



Limerick City and County Council

Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy

Access & Connectivity and People, Health & Wellbeing

Stakeholder Workshop Prepared by LUC May 2021

# Sign in Sheet

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Phelim Macken Sports Partnership

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# What is GBI, Why GBI?



"a strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services' in both rural and urban settings"

European Commission definition of Green Infrastructure

# **Examples of GBI**



**Ponds** 





Verges





**Allotments** 



Footpaths and cycle routes



**Street Trees** 

### **GBI** Benefits





Improving resident's and visitor's physical & mental health



Aesthetic value and reinforcing sense / pride of place



Play, education and interaction with nature



Improving air quality and noise regulation



Active transport opportunities, such as walking and cycling



Reducing the risk of flooding and improving water quality



Opportunities for community growing



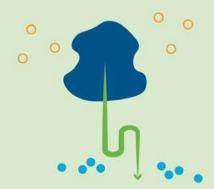
Increased economic activity and improved house prices



Space for biodiversity and improved ecological resilience



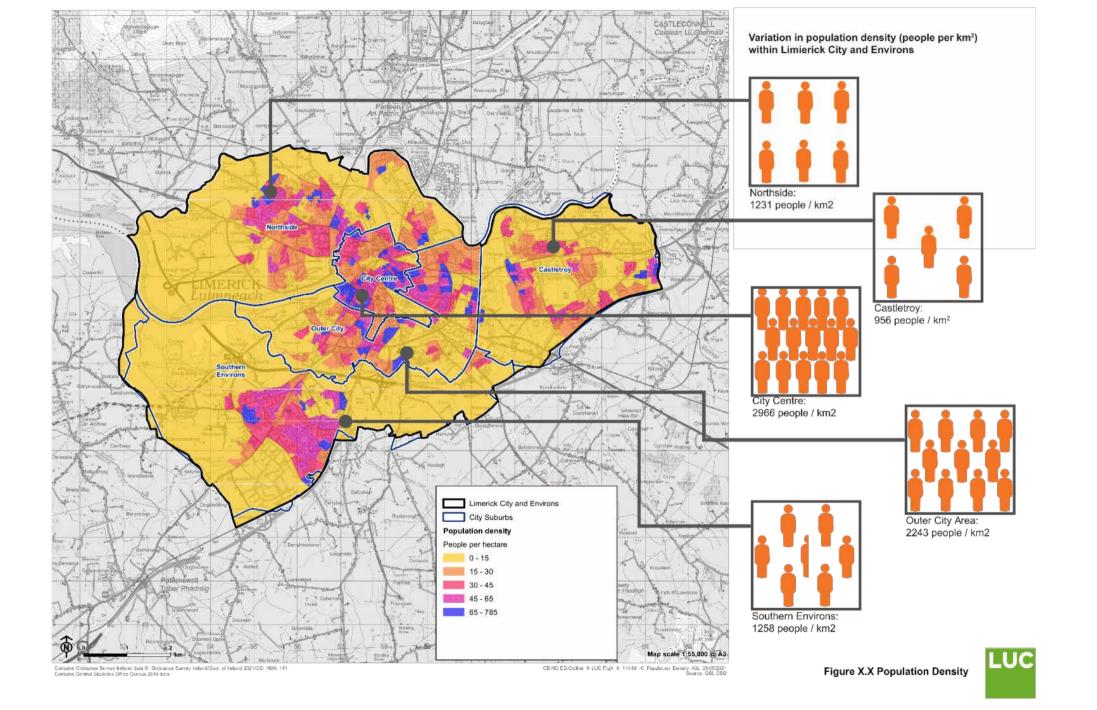
Opportunities for social interactions & community cohesion

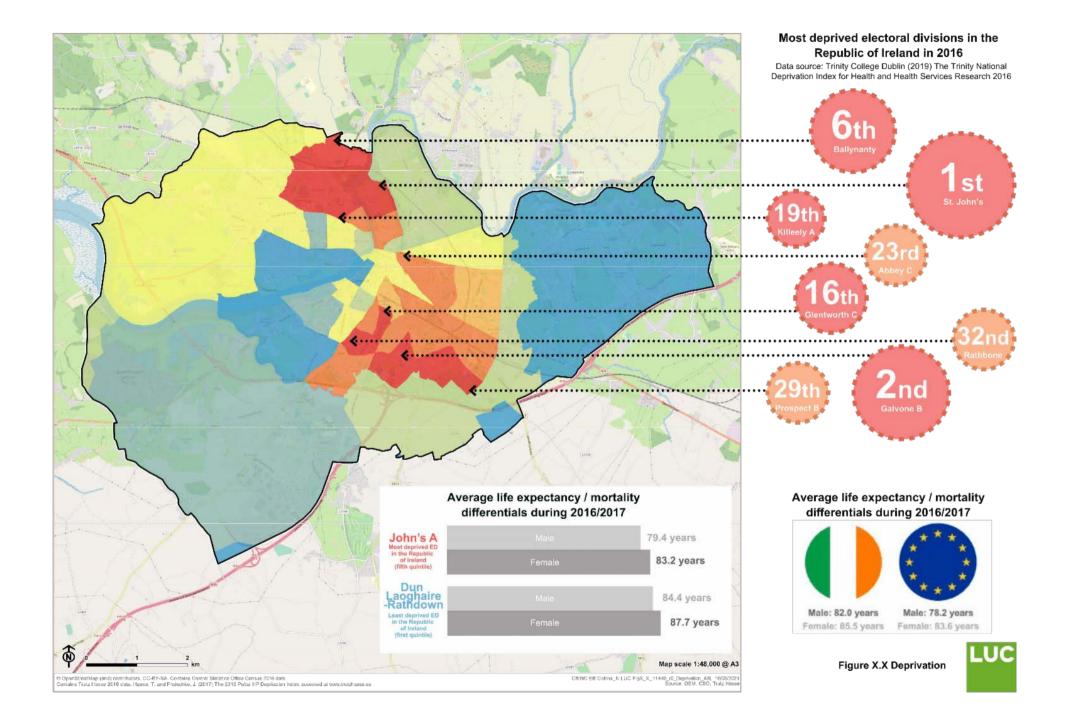


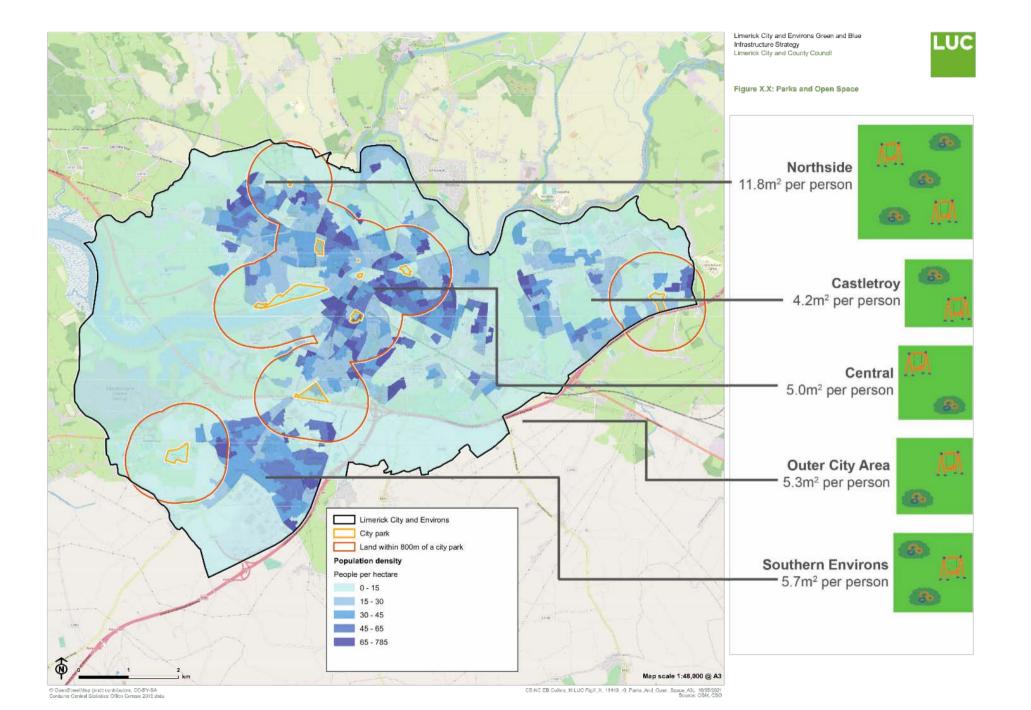
Carbon sequestration and mitigating climate change

