

Village Profile

BCP: School -BCP School -Indicates the National School is identified as part of the National Broadband Plan to deliver connectivity to Primary Schools

The High Speed Broadband Map indicates that Rockcorry village is located in a BLUE area representing those areas where commercial providers are either currently delivering or have plans to deliver high speed broadband services. In these areas operators are continuing to enhance their services in these areas to improve access to high speed broadband. However, the wider hinterland resides in the target area only for the State intervention under the National Broadband Plan.

The existing Broadband infrastructure available in Rockcorry is a major asset to the community and this is a vital service that supports economic growth, jobs, competitiveness and social inclusion. This asset must be fully utilised for the future regeneration of the village.

Water Services Capacity Rockcorry

Wastewater Services

Uisce Éireann’s Annual Environmental Report 2020 for Rockcorry Wastewater Treatment Plan indicates an as constructed Capacity of 1000 (PE= Population Equivalent) and a Remaining Capacity of 667(PE). This with an average family size of 3 persons would support 222no. dwellings approximately.

Therefore, there is a significant capacity to accommodate future development in Rockcorry Village., especially when considering the conservative design principals indicated by Uisce Éireann. This is a major asset for the growth potential of Rockcorry, offering a sustainable and environmentally friendly location for rural development.

Water Supply Services

Uisce Éireann website indicates that the Lough Eglsh Regional Water Supply Scheme benefits approximately 12,000 consumers in Co Monaghan including Ballybay, Rockcorry and Castleblaney, and notes that there is available capacity in Rockcorry to support 2031 population targets.

The Capacity available in Uisce Eireann means a level of service (LoS) improvement required = Capacity Available to meet targeted population growth to 2031 although an improvement to the Level of service (LoS) will be required. This again is a major asset for the growth potential of Rockcorry, offering a sustainable and environmentally friendly location for rural development.

2.1.4.2 Treatment Capacity Report Summary - Rockcorry WWTP - 2020

Treatment capacity is an assessment of the hydraulic (flow) and organic (the amount of pollutants) load a treatment plant is designed to treat versus the current loading of that plant.

Rockcorry WWTP - 2020	
Peak Hydraulic Capacity (m ³ /day) - As Constructed	681
DWF to the Treatment Plant (m ³ /day)	227
Current Hydraulic Loading - annual max (m ³ /day)	482
Average Hydraulic loading to the Treatment Plant (m ³ /day)	123
Organic Capacity (PE) - As Constructed	1000
Organic Capacity (PE) - Collected Load (peak week) ^{Note 1}	333
Organic Capacity (PE) - Remaining	667
Will the capacity be exceeded in the next three years? (Yes/No)	No

Nominal design capacities can be based on conservative design principles. In some cases assessment of existing plants has shown organic capacities significantly higher than the nominal design capacity. Accordingly plants that appear to be overloaded when comparing a collected peak load with the nominal design capacity can be fully compliant due to the safety factors in the original design.

Extract from Uisce Eireann Annual Environmental Report Rockcorry Water Treatment Works 2020

Strategic Planning Context

Planning Context

A range of local, regional and national strategies and policies establish the context within which the Rockcorry Vision Plan 2030 is shaped.

While the Rockcorry Vision Plan sits within many strategies, those with particular relevance are described below:

Project Ireland 2040 National Planning Framework

This is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for our people, and to protect and enhance our environment.

The Rockcorry Vision Plan 2030 brings together the interests of the residents, community groups and businesses in Rockcorry to work together on common goals and a planned vision for a vibrant and sustainable Rockcorry. Rural areas play a key role in defining our identity, in driving our economy and creating high-quality built and natural environment must be a major part of our country’s strategic development to 2040.

As a rural village, Rockcorry functions as the local economic and social driver for the surrounding areas. Creating the environment to support job creation in rural areas will be a key enabler to rejuvenating rural towns and villages, sustaining vibrant rural communities and reversing population decline.

Enhanced Amenities and Heritage will ensure that our cities, towns and villages are attractive and can offer a good quality of life.

Rockcorry has a wealth of heritage assets both natural and man-made which can be sympathetically promoted to preserve and conserve the history and heritage.

