped to have the Astro Pitch and Walking Track open for the June Bank Holiday Weekend.

Several community fund raising events have taken place, including a Tractor Run, Fashion Show and Golf Classic. Phase one of the project will include the walking track and all weather training facility. Phase two will include a Skatepark and relocation of the Playground. Phase three will include the Multipurpose building.
Project 4:  Newcastle West Athletics Hub

A feasibility study for the need and viability of a Regional Athletics Hub in Newcastle West completed following extensive research, consultation and analysis has: determined that there is a need for such a facility and it is viable; identified a suitable site in Newcastle West; determined that this site is suitable from an infrastructural perspective; and determined estimated development and operating costs for the facility.

The key findings of the feasibility report are as follows:

- Athletics, while at times “high profile” is a minority sport in Ireland. However participation in the sport has seen significant growth and participation and has more than doubled (120%) since 2007. In 2014 alone Athletics Ireland - the national governing body for the sport – membership grew by 10% over 2013 reaching a record high of 54,000 members with 21 new clubs formed.
- In addition 81% of people who run do so outside the club structure which places the total running population in Ireland at c.300,000.
- The need and potential demand for the Newcastle West Regional Athletics Hub has been demonstrated through the use of catchment area analysis and national sports participation trends. By 2021 the potential participants for the facility will be c. 6,234. The analysis relates well to the current total running population in Ireland of 300,000. Based on our proposed catchment area population of c. 71,413 which equated to 1.54% of the national population would give a local running population of 4,642.
- The proposed catchment extends over most of one county (Limerick) and small parts of two other counties, Cork and Kerry.
- The 9 Athletics Clubs in the immediate catchment area are the main potential users and ultimate beneficiaries of the proposed Athletics Hub.
- The 9 clubs have a combined active membership of 1,281 and are committed to using the facility 21 times a week for an average of 2 hours. Across the athletics season (September to March) this amounts to 1,230 hours.
- The core user will be the West Limerick Athletics Club – who would use the facility on an almost daily basis.
- There is a very positive endorsement and willingness by the athletics clubs in the catchment area to participate in ownership and ongoing management of the new hub.
- While there are in some cases significant savings to be made from developing reduced facilities it is proposed that the Newcastle West regional Athletics Hub should strive to the Gold standard on a phased basis.
• This will allow for the facility to get up and running in the short term and move on to catering for the county, provincial and national events over the long term. The proposed phasing for the development is as follows:

**Phase 1** – Development of 400m 8 – Lane Athletics Track incl 100m sprint with all weather sports pitch in centre, walking circuit around the track, flood lighting, fencing and gates, entrance road and parking, site services, temporary reception/site office, storage units for clubs.

**Phase 2** – Purchase and installation of field equipment to include Discus & Hammer Throwing Cage, Long Jump, Javelin, Shot Put, Pole Vault, hurdles, electronic start/finish equipment for track etc.

A site selection process was undertaken and a site on the Cork Road, Newcastle West has been recommended as the preferred site for the development which is sufficiently large to accommodate all phases of the development. The site is adequately served by existing utilities and access is potentially available from 2 no. regional roads which bound the site.

Projections for the Newcastle West Athletics Hub show an annual revenue of approx. €58,000 in Phase 1-2. This includes minimum track revenue and a dependence on membership from the clubs involved and excludes both pitch rental revenue and the possible attraction of county, provincial and national events in Phase 2;

**Project 5: Patrickswell Village Renewal Scheme**

The Patrickswell Village Renewal Scheme is at the conclusion of the preliminary design stage with Part 8 approval expected in the near future. Until the construction of the motorway, the N20/N21 national route used to run through Patrickswell. As a consequence the public realm within the village was strongly influenced by the needs of the national road traffic. The Patrickswell Village Improvement Scheme seeks to rebalance the public infrastructure in favour of the village community - both the residents and those who use the local facilities of the village. The improvements will enhance the overall village and better link the different residential areas within the village.