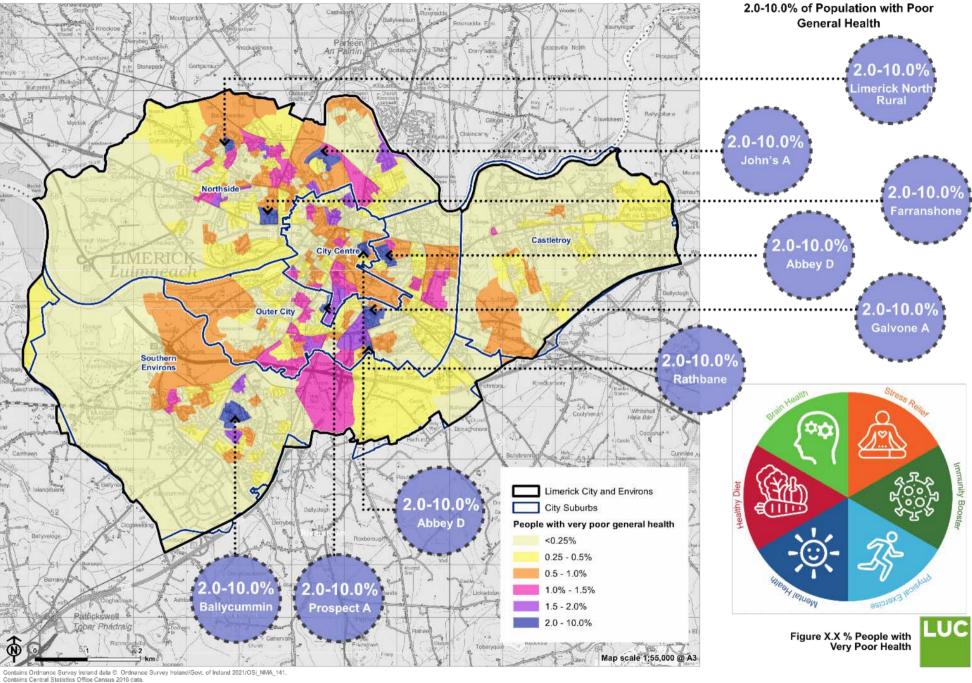


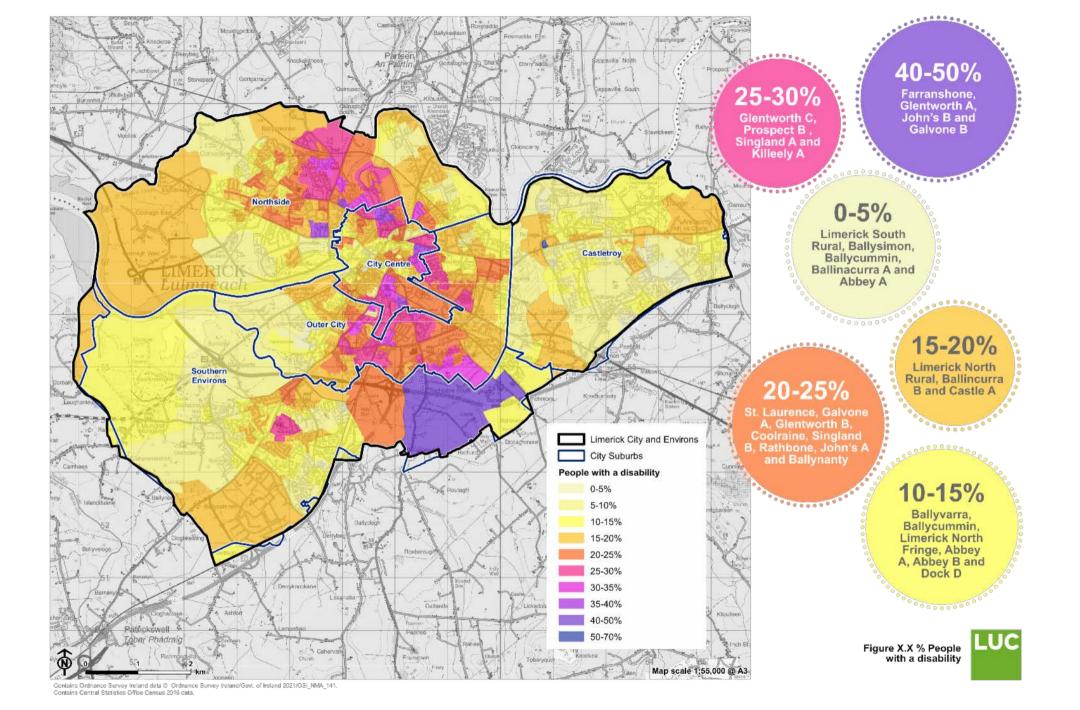
Urban cooling and enhanced efficiency of building climate systems









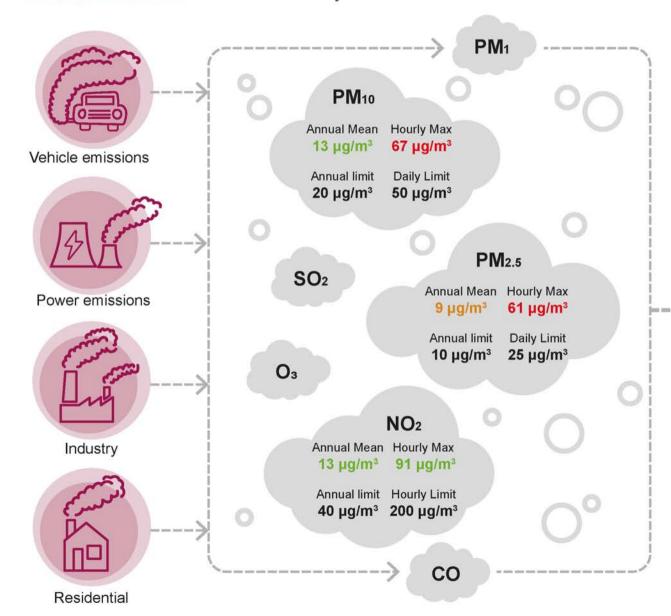


#### Pollutant Source

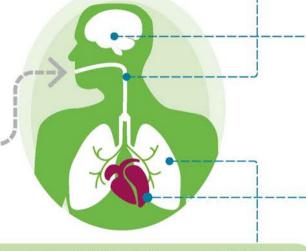
#### Key Pollutants in Limerick

#### Health Impact





- Headaches and anxiety [SO<sub>2</sub>]
- Impacts on the central nervous system [PM]
- Irritation of eyes, nose and throat
- Breathing problems [O<sub>3</sub> PM, NO<sub>2</sub> SO<sub>2</sub>]