At the same time this is an important element in maintaining a good quality of life for residents and attracting visitors to the area for the benefit of the village economy. This framework is aligned with the National Planning Framework’s principles of compact growth and sustainability.

<p>NATIONALLY</p> <p>Programme for Government - Our Shared Future 2020 Project Ireland 2040 Our Rural Future 2021-2025 Housing for All 2021 Town Centre First Policy 2022 Fáilte Ireland: Survival to Recovery 2023 National Implementation Plan of the Sustainable Development Goals 2022-2024 Climate Action Plan 2023</p>	<p>REGIONALLY</p> <p>Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy (RSES) 2020-2032 North East Regional Enterprise Plan – Cavan Monaghan and Louth 2024 Northern & Western Region Assembly Report - Region in Transition, The Way Forward Failte Ireland: Ireland’s Ancient East Regional Tourism Development Strategy 2023 – 2027</p>
<p>LOCALLY</p> <p>Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 Monaghan County Council Local Economic & Community Plan 2015-2021 (Currently under Review) Monaghan Biodiversity and Heritage Strategic Plan 2020-2025 A Digital Strategy for County Monaghan 2021 – 2025 Health Ireland Healthy Monaghan Action Plan 2019 - 2022 Monaghan Destination Experience Development Plan Cultural and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027 Monaghan County Walking and Cycling Strategy 2021-2026</p>	

Strategic Planning Context

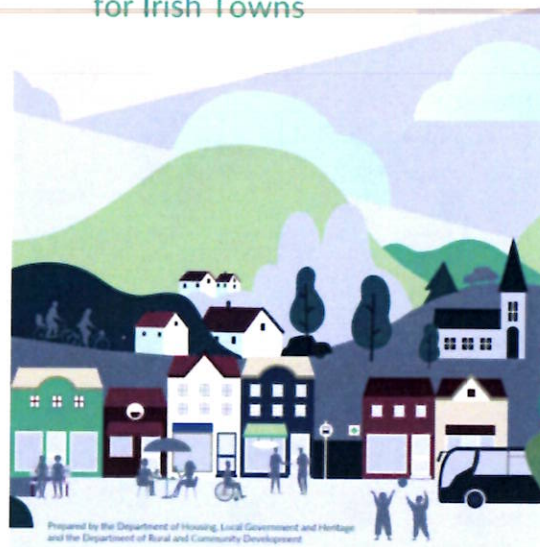
National Implementation Plan of the Sustainable Development Goals 2022-2024 In September 2015, all 193 United Nation Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ("Transforming our World"). The focus of the 2030 Agenda is the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their 169 targets.

The SDG's are a call for action by all to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. They recognise that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and address a range of social needs including education, health, social protection and job opportunities while tackling climate change and environmental protection.

The goals influence and support each other. Of the 17 goals, number 13 calls for urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. All of the goals influence climate change and vice versa.



Town Centre First A Policy Approach for Irish Towns



We will make little progress on climate action without accelerating the achievement of Goal 7 on clean and affordable and clean energy, or Goal 12 on responsible consumption and productions. Climate solutions can support the goals such as through a just transition to renewable energy

centred on providing decent work, the focus of Goal 8, or through developing resilient infrastructure under Goal 9. Read more here <https://www.un.org/en/climate change/17-goals-to-transform-our-world>

In Ireland, a whole-of-Government approach has been adopted for implementation of the SDGs. The National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals 2022-2024 sets out five strategic objectives to increase Ireland's ambition and strengthen the implementation structure to achieve the SDG's, which include an objective to integrate the SDG's into Local Authority work to better support the localisation of the SDG's.

Town Centre First Policy 2022 - The Town Centre First policy aims to create town centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit, while also functioning as the service, social, cultural and recreational hub for the local community.

Irish towns are facing significant challenges and opportunities that require a coordinated and comprehensive response. This Town Centre First policy will facilitate that response by towns of all sizes across the country so that their centres can function as the sustainable and vibrant heart of the communities they serve, in ways that are adaptable and appropriate to 21st century needs.