The project itself includes: increases in footpath widths, reductions in widths of vehicular carriageways, enhanced surface treatments of both footways and carriageways, Bus Shelters, Streetscape planting and landscaping, stone benches (10 No.), defined pedestrian crossing locations, Public lighting enhancement, Traffic Calming, Cycle stands, as well as development (lighting, seating, planting etc) of the area around the Well from which Patrickswell derives its name.
Project 6: CCTV Capital Investment and Maintenance

Since the merger of Limerick City Council and Limerick County Council, a Head of Digital Strategy has been appointed. The draft digital strategy is highlighting the need to CCTV in the county for reasons including those outlined below. This is supported by the Corporate Plan 2015-2019 for Limerick City and County Council and supports the objectives of the Age Friendly Limerick Strategy 2015-2020 as well as the objectives of the Hinterland Report.

For a free, unrestricted and unworried life in urban areas (cities and towns), people need to feel safe. In this context, having "eyes on the ground" in order to better understand and respond to emergencies and to create safer communities is a key challenge for Limerick City & County Council. Multiple communities (i.e. Rathkeale, Newcastle West, etc.) have requested the council over the years to install or increase the presence of CCTV in order to respond to their main concerns in relation to law, order and safety. These concerns were raised especially in the recent years following an increase in criminal activity and antisocial behaviour. Also, the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan aims to “Improve community safety and perception of safety via design and CCTV monitoring”

Therefore it is proposed that a distributed “Smart CCTV system” comprising of 70 Smart CCTV Cameras is deployed in a pilot project across the county, according to local needs, in consultation with An Garda Síochána and local community.

It is also proposed that the video monitoring will be centralised in community centres (where available) or simply recorded in a central location. In this project people’s privacy is paramount and therefore recording and monitoring will be strictly controlled according with the Data Protection legislation requirements.

The CCTV will be used not only for crime prevention but will also be considered for emergency response (fire response, accident response, response to severe weather incidents) and where possible for improved traffic management.

This proposal is for the use of "smart" CCTV with features that will enhance the benefits of the project. Smart CCTV can be used for example to capture and understand pedestrian and traffic flow data which will give local communities and city/county planners the ability to understand the real needs and design better services and strategic plans based on real data. This is a first step in the development of Limerick “Smart Communities”.

In addition to responding to the demand from many local communities for the installation of CCTV the project has a wide number of benefits:

- Improved community safety and perception of safety by the local communities by
enabling live access for An Garda Síochána to any CCTV cameras, as needed;

- Increased effectiveness of An Garda response by allowing the central dispatching unit to co-ordinate the response on the ground as the situation develops;
- Reduced repairs costs for local authority housing properties damaged in anti-social behaviour incidents. CCTV presence is a deterrent and therefore it has been demonstrated that its presence reduces the number of anti-social behaviour incidents and damages to property;
- Increased traffic monitoring capability to rural areas by extending the existing traffic monitoring capability by the Council's Traffic Management unit to locations across the county;
- Improved response time and effective emergency response in fire incidents or as part of severe weather response;
- Improved CCTV monitoring capability by creating the potential of extending the monitoring capability of community centres (e.g. Moyross Community Enterprise Centre), where available;
- Smart CCTV will facilitate the development of “Smart” Communities that use real data of traffic and pedestrian flows in order to understand and develop improved policies, strategies and services. It enables the development of Smart Limerick Communities
- Improved civic engagement and community support by enabling local communities to contribute to their development as safer communities

Project 7: Rathkeale Pre-social Cohesion Project

Development in Rathkeale over the last forty years has followed traditional social, community and economic development paradigms which have not worked because of the unique social profile of the town where the Traveller population is now the majority. The ensuing social instability in the town has led to tensions between the communities and the outward migration of many settled community members. This unique social dynamic has seen the town decline to the point where it now has a relative affluence and deprivation score of minus 35.1 placing it in the bottom 1% of the most deprived communities in Ireland. On-going media focus, both nationally and internationally, makes addressing this situation more challenging.

This project offers a new and innovative approach to what is a unique situation and that is to address the social instability issues which, if successful, will enable the traditional development strategies to work. By addressing the unstable social environment the project will endeavour to create the conditions in which all other traditional state and community supported development initiatives can thrive.
Since 2013, an ecumenical group has been established involving the Catholic Diocese of Limerick and the Church of Ireland Diocese working in partnership with West Limerick Resources and the local Rathkeale Community to develop an initiative with the aim of developing momentum towards community cohesion and to enable and develop community leaders who have a shared vision for community reconciliation, mediation and community cohesion. This pre-social cohesion project, builds on their position as the one area of common ground between the two communities.