- Respiratory irritation, inflammation & infections
- Asthma and reduced lung function
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease [PM]
- Lung Cancer [PM]
- Cardiovascular diseases [PM O<sub>3</sub> SO<sub>2</sub>]
- Impacts on liver, spleen & blood [NO<sub>3</sub>]
- Impacts on reproductive system [PM]

### **GBI Themes**



#### Landscape and Recreation

- · Landscape character
- · Regional parks
- · Urban greening
- · Sense of place



#### Biodiversity

- Local conservation priorites
- · Designated sites
- · Habitat networks



#### Access and Connectivity

- · Active travel
- Public transport and the road network
- · Public rights of way



#### Blue Infrastructure

- · Water courses
- · Flood risk
- · Water quality



#### People, Health and Wellbeing

- · Amenity greenspace
- · Areas of deficiency
- Food growing
- Health and well-being



#### Tourism, Culture and the Economy

- · Historic and heritage
- features
- · Economic benefits
- Key destination for tourism

### **GBI Themes**



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# **Access and Connectivity: Key Issues,**

Lack of connectivity of Cycling infrastructure. Anti Social Behaviour risk on River Walk. Association with the River is negative and is more focused on incidents of suicide.

lack of high quality greenspaces with biodiversity, soundscape e.g. potential therapy gardens

to bus routes

and cycle lanes

deliver equitable transport accessibility to tackle deprivation and provide for ferent ages?

How can the GBI network

greater focus o the use of pub;ic transport, limit the availability of car parking in the center of town, increase the life to the central hub after shoping hrs, greater occupancy of residential areas in the city center, park and ride facilities



health

feasibility for high quality park and ride service?

> The main barrier to people cycling in Limerick is road safety - it is not a safe city to cycle in due to lack of segregated cycleways and poor driver behaviour also discontinuities in cycle lanes

BGI could offer

alternative off

road routes

for resid

Awareness for girls / woman and

their needs; concerning the

active travel network; which

destinations can be reached.

Think about, day cares, shops,

schools, etc. and not only classic

main destination such as 'work

areas'. Woman often trip-chain

more accommodating helps

promoting active travel.

lack of access to tree canopy cover-eg. urban

Weeather can be a factor. but people tend to prefer to use the car.

Lack of pedestrian permeab to barriers e.g. the river, Par railway lines, cul-de-sacs, Areas include Moyross, K

a an rier wo be safety concer

utes

especially for women - having spaces well lit would help around this.

Quality of xisting active and puvlic travel needs to be enhanced. LSMATS should provide some enhancement of

the services/options.

our resources are not mapped by how they link to SDG-s yet this

To promote actieve travel adequate bicycle parking facilities are needed not only at destinations but also in

residental area's, parks, public transport stops (to promote the combination of PT and cycling/walking), health care facilities etc.

dependency on cars and buses with low mode use for bikes in active travel

Traders don't want reduced parking or reduced car access

The one way system makes cycling less attracive - the way to a destination may be direct, but the return leg very

convoluted.

lack of real time Air and noise is good too

poor driver

behaviour and

lack of

segretated

cycle lanes

the shannon banks route

provides a good

opportunity for people

travelling into the city from

the north. This should be

extended past UL out to

Castleconnell and create

links to it along the Mulkaer

and Groody River

modelled data on pollution in cityincuding where it

ig an

Limited bus service provision and frequency

In several

locations cars

use the cycling

lane as an extra

traffic lane

especially in we parts of the

and

Public are very critical of the bus services in limerick - in frequent and unreliable

Traffic congestion - reliniance on the car as public tranposrt services and active and sustainable travel options not fit for

The bike share

scheme is

badly

maintained

Additionally school times and work tin=mes all tend to be within the ppeak hours morning and evening leading to congestion.

Focus of development of retail and industry in outlying areas encor=urages car use.

LSMATS proposals should address some of these issues.

Improvements required to the Park Canal to improve surface and the canal itself. providing a proper connection between the city centre and the UL Greenway/River Shannon

mited safe and dedicated cycle infrastructure. Currently no complete cycle corridor across the ity and Enviros. The main trategic corridors are in ne south, east and northest but there are no cycle ks in the city centre itself.

Opening up of

Green Areas in

the Dooradoyle

area along the

railway and

riverside

Car dependence - only y on car 7% use public transport oved and 28% walk or cycle w active for their commute. ? Where

re these Connectivity to Free car parking outside the city center - linked

lack of contigious

green spaces and

low tree canopy

coverage in city

centre

Lough Derg **Walking Routes** and Rathkeale Greenway and Shannon

No safe cycling route from Mary I or LIT to the city.

flora in existing greenspace

lack of midgrowth and

e.g. on N18/11/19 junction and M7.

groups such as youngsters, people Traffic congo with a disability etc.

Improve bus and

train services

in/out of city

morning/evening

daily.

Traffic education

(incl. actieve

travel/PT) for

specific target

greenspace with forests

Island, Lissanalta, Ferndare

would connect the four themes here

What are the factors causing traffic congestion? How can

# Access and Connectivity: What is valued? What works? What should be replicated?

Some existing active travel routes for walkers and cyclists.

Several promoted walking routes e.g. City Centre Slí na Sláinte, Riverside Walk, The Three Bridges

Bus links across the city and one rail station

3 Bridges Walks River Back Walk UL to City River Access

The greenway from the Abbey Bridge to UL is excellent - segregated and safe and offers an amenity as well as an active travel route

Bike share doesn't extend to the suburbs or UL

the continuation of cycle route from the Canal (that connects with Shannon Walkway) as this has potential to be a safe cycle route into the city

Local Parks are great but need additional additions, BB Court, Older Adult related activities, Teenage Focus

The Three Bridges Walk is very popular, but it is not particularly green. There may be opportunites to develop routes that take in some of the parks such as westfields and the Baggot Estate.

The Castletroy Greenway links schools and residential areas in Castletroy - currently under construction but likely to be a good model.

Low speed levels for all modes of transport if segregated bicycle lanes aren't available, with low speed levels it's ok to mix bicycle with car or bicycle with pedestrians

quality pedestrian cycle routes from outskirts of city ( built up suburban areas) into the heart of the city.

Limerick Cycling Bus where parents collect and accompany children to school on their bikes is a great initiative

The shared surface on Bishop's Street seems to work well and the new segregated cycle way across the Shannon Bridge which joins with it - The latter was introduced as a temporary measure due to Covid, but hopefully will remain in place. Very popular with the Limerick Cycling Campaign.

Existing walking/cycling routes are good but could expand; need to identify more eg use of former rail lines

> Bike Scheme Needs an upgrade and could be expanded

Roundabouts to Traffic Light Junctions

Which public transport links are most effective and cater for the needs of residents and visitors?

What is the quality of wayfinding to GBI assets across the City? What are the best examples, and what can be improved?

Which of the existing and proposed active travel routes for walkers and cyclists are most used and effective for connectivity? Have any routes specifically enhanced connectivity to GBI assets?

Which residential and industrial areas of the city have good access infrastructure and permeability?

Change

**Qualityof wayfinding** 

to BGI assets could

be improved. Could

look at linking

map/app of BGI

assets.

Wayfinding to parks is not

good. In particular the

Baggot Estate. The majority

of Limerick people don't

know it is there and the

entrance is not signed and

very difficult to find.

People, Health and Wellbeing: Key Issues, Pressures and Threats

Public toilets that are friendly to people who are blind or have visual impairments - eg: the public toilet by the People's Park is relatively impossible for an unassisted blind person to use

Link green spaces to classes offered by LCETB teach people how to grow food and how to improve green space and upkeep - have people make flower boxes for green spaces teach people about flowers and wildlife

Limerick has huge areas of green space which are entirely under developed and under used and often attracts antisocial behaviour - in particular horses in the more deprived areas. examples of this are in Garryowen, St Mary's Park (Kings Island), Moyross, Ballynanty but generally all residential greenspaces are maintained as feature less amenity grass often without any trees, paths or landscape features which would attract people in and offer opportunities for natural play.