Strategic Planning Context

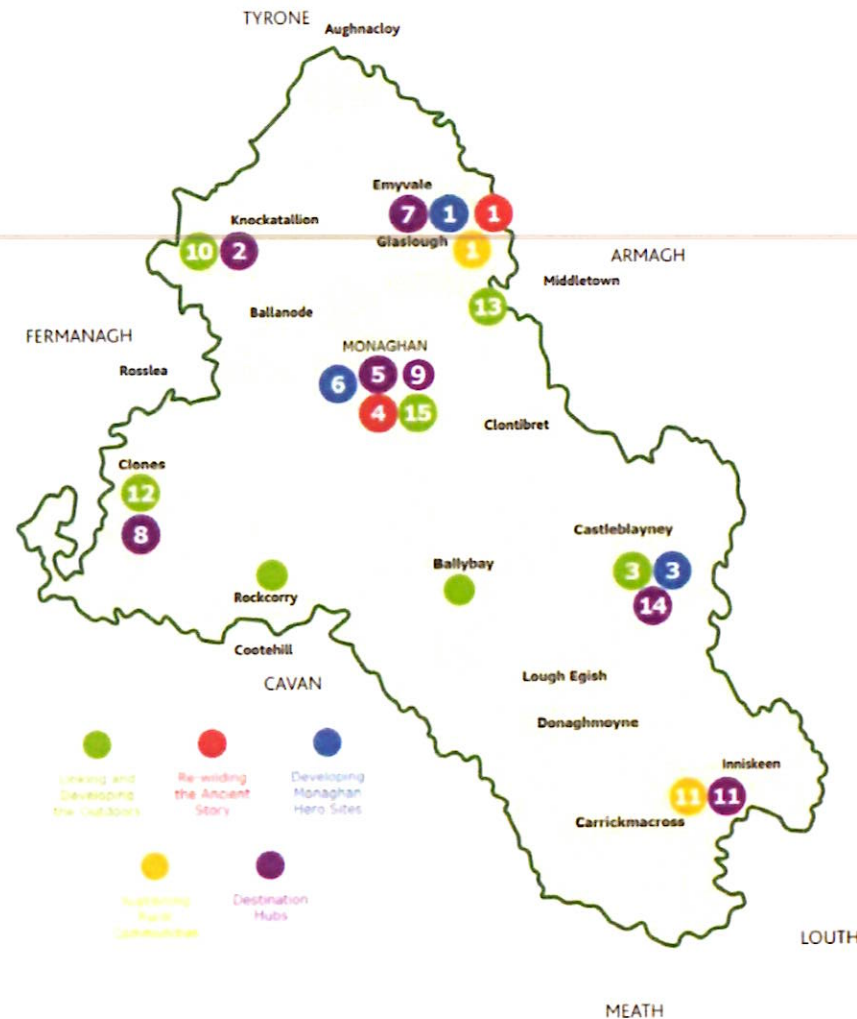
Monaghan County Council Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP)

The purpose of the LECP is to set out the objectives and actions needed to promote the economic development and community development of Monaghan, both by the local authority directly, and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.

A new Monaghan County Council LECP is currently being prepared to replace the previous Plan. Consultations on the new plan in April 2023 sought views of people living in the three MD areas of Monaghan, diverse communities of interest as well as public, private and community sectors.

Monaghan Destination Experience Development Plan

Rockcorry is identified in the Monaghan Destination Experience Development Plan (MDEDP), under linking and developing the outdoors. The MDEDP is a five year commercial destination and experience development plan. The role of the MDEDP is to support the development of unique and compelling destination experiences focused on a number of immediate and strategic destination opportunities. The MDEDP was developed through a consultative process involving tourism industry representatives, members of the local community and Monaghan County Council.



The MDEDP will guide tourism development through a roadmap of projects linked to a number of destination development opportunities. Over the course of the plan implementation, success will be measured by achieving growth across a range of indicators from new experience supply, visitor demand patterns, growing the value per visitor and a number of additional destination competitiveness indicators.

Extract from Monaghan Destination Experience Map identifying Rockcorry as a destination for 'Linking and Developing the Outdoors' This opens the opportunity to link Dartry Forest with the Village of Rockcorry as a wider environmental and cultural outdoor experience.

Strategic Planning Context

Monaghan County Development Plan 2019 – 2025

(Currently Under Review) Rockcory is designated a Tier 4 Village in the MCDP in acknowledgement of its importance to the rural area in sustaining the vitality of rural communities. The development limit of the village is defined in the County Development Plan. The village has the necessary infrastructural capacity to ensure it can continue its function as a local growth settlement and serve the needs of its hinterlands.