Specific Objectives

(1) To create a climate where the cross-community tensions that exist between the Settled and Traveller communities can be acknowledged and understood.

(2) To develop trust with and within the Settled Community and equip a core group from the community with cross-cultural communication and mediation skills who will function as bridge builders across the cultural divide.

(3) To develop trust with and within the Travelling Community and equip a core group from the community with cross-cultural communication and mediation skills who will function as bridge builders across the cultural divide.

(4) To develop a dynamic model which will allow shared citizenship agreements for Rathkeale to be negotiated between the Settled and Traveller communities together with State agencies and other stakeholders.

(5) To develop the insights of frontline staff and managers of our service agencies into issues related to cultural differences, ethno-centrism, language registers and other phenomena and to encourage the institutions of the State to embed these insights into the institutional cultures of the agencies.

Since 2013 a series of interventions focused on the religious celebrations of Christmas, St. Patrick’s Day, Easter, Harvest have created a platform for engagement across the community. An initial series of Facilitated Training sessions have been organised with representatives of the Settled Community and Traveller Communities separately and a further joint session with the central theme of “Understanding the Other”. Arising from these events a cross community group has formed “RáthCaola Le Chéile” [Rathkeale Together]. The Group values are set out as follows: Welcoming, Inclusive, Caring/Sharing, Friendly, Trusting, Equal, Non-judgemental, Listening, Faithful and their vision for Rathkeale is “Being a community that owns and embodies the above values and lives them out as a way of life”. A significant feature of RáthCaola Le Chéileis that there has been significant Traveller engagement in this process to date which is somewhat of a breakthrough for the town.
The development of the Parish hall as a facility accessible by both Communities has been identified as a key action by the and the group have successfully raised €18,000 to date including a contribution from the JP McManus Benevolent Fund.

To further progress this project with particular emphasis on the specific objectives above, objectives 4-5 now require focus and attention. While initial facilitation and training has been provided to the Settled and Traveller Communities giving rise to RáthCaola Le Chéile being established it is still very early in the process. Further facilitation and training will be required to develop the cross cultural communication and mediation skills necessary to start tackling the challenges faced by the community. While some engagement has taken place with State Agencies as part of the current initiative this has been limited due to the prioritisation of working with community representatives. As RáthCaola Le Chéile develops it is expected there will be an important role for the State Agencies to engage with the process and understand the changing dynamics of working with a minority population who are now in a majority situation and overcoming the many challenges this presents.

The facilitation of this engagement and dialogue will be critical for the ongoing success of this initiative and provision of training to develop the insights of frontline staff and Managers as well as identifying appropriate interagency responses.
Section 2 Failte Ireland Capital Grant Scheme Projects Submitted

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Project 8: Nicholas Street

Nicholas Street and King John’s Castle environs is to be revived as the cultural and historical centre of Limerick. A flagship building (No. 35) is to be restored and used as a pilot for delivery of the scheme. Visitors will take part in “How to write a limerick”, and/or avail of lace making classes. Story-telling will be a key part of visitor experience. Vacant properties on the street will be used for additional cultural activities such as knitting, ceramics, printmaking and fashion. No. 35 will be used as a training centre for locals and will contain a shop to sell the goods produced on-site.

Separately, Limerick City and County Council is actively pursuing a resolution for the Fireplace site in partnership with the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. In the interim, apart from stabilisation works, steps are in place to re-point the stonework to the existing walls. Archaeological explorations of the site are in progress which will inform the preparation of a design brief for an appropriate development (potentially including the adjoining structure at No. 35).

Project 9: Lough Gur Greenway & Solstice Park
The proposed Greenway and Solstice Park would link Lough Gur Heritage Centre to the Great Grange Stone Circle that is recorded as the oldest and largest stone circle in Ireland. It is fully intact and in remarkable condition for a monument and ritual site that date back over 5,000 years. This proposed project would connect to all other sites of significance in the immediate 10.5KM area that will be interpreted in story format under the topics of folklore, history and archaeology. The greenway would also link to the nearby town of Bruff, with its historical connections to John F. Kennedy and would also cross sell and refer to sites within Ireland's Ancient East.