Speak with local resident groups, local environmental groups, primary schools, youth organisations, after school services/groups, community centres. Ask them what they would like to see/use/have on a green area close to where they live. What do they not want to see/have/use? Each community might like something slightly different for a green area and by meeting with representatives is a good starting point!

Biodiversiti

Anti Social Behaviour Access Time, Opening and Closing.

orovision

cal food

otments,

ulture?

Allotments - Trial or pilot allotments in established settings in the city. Give people an opportunity to try growing their own food and then scale up within a wider strategy? St. Joseph's hospital, for example, is planning on using old/established growing facilitates (early stage discussion but infrastructure is there). Also is there a demand for growing food in allotments? Perhaps a public consultation to gauge needs/wants?

we need initiatives that supporting the link between local food production sustainability index for local shops

with consumption- a

Work with local community centres and Family Resource Centres to access local communities and get buy in from them predevelopment work is

incredibly important

the canal is a good

diverse area that if it

was opened up to

some stalls or over looking business it

may eliminate anti

Accessibility - for people

with disabilities is vital.

Outside sitting areas that

accommodate people who

use wheelchairs so they are

not excluded - note this

should not be doubled as

anti-homeless architecture

Baggot Estate is an area that would benefit from greater activity and is also well on the road to

There is no formal allotment, community garden or urban farming programme in Limerick. There are many underused greenspaces which would be ideal for this. A concern is maintenance requirements and there is a need for a model for how these can be maintained by the users. There is a woman in Garryowen (Helena) who has a great

vision for a n urban farm in th earea.

Anti Social

Behaviour requires

an area to have a

higher Footfall in

order to deter. But it

is a Chi

antisocial behaviour

can be somewhat

mitigated by ensuring

they are active travel

routes -perhaps for the

colleges -high footfall

discourages ASB

Other open spaces

Good lighting

discourages anti-

social behaviour.

Grounds keepers.

Car dependency.

Disadvantaged areas all have green space but the quality of it tends to be low.

the shannon riverside

walk from Corbally to

UL is an excellent

amenity but doesnt

tend to get used after

dark even though lit

In which deprived areas of Limerick is GBI most deficient?

Ballynanty is probably the

deprived area of the city with the

poorest access to quality

greenspace. It is adjacent to

Moyross but not strictly a

Regeneration area and tends to

get forgotten. But even with in

the regen areas the access to

green space is poor. Facilities like

playground have been provided

but little else.

scale funding for programs (active cities) but need to do PPP with local companies

Currently large

Public toilets and changing areas. More are needed around the city covid has highlighted this very much

awa

cor

hea



Need for a large scale Behaviour Change approach as high % of Disadvantaged do not value PA

> showcasing of good examples in cities with large stakeholders-eg. first 7 week program on sustainabilty for all the colleges with a local environment week celebration

How can accessibility and functionality of GRI accoss ho

How can GBI be used

# People, Health and Wellbeing: What is valued? What works? What should be replicated? What is Limerick best at?

I am not aware of

allotment areas in

Limerick but there is

good evidence of

their use in

Tipperary and

Shannon

There are number of public parks both large (Baggott Estate, Westfields Wetlands) and small (O'Brien Park, People's Park, Shelbourne Park).

enagage using

CSR time from

SME's to work

in citizen

travel-overcome

overestimation of

active travel time

A Connected network for Cycling and

we need to provide the addition of 3 info.on the cost of Orienteering Maps driving and the benefits of active

> and westfields provide acccess to nature.

Parkrun & junior Parkrun have been successful at 3 locations 1 in City and 2 in suburbs

Local Parks can and are utilised by Migrants and New Communities more than local residents

protecting forest parks need to be areas within the city environs and

opportunities to

expand these

Westfields is a good example of a park that is managed as much for wildlife as for people. A management plan is currently being produced which has had signficant input from locals and interest groups.

Forest school in Baggot Esate is a wonderful initiative that could be replicated elsewhere - This one also deals with special needs children (mainly hearing impaired, but also autistic).

than the more

formal playgrounds

Last year areas of

let citizens be architects of their greenspace with guidance and let children or local

users name the park

and features

efforts to develop either council owned or community managed allottments. However, in my experience there is either insufficient interest or where they are started they tend to die out due to waning interest.

Clare Street Park

and Mungret Park

well utilised for

sporting and

social activities

Which spaces provide good Need to include access to nature? Community opportunities for cohesion? Tranquility? Play natural play in and recreation space? greenspaces rather

> How and where does GBI enhance health and wellbeing and community cohesion? Particularly in the most deprived areas of Limerick?

> > Are there good examples of community food growing?

Are any spaces used for social prescribing. or have the opportunity to do so?

all parks need a quiet space for recovery-a key learning from CV19 times

science activity Improved Pathways in Baggot Estate and

Walking from

City to suburbs

Baggott Estate and river wlaks

Walkways and cycleways along the rivers

multi-functional

including play,

recreation and high

quality GS to

promote

biodiversity

Castletroy park were allowed to devleop into wildlfower meadows. This There has been occasional was hugely popular with park users. This will be rolled out more widely this year.

### **Exercise 3: Existing projects**

**Moyross Community** Centre have an urban garden area connected to them - this will be open to the community for classes and projects - gives the community a sense of ownership over the space

Cycle bus - some parents and children on the Northside of the city get together every morning and cycle to local schools as one large group

Paths have been added to several greenspaces which were previously under used.

A trial dog park has been created in Mungret Park.

Think about those which provide active travel, green urban areas, provide access to nature, create sense of place, promote community cohesion

> The Active Cities Programme is at a very early stage and will hopefully have 3 years of funding to support more PA across all areas, open spaces, River, walkways

Athlunkard Boat Club has been designated as a Urban Adventure Outdoor Hub. Will have community based programmes over the coming 12 months.

UL green campus initiative has been upgraded in ambition under new presidency:-)

Existing project medium scale

Hush project -noise pollution has been ongoing

Grass paths in parks have opened up areas which previoously wouldn't have been used - Castletrov Neighburhood APrk, Mungret Park.

Castletrov Urban Greenway currently under construction.

Public bike scheme Coca-Cola Zero Bikes.

# City Wide

LSP Target **Programmes** and Initiatives are

**URBACT** Health and Greenspace is working to create plans for several underused greenspaces in the city in consultation with local residents and other stakeholders. The plans will aim to enhance and animate the greenspaces. The particular focus areas are in: Garryowen, Moyross, Ballynanty, Mayorstone Park, Johhns Gate, Mt. St Lawrence. Baggot Estate. St. Joseph's Hospital

### Local ←

Upgrade of footpaths in city parks have increased accessability and enjoyment eg Baggott Estate

> Existing project local / site specific scale

river projects and events-Riverfest could add a sustainability dimension and there are swimmable limerick and reclaim the river activities

Castletroy greenway is nearing completion

Skate park near the dock road is a great area for young people

Orienteering maps have been developed for Baggot Estate to encourage use of the park.

> H2020 Go Green routes looking to promote active mobility routes and healthy lifestyles

### **Exercise 3: Forthcoming projects**

Think about those which provide active travel, green urban areas, provide access to nature, create sense of place, promote community cohesion

waterways ireland -city to Lough Derg Greenway is in planning phase

Active cities project led by LSP -who are leading this program nationally will provide over 200k funding in the medium term

Potential to identify additional uses of waterways

Corbally Baths

I SMASP has an objective to create a regional park in the Limerick Shannon Area

Gogreenroutes-will promote active travel and renaturing in city 2020-2024 focus on high quality greenspace and connecting citizens to their environment

World class water front and Flood defences may create opportunities for NBS and active travel routes

**Proposed Greenway Networks** across the City (e.g. Shannon Fields extension, links with Great Southern Greenway, Limerick Docks, City to Bunratty)

Adare /

Park and ride

Local

LSMATS and CFRAMS for flood defences

Existing project local / site specific scale

Proosals under additional walking /cycling routes on

> Open up canal for water craft?

water smimming clubs, local to the city - Narwal swimmimg club

Number of open

Existing project medium scale

Father Russell Road cycle track - is it segregated?

a recreational framework plan was done for the Coonagh Area which identified walking routes and potential ehancements to the wetland to make it more of an amenity/park. However this would have to be done sensitively as it is an important

> The woodland recreation on Public Lands Scheme could provide the opportunity to create amenity woodlands if suitable sites could be identified in the city and environs

# City Wide

Extension of potential railway shannon connection from riverside walk from UI to Patrickswell to Castleconnell city centre

> Existing project city wide

Adare public realm plan will be looking at potential linkages with city centre

### **Exercise 3: Useful Datasets**

Wider research inform strategy and links with policy. Cannot source report at the moment on NSAR Health but some information here and other links - interpolities actives recommending to the property of the control of the property of the control o

LSMATS
Demand
Analysis
Supporting
Documentation

mobility datastrava, INRIX and TOMTOM provide info. oncongestion for example

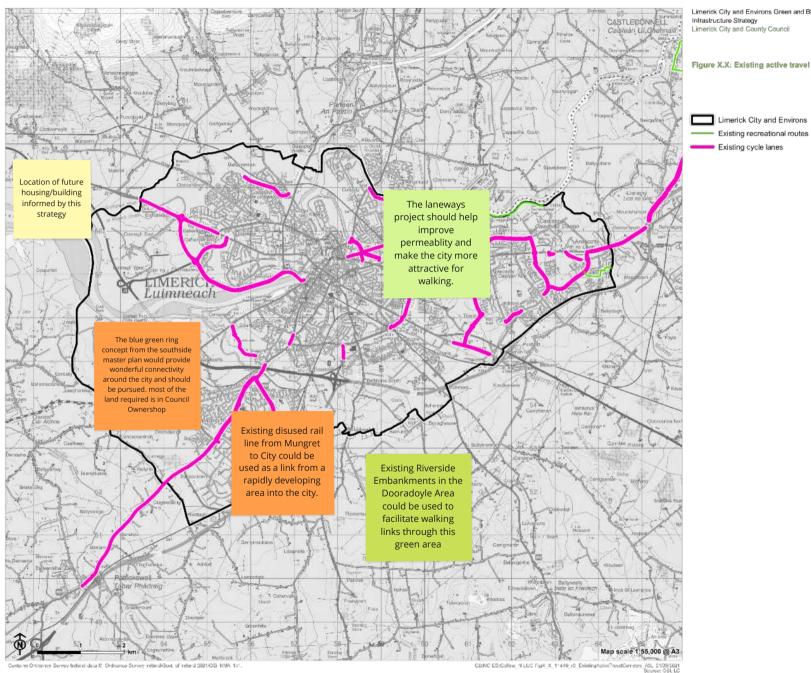
copernicus and epa data sets

Apps that model pollution at city level- https://map.elichens.com/#/location/limerick



Adventure Walk App

### **Access and** Connectivity



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Figure X.X: Existing active travel corridors

Limerick City and Environs

Existing cycle lanes

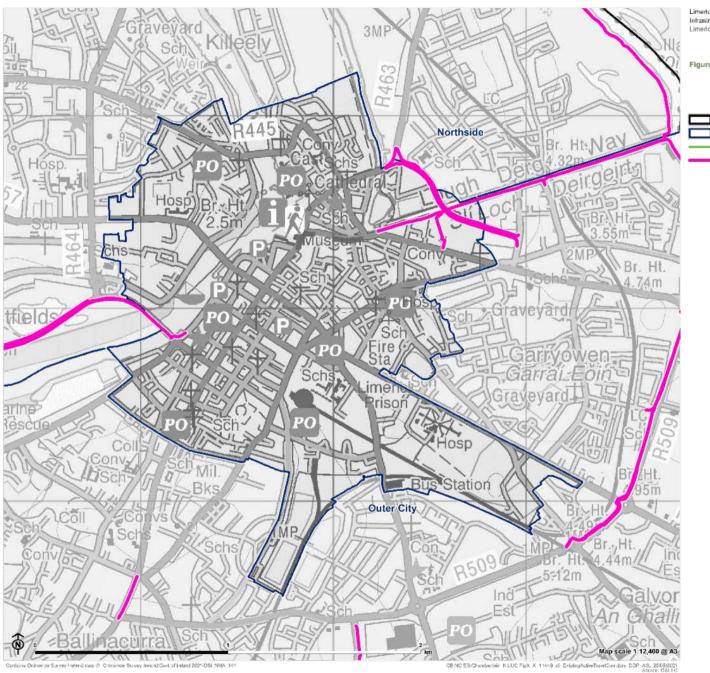




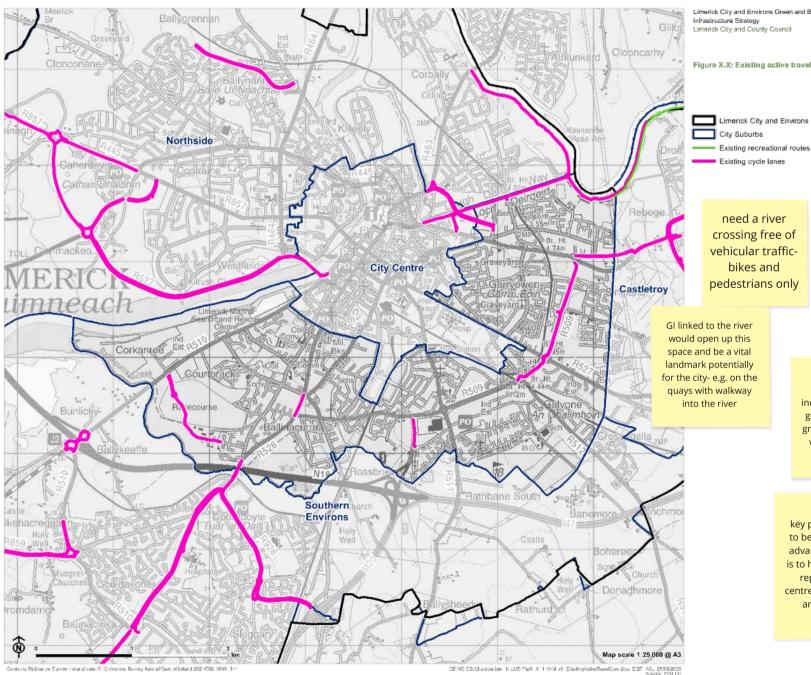
Figure X.X: Existing active travel corridors in City Centre

Limerick City and Environs
City Suburbs
Existing recreational routes
Existing cycle lanes

Connect existing large parks with 'greenway' or GI to ensure contigious biodiversity

link Thomond park (stadium, LIT and Ballynanty) to river with green route (away from Cratloe Rd and congestion)

try connect the three major HEI's with green routesthis would connect 30,000 young people (Mary I, LIT, UL) Definitely fun!