The village provides services to rural communities, including housing, neighbourhood level retail and social facilities which are critical to the on-going viability of the rural community. It is an objective of the Development Plan for Tier 4 Villages, *To promote and facilitate development that is commensurate with the nature and extent of the existing villages and support their role as local service centres.*

The preparation of the Vision Plan conforms with the objective of the Development Plan. The boundary of the Vision Plan area is consistent with the Development Plan Boundary, however, proposals are included outside of the boundary as appropriate.



Map 2.1: Core Strategy Map
Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025

- Remaining Rural Area
- Areas Under Strong Urban Influence
- Towns/Villages
- National Primary Route
- National Secondary Route
- Regional Roads



Extract from Monaghan County Development Plan Core Strategy Map (Map 2.1) Rockcory highlighted



Extract from Monaghan County Development Village Plan Map

SCOT—Rockcorry Strength Challenges Opportunities and Threats

The 'Rockcorry Vision Plan 2030' is dependent on the engagement and interest of the residents to ensure proposals are aligned with the needs, ambitions and capacities of the local people. In order to understand the community's priorities, a community engagement programme was carried out, which consisted of in person community workshops, targeted phone calls to ensure widest stakeholder engagement from the community.

The workshop also included a local authority stakeholder workshop online event where the findings of the community engagement programme was outlined. This event was used to understand current programmes being undertaken by the various departments in the Local Authority that relate to Rockcorry.

There was strong community engagement attending the community workshops, Consultation 1 on 15th November 2022 (66 participants); Drop In community engagement session (8th December 2022); Engagement with Monaghan County Council Officer on 28th March 2023 and a Community Challenge workshop on 4th May 2023 (30 participants) representing a wider range of the community, and the various community organisations. During the course of the consultations, the communities' views on the current social, economic and physical / environmental situation were gathered, and also their views on what is most needed for the future, or the community vision.

Through an analysis of the community engagement process, or the Strengths, or what works well, the Challenges, what could work better, have arrived at the Opportunities, or assets that can be used, and Threats that should be minimised.

Engagement

The community groups included the following, as well as individuals who were not members of a group

- Boyher Residents Association
- Rockcorry Community Childcare
- Rockcorry Parish
- Rockcorry/Dartry community alert
- Rockcorry GAA
- Rockcorry Tidy Towns
- Rockcorry Biodiversity Group
- Local Christmas Tree Committee
- ICA
- Local Drama Group
- Monaghan County Council Stakeholders



SCOT—Rockcorry Strength Challenges Opportunities and Threats



Strengths - What works Well

- The people
- Strong community spirit good community relations, and many local community groups and volunteers.
- Primary schools – Rockcorry National School (providing meeting space) and planned new school at Scoil Mhuire.
- Preschool at Rockcorry National School and parent and toddlers' group in village centre
- Primary care in the village centre
- First responders/defibrillators
- Local Shop at the filling station and public house
- Local employment including Campbells Foods in the village centre.
- Outdoor activities, community and private providers. Rockcorry GAA, 'Tanagh' Cootehill Road
- Landscape setting and proximity to Dartrey Forest.
- Village green and natural environments surrounding the village
- Built heritage and history and cultural heritage of the village and adjoining areas (Dartrey)

Challenges - What could work better

- There is a need to create the opportunity to bring many local groups with common purpose together to prioritise the regeneration of the village for all.
- Lack of Community centre / facility to accommodate the growing need for community space – existing community spaces are limited, and meet the needs of a limited groups (The existing community Hall, and Rockcorry National School meeting space). A community centre would provide a place for all community groups to assemble.
- Need for spaces and services for young people
- Need for children's play space in the village centre as a way to attract parents to the village and support local services
- Limited village centre shopping (while Coyle's petrol station and shop meets local needs, the out of village centre limits the availability of services at the core, and also leads to the lack of vibrancy of the village centre.
- Need for Local shop/market in town centre to enhance the resilience of the village centre as a place to live and visit.
- Need for Enterprise/business start-up and growth space, improved broadband/connectivity to enhance employment opportunities.
- Dereliction and vacancy detracting from the vibrancy and visual amenity of the village.
- Lack of traffic calming, and consequent speed of vehicles through the village that creates a poor village centre experience, and deters the community from walking and lingering in the village core.
- Traffic speeds deter walking and cycling within the village and along existing routes for all.
- Need for Facilities for family and visitors at the forest and other outdoor sites.
- Need for signage, information and interpretation for visitors.

SCOT—Rockcorry Strength Challenges Opportunities and Threats



Opportunities- Assets to use to their best

- Several opportunity sites and buildings in the village that could be earmarked to address the challenges.
- Potential for a community centre at the Rockcorry GAA grounds, planning permission is being sought for a multifunctional building. This has the potential to provide a purpose built community building that will support additional social, arts and community activities in the village.
- To create the opportunity to expand the range of services and activities available to rural individuals and families in Rockcorry and its hinterland through the development of a modern multi-functional community hub. Consultation with local groups confirms the need/demand for such space.
- Potential adaptation and reuse of vacant commercial space for ‘meanwhile’ uses or ‘pop up shops’ to coincide with events and festivals. Appropriate properties may include the existing Community Hall, the Market Building, and vacant commercial units.
- To support community and private development of vacant commercial properties on the main street as work units, or space for creative entrepreneurs / artists. Consideration could also be given for the adaptation and reuse of the existing Community Hall, and the Market Building.
- To support community and private development of vacant and derelict residential properties for adaptation and reuse as new homes, such as the Mill, Tea Pot Row and the Almshouses and other incidental homes in the village.
- To enhance walkability of the village centre and attractiveness of the village as a place to live, work and recreate though prioritisation of pedestrians and cyclists, and reallocation of road space to accommodate wider paths, and safer streets.
- To develop the national assets (land and water) of Rockcorry to enhance the habitats and range of species; looking to a longer term aim of securing some form of designation as eco-friendly community.
- To enhance passive recreational opportunities to include walking / running and cycling loops from the village centre, Along the river, as well as access and connections to the Dartry Forest, wetlands and heritage
- A wealth of heritage assets, and history to support Rockcorry as an added destination to the Dartry Forest, particularly given the intrinsic historic link between both. Its location and history means Rockcorry can associate itself with Failte Ireland brand: Ireland’s Ancient East and build on Rockcorry as a place for outdoor recreation.
- Provision of charging points and opportunity to explore Car Sharing.

Threats – What do we minimise

- Population decline
- Further stagnation of the vibrancy of the village centre.
- Vacant properties becoming derelict and continued loss of built heritage.
- Deterioration of the presentation of the village.

SCOT—Rockcorry Strength Challenges Opportunities and Threats

Identification of Key Projects

The community value the potential of a vision plan for Rockcorry, and the opportunity that it presents to identify key projects that the community can work towards to achieve the overall vision. It was well understood that this process will be incremental, that by building on a key set of priorities with focus has the potential to achieve the overall vision.

Sustainable Development

The community were introduced to the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's). The overarching ambition and value of the SDG is relevant to all parts of the built environment and urban settlements. Our settlements must be designed to be inclusive for all segments of society and to 'leave no one behind'. The plan should reflect all members of the community and their active participation as agents of change need to be promoted. Opportunities to enhance active travel in the village was discussed, promoting the reuse and adaptation of existing structures, and supporting village centre living were discussed.

Leadership

It was evident during the course of the event that there are strong leaders in the community. It is recommended that community is supported to develop a community steering group to lead on the initiatives emerging in the consultations.

Landscape Setting

There was a clear understanding and appreciation of the landscape setting and existing roads and lanes in proximity to the village core. The potential of this existing infrastructure was recognised as a tangible way to support walking and cycling in the form of looped walks for residents and visitors to the village.

Built Heritage

There was also a clear understanding and appreciation of the built and cultural heritage of the village should be interpreted in some form for residents of all ages, school children, parents, adults and the elderly. This holds great potential to connect existing and new residents to the village, and to engender a sense of place and identity. This in turn would also enhance the value that people place on their area.

Vacancy and Dereliction

Addressing vacancy and dereliction was consistently cited by the community, and the need to focus on ways to support adaptation and reuse of existing structures. Key structures identified are the Market House, the Alms House and Tea Pot Row as well as vacant commercial properties. These properties are located at key locations that impact on the visual amenity, vibrancy of the village and attractiveness as a place to live, work and recreate.

Connection to Dartrey

It is apparent too, that the village could benefit more from its proximity to Dartrey, both in terms of enhancing community life for Rockcorry residents, as well as opening up the potential to attract visitors to the area and added economic benefits that this would bring. The proximity of the village to Dartry holds great potential to encourage residents to connect to the facilities in the park but also for potential visitors to the park to consider Rockcorry as a destination as part of their day out, or indeed, as the starting point for their day out to the park.

Community Space

The need for a community space or a series of spaces for all community groups was identified, to accommodate the range of activities that occur in the village. It was recognised too that it would be beneficial if this was located in, or proximate to the village centre, so that to give added potential to enhance the vibrancy and life in the village centre. This may be in the form of a community centre, a sheltered community space internal or external as best meets the needs of the community and may comprise of a number of spaces within the village. A number of the existing community spaces were reviewed, including the existing Community Hall. The hall is limited in size and cannot meet the needs of the community groups. A purpose built community centre, and the adaptation and reuse of other structures would complement and create greater opportunities for all and provide the community space needs.

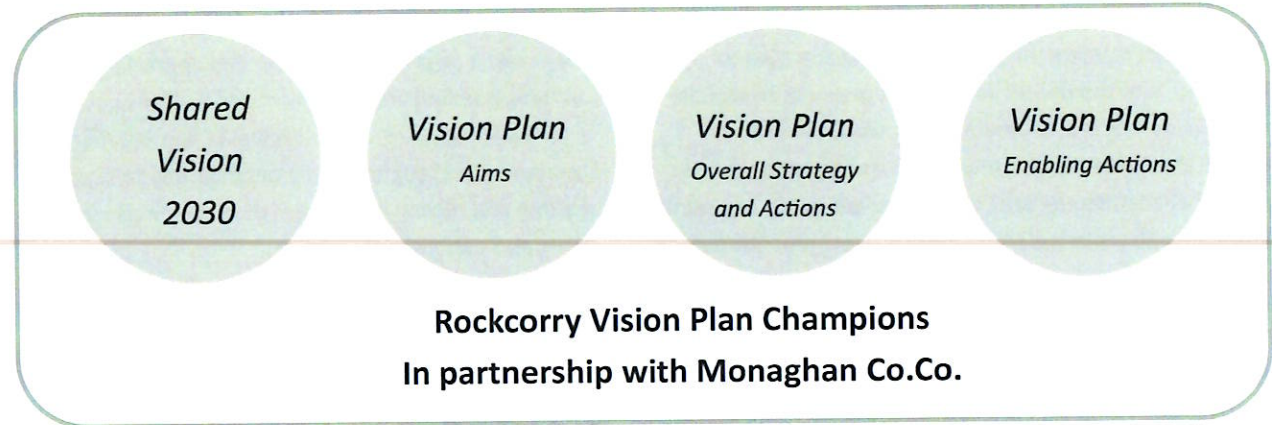
Shared Vision

Shared Vision—Rockcorry 2030

The consultation informed themes that were presented and discussed in further detail with the community. The Community Challenge and design work shop focused on the following.

- Community Centre / Community Spaces / Digital hub/ enterprise space/green technology.
- Village centre as a destination for the community and visitors.
- Reuse and adaptation of derelict, vacant and underused buildings and sites.
- Village Centre shop/market – community space / building.
- Enhanced public realm / pedestrian priority / reduce traffic speeds.
- Heritage interpretation (built and natural environment-biodiversity).
- Walkways, cycleways and family/visitor facilities/ enhanced connections between village and forest/ interpretation/recreation .

Based on the findings from the consultations, a Vision is proposed that summarises where the community would like to see the village develop to 2030 and beyond:



‘To create a sustainable attractive, accessible and vibrant village for Rockcorry residents communities, businesses and visitors, that builds on the existing social, economic, cultural and environmental heritage, supporting adaptation and reuse of existing structures, consolidation of the village, while adopting a people first approach to the public realm, enhancing connections to the natural environment, and creating a sustainable neighbourhood and place to live, work, recreate and socialise in the village centre’