All families visiting the Lough Gur area have stressed the importance of including an outdoor area where children can learn and play. The proposed Solstice Park would fulfil this requirement. Visitor numbers to the nearby Doneraile Park doubled when a children's activity area was recently developed and we believe that in the first year of project completion it is the Solstice Park that will attract domestic visitors to the area and they will return to use the Greenway or visit the Heritage Centre.

**Project 10: Kilmallock Stone Mansion**

The project is to build an innovative interpretative centre which will tell the story of Kilmallock and the wider region. The project will: provide a visitor hub and tourist orientation and therefore prolong stay times; contain a cafe and retail outlet which will promote local arts and crafts; provide local employment; rehabilitate two vacant sites in the heart of the town, one accommodating a medieval garden and access & support to the other, which will house an active business and an event venue which will also support the night time economy. The Feasibility Study & Business & Marketing Plan envisages a footfall of 25,000 by year 5. The project time frame is 12 month's development and 24 month's delivery which sees the centre open by May 2019. The preferred management model is a not-for-profit limited company with community and stakeholder membership.

**Project 11: Kilmallock Western Walkway**

It is the policy of the Council to pursue the means for developing and delivering the most effective presentation, management and development of Kilmallock Walled Town as resources permit and in accordance with the recommendations of the Public Realm Plan. It is also Council policy to create a continuous pedestrian route along the outside of the western walls, linking the new housing estates on the Charleville Road to the school and Church on the Glenfield Road, while improving accessibility to one of the most impressive stretches of town wall in Ireland.
It has long been recognised that the town walls in Kilmallock must be made more accessible to the inhabitants. The project intends to provide a universally accessible walkway from the car-park to the rear of SuperValu at the south through publicly owned lands to the Roman Catholic Church at the north, and is part of a larger plan to provide a complete circuit of the medieval town. A preliminary design and costing has been carried out. When completed the western walkway will provide a wonderful amenity to the inhabitants and will encourage physical activity and interaction with and accessibility to the town’s key heritage icon its medieval town wall. It will add immeasurably to the visitor and tourist experience prolonging time spent in the town. The project could be delivered within 18 months.
Section 3 Town and Village Renewal Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Project Lead</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section 5 Town &amp; Village Renewal</td>
<td>12. Public Realm Improvement Askeaton</td>
<td>Adare/Rathkeale</td>
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<td>14. Public Realm Improvement Patrickswell</td>
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<td>Gordon Daly</td>
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<td>15. Public Realm Improvement Abbeyfeale</td>
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<td>16. Public Realm Improvement Athea</td>
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<td>17. Public Realm Improvement NCW</td>
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<td>18. Public Realm Improvement Bruff</td>
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<td>19. Public Realm Improvement Cappamore</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Total expenditure on town and village renewal projects</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>€440,000</strong></td>
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National grant funding is being made available in each of the 26 counties for Town and Village renewal projects. There are two categories of eligible Towns/Villages: Category 1 is for towns/villages with a population less than 5,000; Category 2 is for towns with a population of 5,000 to 10,000. Funding will be allocated to local authorities to meet up to 85% of the total cost of each project. Each county can apply for grants for up to 8 separate towns/village projects.

Up to 8 projects are in the process of being identified for town and village renewal throughout Limerick. Outline plans, as identified in the table above, will be submitted to the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in September for approval. The funding is being allocated equally between the four Municipal Districts.

**Project 12: Public Realm Improvements in Askeaton**

The public realm improvement works in Askeaton include for targeted actions to increase the attractiveness of the village centres. A public realm Scheme is centred on improving the accessibility for all users and safety enhancements to village centre footpaths. Approach road improvements and the development of ‘Village Gateways’ will form part of the environmental amenity enhancements works.

**Project 13: Public Realm Improvement Rathkeale**
The public realm improvement works in Rathkeale include for targeted actions to increase the attractiveness of the village centres. As in the case of Askeaton, improvement works will concentrate on improving the accessibility for all users and safety enhancements to village centre footpaths. Approach road improvements and the development of ‘Village Gateways’ will form part of the environmental amenity enhancements works for Rathkeale.