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Figure X.X: Existing active travel corridors in Outer City

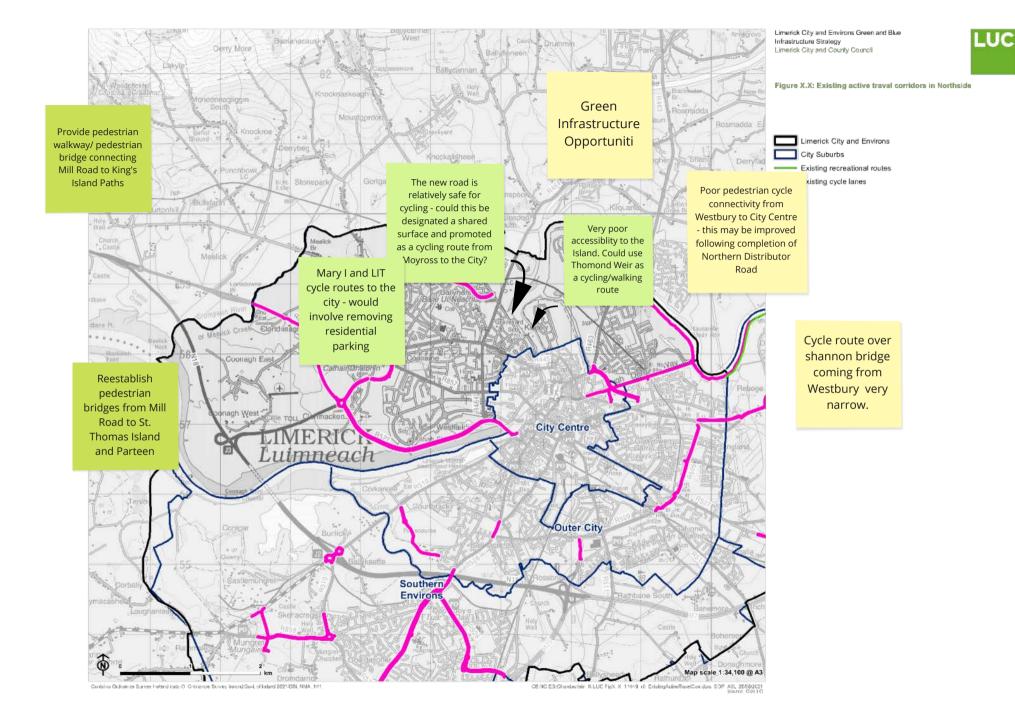
need a river crossing free of vehicular trafficbikes and pedestrians only

 Existing recreational routes Existing cycle lanes

> add GBI to areas at risk of flooding to mitigate risk and provide better drainage-permeable pavements in new developments

new signature buildings should include a dimension of green infrastructuregreen roofs and green walls as part of our Embrace of Green

key point for active travel to be cutting edge and an advance on other TI ideas is to have bike only routesrepurpose a route to centre to avoid competition and promote safety



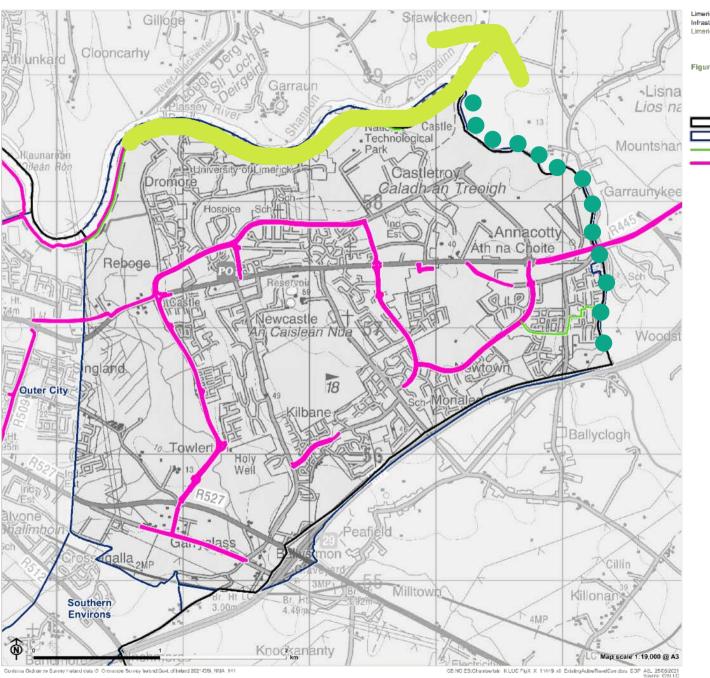




Figure X.X: Existing active travel corridors in Castletroy

Limerick City and Environs City Suburbs Existing recreational routes Existing cycle lanes

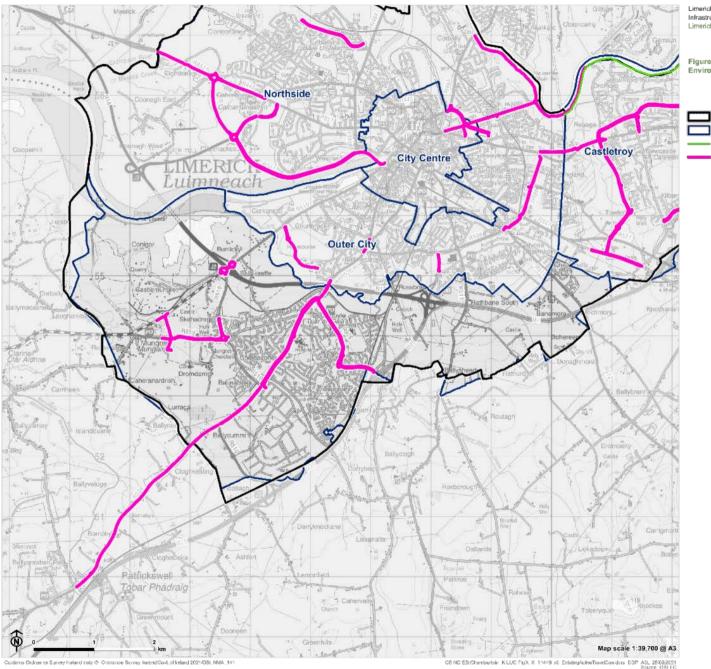




Figure X.X: Existing active travel corridors in Southern

Limerick City and Environs

City Suburbs

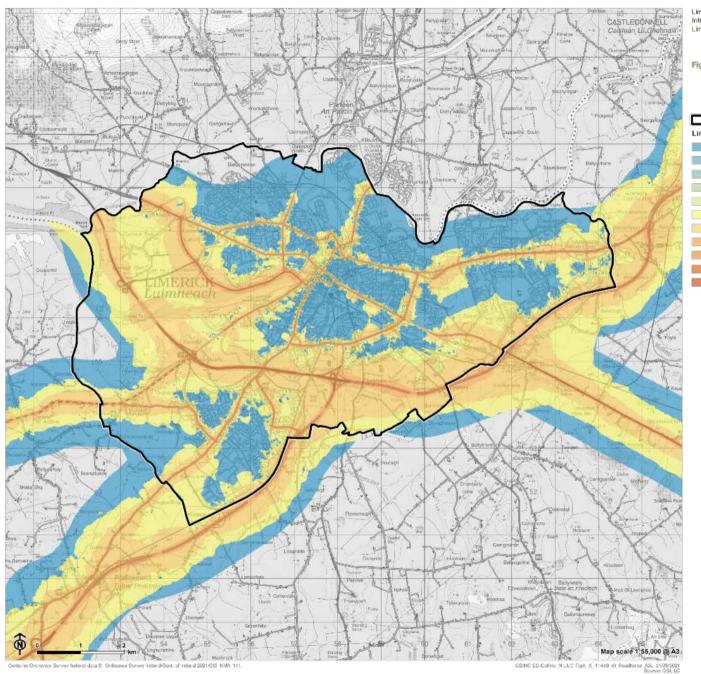
Existing recreational routes

Existing cycle lanes

# People. Health and Wellbeing

any bespoke greenspaces and notably restorative spaces-need significant GI to mitigate the co-hazards of noise and air pollutionmix of conifers and decidious trees

generally-protect homes and schoolsbecause these levels are high and this could influence configuration of green routes



Limerick City and Environs Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy

Limerick City and County Council



Figure X.X: Road Noise

Limerick City and Environs

Limerick City road noise mapping Lden 2018 - low

<1 dB 1 - 10 dB 11 - 20 dB

21 - 30 dB

31 - 40 dB 41 - 50 dB

51 - 60 dB 61 - 70 dB

71 - 80 dB 81 - 90 dB

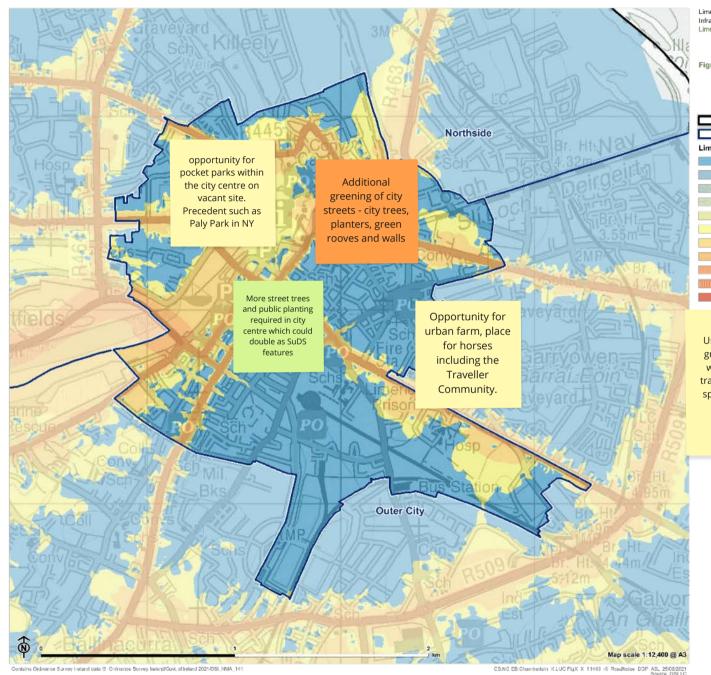
91 - 100 dB

s on trees that ote birdlife and fe in park areaswould create a al soundscape to npen effects of ise pollution

> city centre requires higher density of trees -mix of conifers and decidous to increase tree canopy coverhedges required too

Develop tree species index to ensure use of resilient species and use of those which don't have high levels of pollen

Green walls and pocket parks would make great short term solution to add GI and showcase its benefits



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1 - 10 dB

11 - 20 dB 21 - 30 dB

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61 - 70 dB

71 - 80 dB 81 - 90 dB

91 - 100 dB

Use tree boxes and only green one side of street where pedestrians can travel to ensure sufficient space for trees and midgrowth to promote biodiversity

> Analysis of Storm Water Network to see where engineered wetlands can be introduced to improve quality of run off

More support/resources to needed to provide activities in public parks eg LSP courses, sli and slainte, park runs etc

LUC

ensure co-creation is part of any new developmentsnaming the parks after local heroes-Dolores, Axel etc. and involve communities in aesthetic design too

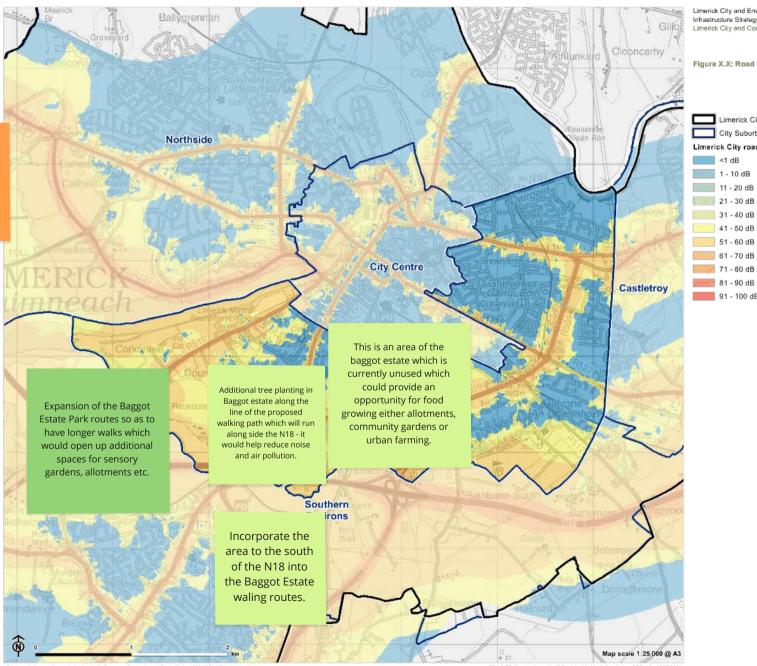




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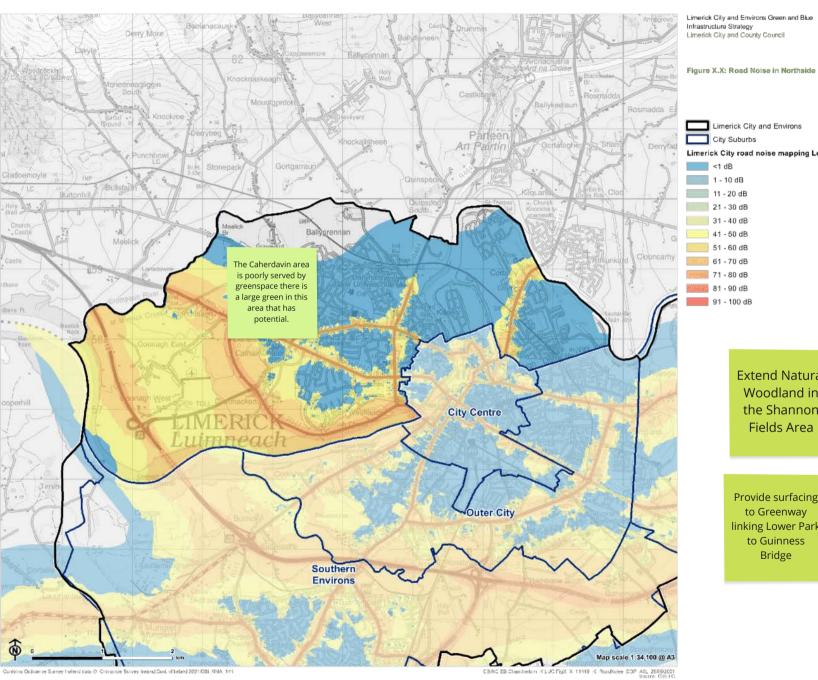
Ensure planning

guidelines rg=egarding

distance from

roads is adhered

to



Limerick City and Environs Green and Blue Limerick City and County Council



Limerick City road noise mapping Lden 2018 - low

**Extend Natural** Woodland in the Shannon Fields Area

Provide surfacing to Greenway linking Lower Park to Guinness Bridge

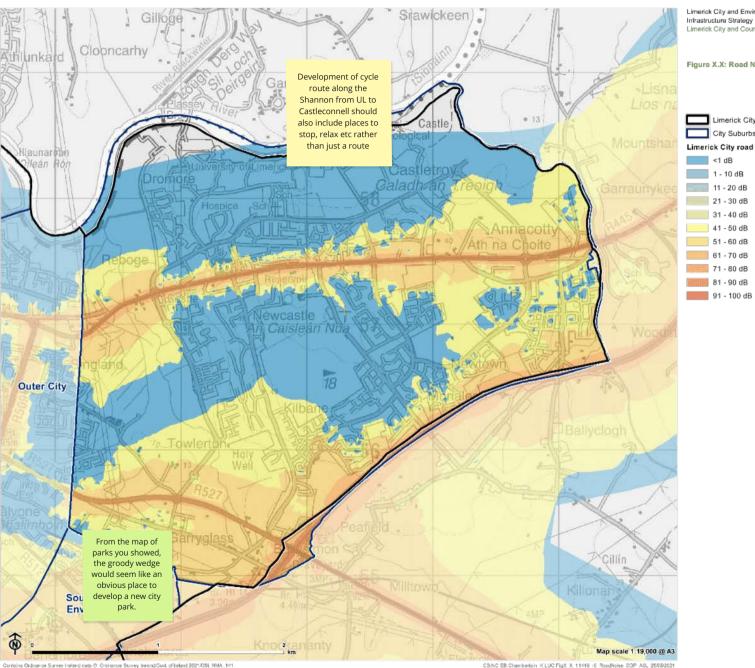




Figure X.X: Road Noise in Castletroy

Limerick City and Environs City Suburbs Limerick City road noise mapping Lden 2018 - low <1 dB 1 - 10 dB 11 - 20 dB 21 - 30 dB 31 - 40 dB 41 - 50 dB 51 - 60 dB 61 - 70 dB 71 - 80 dB 81 - 90 dB

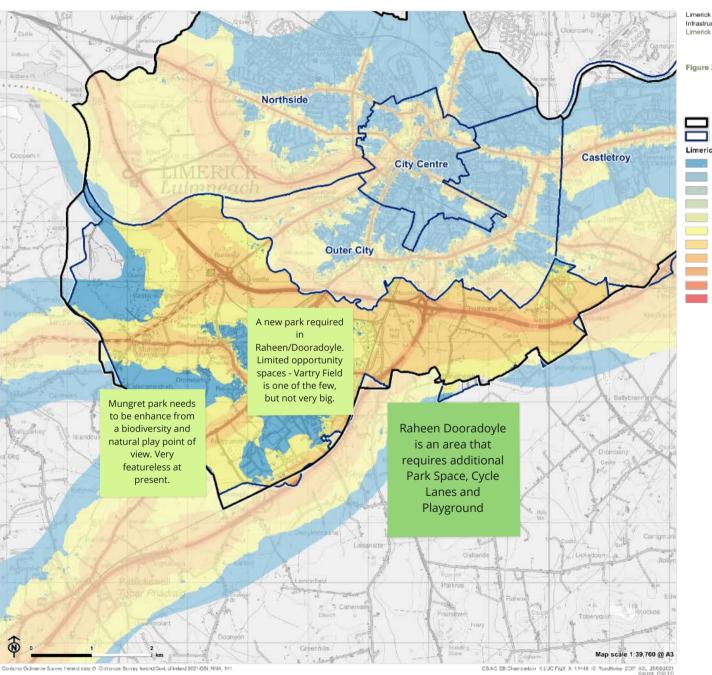




Figure X.X: Road Noise in Southern Environs

Limerick City and Environs

City Suburbs

Limerick City road noise mapping Lden 2018 - low

<1 dB

1 - 10 dB

11 - 20 dB

21 - 30 dB

31 - 40 dB

41 - 50 dB

51 - 60 dB

61 - 70 dB

71 - 80 dB

81 - 90 dB

91 - 100 dB

# **Exercise** Open Space Assessmen

Only Westfields Wetland is likely to fall into this category.

nation pknis include e forests-

najor ones

circa 20km

The Groody Wedge offers a great opportunity for a good sized park

Would the range and type of facilities for each park type also need to be identified?

small park should be parallel to WHO guidelines- so min. of 2 hectares within 3-400m or 5 min walk

We probably have a lot of green spaces that fall into th Pocket and small categories, but they are just grass. Should we specify what needs to be included before it can be called a park?

Local park 2-20ha is too loose-WHO says 20k within 2kmscale is required for multifunctionalitye.g. exercise within park and recreation

Destination Park >20ha

ocal Park 2 - 20ha Within 1km of every residence

Small Park 0.2 - 2ha Within 400m of every residence

**Pocket Park** 0.04 - 0.2ha of every

scale and distance criteria are great and ideally have crieria for biodiversity and multi-functionality

Would City wide or district park be a better name than destination - that implies it is worth travelling signficant distance to the park and there would be an expectation about facilities

parks would fall into the local park category. The 1km radius would still probably show the same gaps as you identified in your map.

Rathbane Golf course is one of the biggest greenspaces in the city but it is enjoyed by a relatively small number of people - could the be repurposed as a park?

Many Green areas not designated as parks or not accessible

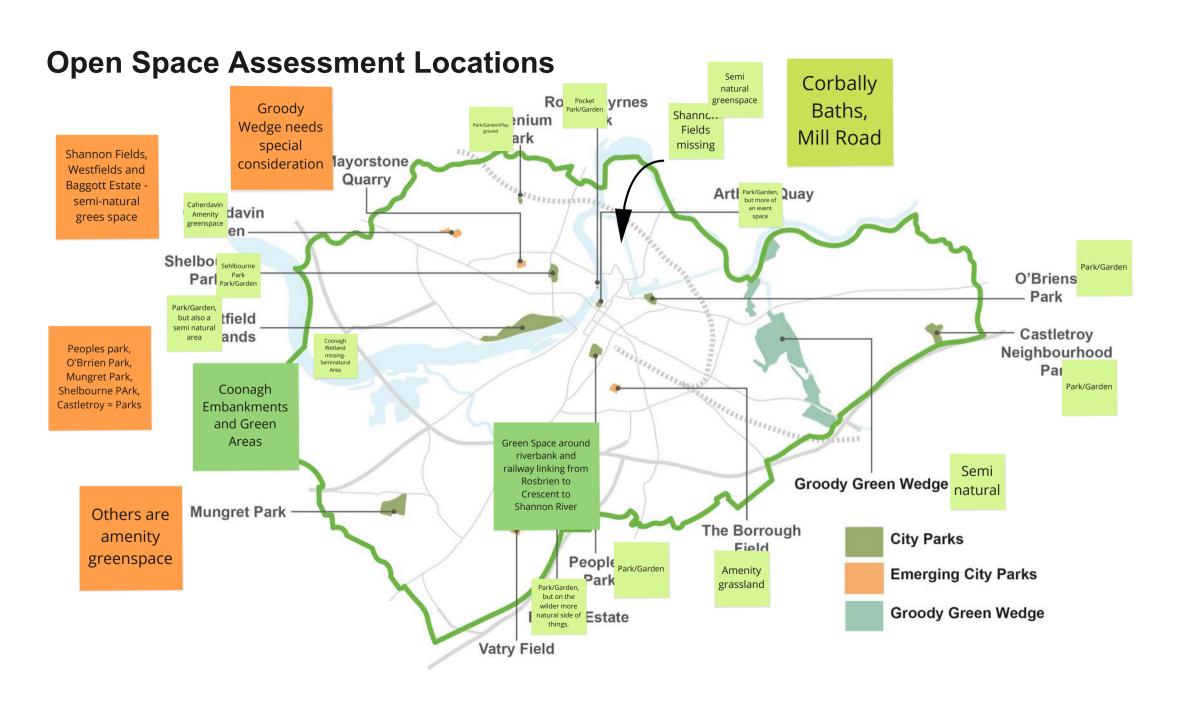
Once you get out of the City the council is no longer the biggest provider of amenity greenspace

May have difficulty in achieving pocket parks within 100m

pocket parks are the right scale

Most of our existing in that case.

Within 100m residence



# Thank you for your participation

Please contact stephanie.crewe@landuse.co.uk for any follow up queries or comments