**Project 14: Public Realm Improvement Patrickswell**

Public Realm works for Patrickswell include for the partial advancement of the Part VIII approved Village Improvement Scheme. The project includes for the provision of new footpaths, road surfacing, parking layout, public realm area, pedestrian crossings, tabletop and build out construction, public lighting & undergrounding of overhead services, bus stops, a new urban roundabout and associated drainage & services in the village of Patrickswell. The works of the entire scheme stretches the length of the village and includes for parking spaces, stone benches, bus shelters, with a number of uncontrolled pedestrian crossings, a raised tabletop junction with uncontrolled crossings on all arms 4 arms of the cross roads of the Local Road (L-1401-0) and the Regional Road (R526) and a raised uncontrolled pedestrian crossing at the junction of Marian Park and the Regional Road (R526). Town and Village Renewal Scheme works will provide for commencement works of a significant portion of the scheme on the western approach to the village. The footpath improvement proposals will provide greater connectivity for pedestrians and also a safer environment. The proposed development provides for general enhancement of the village in terms of public realm and provides for formal car parking and pedestrian facilities.

**Project 15: Public Realm Improvement Abbeyfeale**

Resurfacing of public car park off the town square is included in the Improvements Scheme for Abbeyfeale. Large, specially commissioned, signs for main approach roads to Kerry will be provided to identify Abbeyfeale as “The Gateway to the Kingdom” in line with objectives of the Abbeyfeale Local Area Plan to enhance tourism. Works also include for a smaller sign for the regional road from Listowel. Selective flower planting, raised beds, planting displays around the signs will further enhance the attractiveness of the town.

**Project 16: Public Realm Improvement Athea**

Public Realm Improvement Works in the Village of Athea include for the upgrading of public paths and community owned carpark around the Con Colbert Memorial Hall. Works include for entrance path resurfacing and enhancements The works have been developed in conjunction with the Athea Tidy Towns Group who manage the community hall and to accommodate collection from the nearby national school. Footpath improvements are provide for a link path to sheltered housing as well as to the Sli Na Slainte walking route.

**Project 17: Public Realm Improvement Newcastle West**

A number of environmental amenity enhancement measures will be carried out in Newcastle West. These include the painting of vacant buildings on Maiden St, Bridge St, North Quay in conjunction with the ‘Love Your Street’ initiative. Works include the of
upgrading of Brewery Lane, which serves as a pedestrian link between Maiden St and the Market Square, as recommended in the NCW LAP. These works will involve power hosing the steps, plastering and painting the unsightly boundary wall, and removing the temporary fencing dividing the lane from the supermarket and providing a permanent fence as well as soft landscaping works. Restoration of the heritage lamps on North Quay will form part of the works package. An exercise will be carried out in terms of the decluttering of street signage and introduction of finger post signage on Maiden St, Bridge St and North Quay. Works which have been identified by the Arra Development Association are included which will contribute to the environmental and character enhancement of the Desmesne. Upgrading of the Mass Path is included in the improvement scheme. Newcastle WestTidy Towns in association with Newcastle West Arts propose to carry out a street art project, painting the steps while incorporating the link between the late poet Michael Hartnett and the Mass Path. Consolidation works to the River Arra Wall will reopen access to the river Arra amenity area and facilitate an extra access point to Desmond Castle. Specially commissioned signs for town approach roads will be installed to provide Character Gateways to approach roads.

Project 18: Public Realm Improvement Bruff

Works included in the Village of Bruff address one of the significant challenges to the vitality of the village, insufficient parking facilities within the town and a congested main street. The Improvement works include for the provide of additional parking within the town of Bruff while ensuring town safety and accessibility. It is envisaged that the provision of a car park and entrance from main street will tackle minor infrastructural deficiencies in access, services, site development works and other infrastructure that may be needed to support housing and commercial development into the future. The scheme also includes for the modification of footpaths along the main street (R512) which will ease daily traffic congestion. The project will be developed together with the business owners and residents as well as the strong voluntary sector within the town. It is intended as part of the works to narrow the existing footpaths including lowering of services and widening the main street carriageway. Pedestrian dishings will be installed as part of this work to improve accessibility.

Project 19: Public Realm Improvement Cappamore

Improvement works in Cappamore provide for the upgrade to footpaths and public lighting from the village to the hurling pitch. The route is frequently used by local residents as an amenity walking route. It is also proposed to upgrade footpaths along the main street in the village to enhance the attractiveness as well as to improve pedestrian safety in the village for users of all ages and ability.

Is mise le meas,

Seamus O’Connor

ACTING DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE