

KILLENARD

28 FEB 2020

COMMUNITY CENTRE

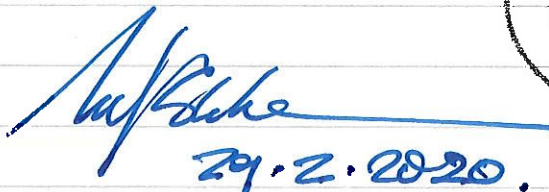
RE: PRE-DRAFT PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE  
PREPARATION OF LADIS COUNTY DEV PLAN  
2021 — 2027.

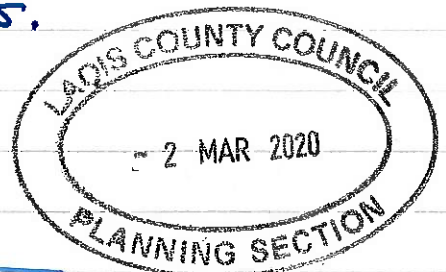
A CHAIR,  
PLEASE FIND ATTACHED PROPOSED  
DETAILS FOR THE KILLENARD AREA.

2 COPIES OF KILLENARD SUSTAINABLE  
COMMUNITY PLAN

2 COPIES OF MAPS SHOWING PROPOSED  
"SAFEWAY" FROM COMMUNITY  
CENTRE TO O'DEMPSEY'S GOLF CLUB.

2 COPIES OF VILLAGE SECTIONS.

  
29.2.2020.



[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

KILLENARD  
18 FEB 2023  
COMMUNITY CENTRE

For the Devel. Plan Consultation in the  
Preparation of the Local Council Plan  
2021 - 2023

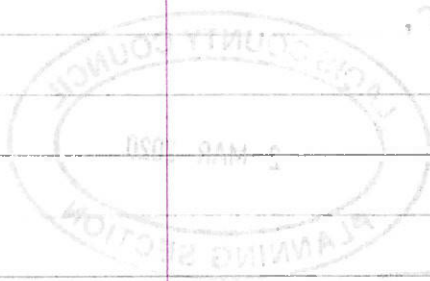
A Chair, Please find attached proposed

Details for the Killearned Area

2 copies of Killearned Development  
Community Plan

2 copies of Killearned Planning  
"SAFE WAY" from Community  
Centre to O'Donnell's Pub Car

2 copies of Killearned Section 2



*[Signature]*  
20.2.2023



# Killenard Sustainable Community Plan

WMA



2018



## **Killenard Sustainable**

### **Community Plan 2018**

For further information please contact:  
Chairperson, Killenard Community  
Centre

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**GVA**





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# 1. Purpose

## What is a Sustainable Community Plan?

A community-led, design focused plan which describes the visual qualities and the distinctive character of a village, and provides design guidelines, which address the qualities that local residents consider worthy of protection or improvement. The purpose of a Sustainable Community Plan is not about whether development should take place or not, but how planned development could be carried out within the public realm of the community. The public realm is defined as the space around, between and within buildings that are publicly accessible, including streets, squares, parks and open spaces.



## Who is the plan for?

The Sustainable Community Plan has been prepared to inform and assist a number of groups when considering changes / improvements to the village. Such groups include:

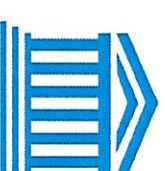
- Local community groups, householders and businesses
- Statutory bodies and public authorities
- Planners, developers, builders, architects, designers and engineers

Importantly some aims set out in this plan include works which are not set within the public realm and as a result will require co-operation with landowners to enter into Memorandum's of Understandings to provide certain aims

## Why is a Plan needed for Killenard?

Killenard, with its distinctive sylvan identity and setting, is an important village, which needs to be carefully managed as it continues to evolve.

A Sustainable Community Plan is needed to ensure that future development of the public realm in Killenard is responsive to the village's distinctive character and has regard to its surrounding landscape, heritage and ecology.

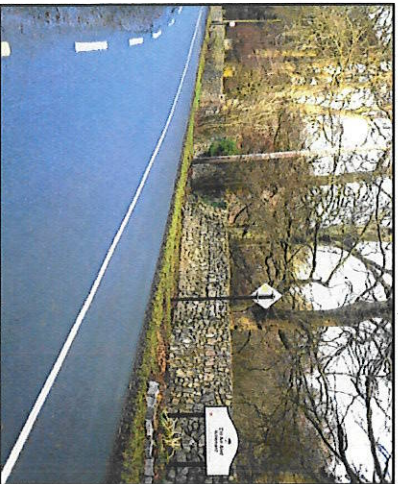




## 2. Introduction

### The Killenard Sustainable

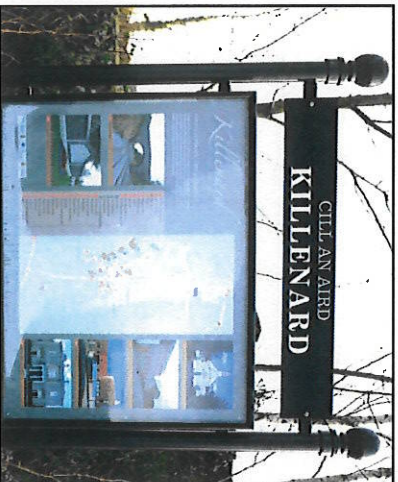
**Community Plan is a non-statutory local development framework, compiled by GVA Planning and Regeneration Limited in collaboration with the local community to establish a vision for the future of Killenard.**



Southern Approach Road to the Village Centre

### Killenard Community Centre Board

(KCCB), in conjunction with Laois Partnership; appointed GVA Planning and Regeneration Limited to undertake the works required to produce the Sustainable Community Plan for the village in late 2017.



Existing Signage North of the Village Centre

### The aim of the Killenard Sustainable

Community Plan is to ensure that the local Community has a say in the future development in the village and that development will have regard to the unique attributes of Killenard, its historical context and contribute positively to the future of the village.



Northern Approach to Village Centre

### 3. An Introduction to Killenard

Killenard has a distinctive rural character, largely due to numerous elevated views of the open countryside from within the village. It is therefore important that the landscape setting of the village is maintained and enhanced where possible.

Killenard has a very strong sense of community, with strong community engagement. Strengthening community spirit and cooperation further will have many benefits for the village of Killenard when implementing the aims of this plan.

The aim of the Sustainable Community Plan is to identify changes to the public realm which will enrich the lives of those who live there, making the village a more enjoyable place in which to live. In addition, it will also make Killenard feel safer and more welcoming to its many visitors.

Killenard is also fortunate to have a particularly active Tidy Towns group which has provided attractive public spaces around the village, including the 1916-2016 Memorial Garden.

Killenard Community Centre opened in 1990 and is seen as the hub of the Village. Mount St. Anne's Retreat and St. John's Catholic Church are listed Protected Structures which are located to the south and centre of the village respectively. Mount St. Anne's Retreat, The Heritage Golf and Hotel Resort and the church are key stakeholders in the village and the existing collaborative relationship should be maintained. Overall Killenard is a village which consists of local distinctiveness and character that must be both preserved and enhanced.



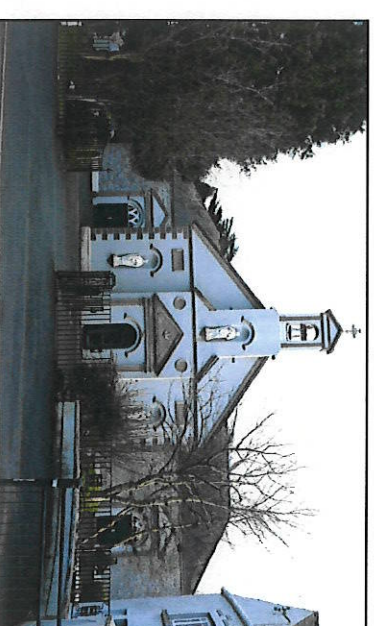
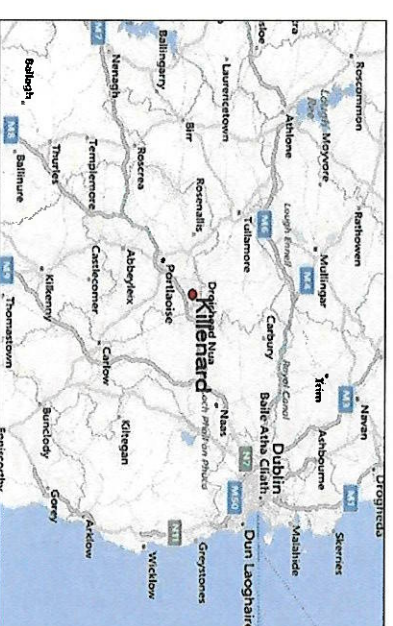


## 4. Killenard Today

With a population of approximately 670, Killenard is located in northeast of County Laois in close proximity to the Kildare border, approximately 2.5 km from the former N7 Dublin to Portlaoise Road, 4 km from the M7 and 3 km from the town of Portarlington to the northwest.

The village development envelope of Killenard stretches from Mount Henry crossroads in the south to Duke Street Bridge in the North. The village has experienced substantial growth and development over the previous decade with the addition of a hotel, golf course and numerous housing schemes to the Village and the recently approved retirement village to the north of the village.

The village currently consists of residential areas, a hotel, restaurant, extensive leisure and golf amenities, commercial units, a public house, St. John's Catholic church, which was built in 1835, an adjoining cemetery, a national school, Community Centre and O'Dempsey's GAA facility located to the south of the village. The public realm is characterised by a through route running north - south with a distance of 1.55km (0.96 miles / 1,696 yards). There is a pavement existing in the village which stretches from the north to the national school. There are no pedestrian facilities south of the school.

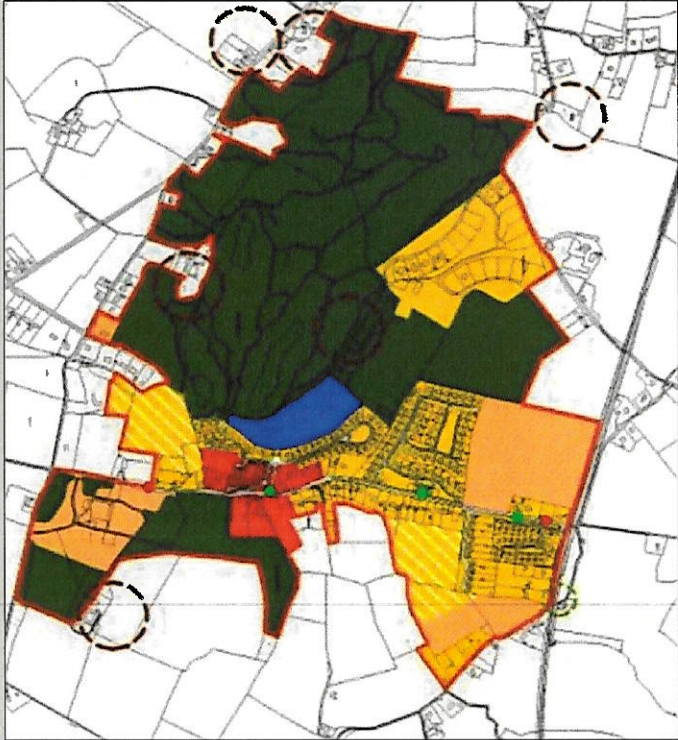


# 5. Planning Policy

National	Project Ireland 2040: National Planning Framework	
Regional	Regional Planning Guidelines for the Midland Region 2010-2022	
Local	Laois County Development Plan 2017-2023	

The County Development Plan 2017 - 2023 sets out the strategic vision for the development of Laois. Laois has a strong rural base, and the plan places a key importance in the sustainable development of rural villages and rural communities.

This Sustainable Community Plan, which will be noted by the elected members, seeks to provide supplementary planning guidelines to ensure that new development is informed by local character.





## 6. Laois County Development Plan 2017-2023

**Killenard is designated as a Large Village within the County Development Plan.**

The key written objectives listed in the County Development Plan which have also been identified through public consultation and workshop during this plan process are:

### **Character and Built Form**

**KD 1:** Maintain recent public realm improvements

**KD 2:** Develop a tree planting

scheme and landscape plan for the village centre to include the placing of native species of trees, plants and

flower beds along the streetscape particularly outside the church and community centre

### **Economic Development**

**KD 5:** Support the established tourism and spiritual businesses in the village

**KD 6:** Support the development of further enterprises and commercial uses on suitably zoned lands within Killenard

**KD 8:** Examine suitable locations for the development of passive public open space

**KD 9:** Provide a playground

**KD 10:** Encourage the enhancement of community services and the more active use of the Community Centre

**KD 11:** Ensure the proposed works on Duke Street Bridge Killenard and at Mount Henry Crossroads to Killenard Community Centre are carried out

### **Infrastructure**

**KD 7:** Provide disabled parking spaces



# 7. A Collaborative Process

In order to ensure community participation in the preparation of the Sustainable Community Plan, public consultation was carried out with the local community.

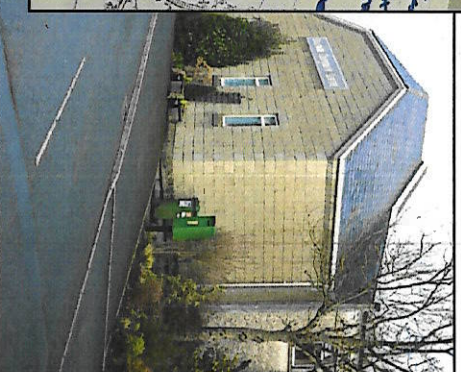
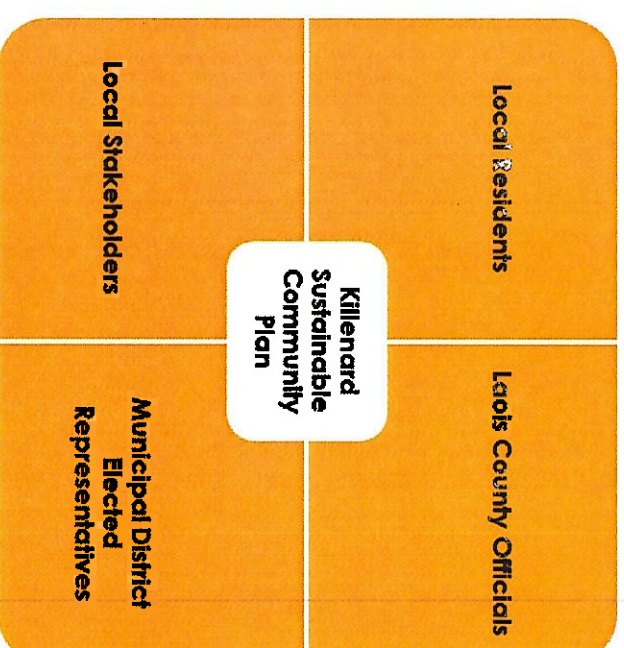
Representatives of the local community met with and took part in an information session and public workshop which was presented by a Principal Planner from

GVA Planning and Regeneration Limited on the 24th January 2018. The information session and public workshop was attended by:

- Members of the public
- Municipal District elected representatives
- Community stakeholders

The workshop consisted of a:

- Presentation
- Workshop / SWOT Analysis and The Asset Set / Mapping Exercise
- Discussion of the issues raised



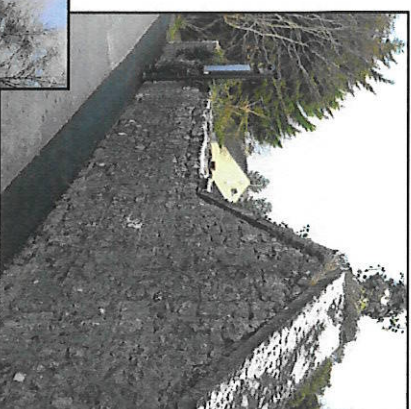




Northern Approach to  
Village



St. John's Church and  
Cemetery



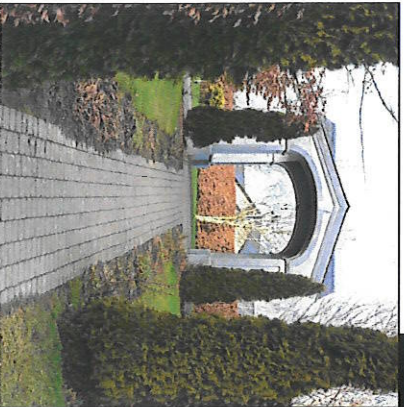
Existing Village Centre Wall  
and Signage



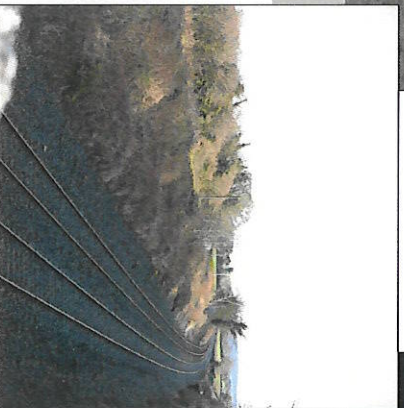
Carriage Estate



Bus Stop



Pedestrian Link



Railway Line North of the Village



Southern Approach to Village

## 8. Public Workshop Results: SWOT Analysis

As part of the of Public Consultation Workshops attended by the public, key

community stakeholders, advisory agencies and businesses focussed on identifying opportunities for improving Killenard Village Centre.

The outcomes of this process have been presented in the following SWOT

Analysis:

- Strengths
- Weaknesses
- Opportunities
- Threats

It is under these headings that

experiences of the Village as it exists

today can be defined and used to

understand how it may be improved

into the future.

### Strengths

- Mature rural setting
- Strong community engagement / desirable location
- Defined Village Centre
- 5 kilometre walking / jogging trail around The Heritage Golf Course
- Solid structure and definition along roadway
- Community Centre provides for a wide range of activities
- Collaborative Relationship established with Mount St. Anne's Retreat and Conference Centre and The Heritage Hotel Resort and The Heritage Golf Club
- Sylvan entrance to Village

### Weaknesses

- No village convenience store and continued vacancy within commercial centre
- No safe pedestrian connection with O'Dempsey's GAA Club.
- Poor pedestrian linkage to the southern approach to Village Centre from Mount Henry crossroads to National School
- Some mature trees along the approach from the south to Mount Henry crossroads in need of surgery or replacement due to their age and condition
- Poorly define approach to village from both north of the Duke Street Bridge and at Mount Henry crossroads
- Natural stone walls and steel rail fencing along approach roads to the Mount Henry junction is in need of refurbishment



## Opportunities

- Provide connection in conjunction with landowners for footpath / cycle lane from community centre to O'Dempsey's GAA grounds.
- Planned nursing home / retirement villages will potentially add further vibrancy and vitality to the village cluster

## Threats

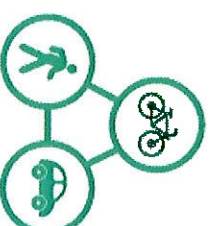
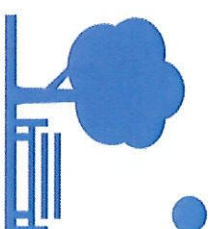
- Lack of co-operation from landowners with regard to agreeing to the provision of lands for a link from the community centre to O'Dempsey's GAA grounds.
- Continued vacancy within commercial core

Continued leakage of shopping

own centres

ure broadleaf  
n approach to  
oads require a  
any planned

ne village core  
duced through  
placed traffic



*Note: Landowners & Car Parking Space  
Marketing has been criticised only  
and complete state.*

Street Bridge to the north and  
Mount Henry crossroads

- Increase pedestrian / cycle use and reduce car journeys
- Potential to move 50km/h speed limit to Mount Henry crossroads.

- The overarching sense of exclusivity and a 'private gated community' needs counterbalance by a vibrant public realm
- Funding required to undertake works on private land

## 9. Aims of the Plan

Record what is distinctive and important to the residents to ensure the features are protected and / or enhanced through the local planning system and other relevant socioeconomic programmes

To develop Killenard into a sustainable village with amenities and a quality environment its community desires

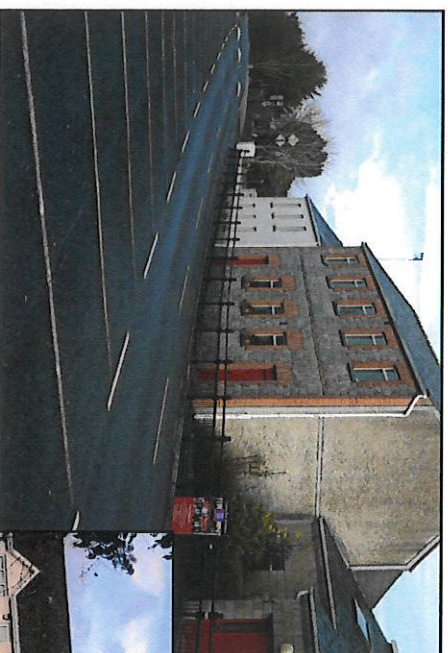
Suggest specific projects that will benefit both Village residents, workers, visitors and their environment which may be initiated

- Conservation / Restoration (Walls north and south of village)
- Public Realm and Space Enhancement, Tree Surgery, Planting, Lighting, Painting, Public Open Space and Signage)
- Comprehensively tackling traffic issues with the addition of further traffic calming measures, footpaths and cycle lanes
- Connecting the village centre to Mount St. Anne's Retreat and Conference Centre and the provision of a cycle lane from the Community Centre to O'Dempsey's GAA club facilities
- Development of a strong, mixed use village centre which attracts visitors and provides services for locals
- Attraction of investment and employment opportunities with commercial centre adjacent to the public house in village centre
- Opportunity explore the possibility of creating a co-operative store and monthly farmer markets to incentivize commercial activity



Act as a focus for the community to participate and collaborate effectively in the local planning process as well as in regard to other aspects of life in the Village

- Collaborative relationship established between The Heritage Hotel Resort and The Heritage Golf Club, Mount St. Anne's Retreat and Conference Centre and with both Laois County Council and Laois Partnership
- Strong Community engagement



Village Centre Parking and Community Centre



Southern Entrance to Village Centre adjacent to St. John's National School



Entrance to The Heritage Golf and Hotel Resort

# 10. Identified Issues and Tasks

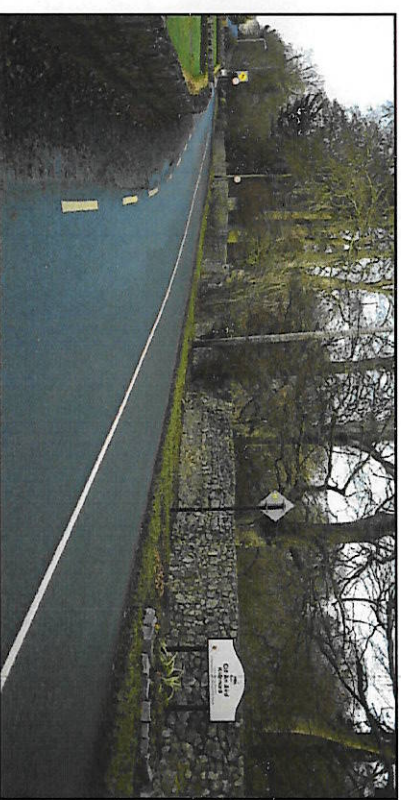
A list of the key issues and tasks identified through community consultation and analysis are set out below:

## Issues:

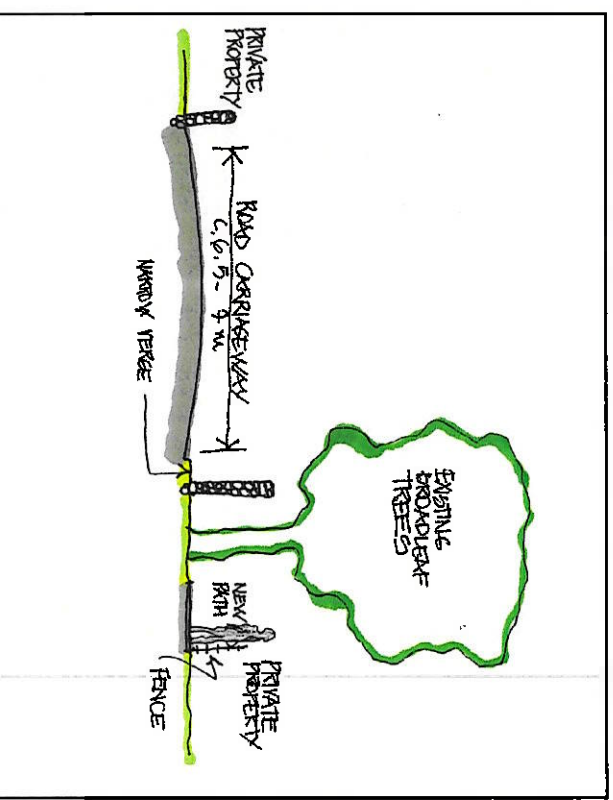
- No pedestrian / cycle lane link from the community centre to O'Dempsey's GAA club.
- Vacancy within commercial store
- Stone walls and fences on both approaches to the village require refurbishment or rebuilding
- Lack of public open space throughout the village centre and along both approaches to the village
- Trees in need of surgery on southern approach road
- Maintenance of roads
- Poorly defined approach to the village from both north and south
- Upkeep of community centre exterior

## Tasks:

- Strengthen connectivity by providing footpaths and cycle lanes from the community centre to O'Dempsey's GAA Club.
- Improve the arrival experience to the village by develop welcoming signage in conjunction with community and stakeholders
- Encourage the provision of a co-operative village store to be located in the commercial units in the village centre
- Enhance the village public realm via a landscape management plan
- Internal and external improvements to be made to the community centre
- Run competition for art piece to be place in the Memorial Garden



Village Arrival Sign



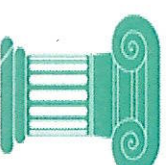
Sketch section through approach road from Mount Henry crossroad



# 11. Community Action List

Principles and projects will be of little value unless they can be lifted from the wish list set out by the community and applied to development and regeneration initiatives throughout the village. The Community Action List below sets out specific projects which the Community can deliver from this Sustainable Community Plan.

- Provide an interconnected Transport Plan, which includes the development of footpaths, cycle lanes, pedestrian crossings and traffic calming measures aimed at connecting the Community Centre with Mount St. Anne's Retreat and Conference Centre and O'Dempsey's GAA facility located to the south of the village.
- Enhance and improve the public realm of the village. Develop vibrant areas of public open space in the village and in particular, rebuild, refurbish or replace the natural stone walls and steel rail fencing along the approach road to Mount Henry junction, including the re-painting of the Carriglea estate railings to black to reduce the visual impact
- Develop an agreed Killenard Village logo with members of the public and stakeholders of the community. Provide further informative signage approaching the village from Ballybrittas and Portarlington directions to increase awareness of the village as a destination which will improve the arrival experience for both locals and visitors
- Propose a Memorandum of Understanding with landowners regarding possibility of proposed new footpath and cycle lanes.
- Produce and implement a Landscape Management Plan to improve the attractiveness of the village as a whole
- Explore options and opportunities with the owners of the vacant commercial units in the Village Centre with a view to providing a co-operative village store to bring vibrancy back to the Village Centre
- Seek to reduce the speed limit to 50km/h throughout the whole village beyond Duke Street Bridge and Mount Henry Crossroads
- Appoint a Tree Surgeon to survey land in private ownership and advise on the condition of the mature trees on the approach road into the village from the Ballybrittas direction and prepare a management plan
- Rename the row of dwellings located south of the Killenard Lodge estate to Duke Street and connect this row of houses the mains sewerage system to improve and reduce the environmental impacts to the village as a whole.
- Provide tarmacadam and car parking space markings for an integrated car parking and school drop-off at the Community Centre
- Provide improved information signage points throughout the village detailing significant attractions and facts relating to
- Upgrade the Community Centre for improved energy efficiency.



## 12. The Way Forward

**A key challenge in delivering the Sustainable Community Plan projects will invariably be funding. All stakeholders must work together to identify sources of funding from local and central government, European programmes and the private sector.**

Most of the projects in the Action List are for the community to drive forward on their own, in partnership with others. It is also important to be ready for changes or proposals that arise from outside – for example the new retirement housing project located to the north west of the Village Centre and possible other new housing projects.

Key to the delivery of this plan is the foresight to see what the future place should be like and then setting out the steps to its delivery. The overall strategy that has emerged from consultation is to capture the various proposed interventions that are listed in the Community Action List. The following sheets set some of the individual interventions that have emerged from the public Consultation to address the shortcomings of the place.





# 1. Connect the Community Centre to O'Dempsey's GAA Club Facilities

During public consultation, one of the reoccurring wishes of the community was the need to improve the pedestrian experience by connecting the village and specifically the community centre with the O'Dempsey's GAA Club Facilities which are located to the south of the Village.

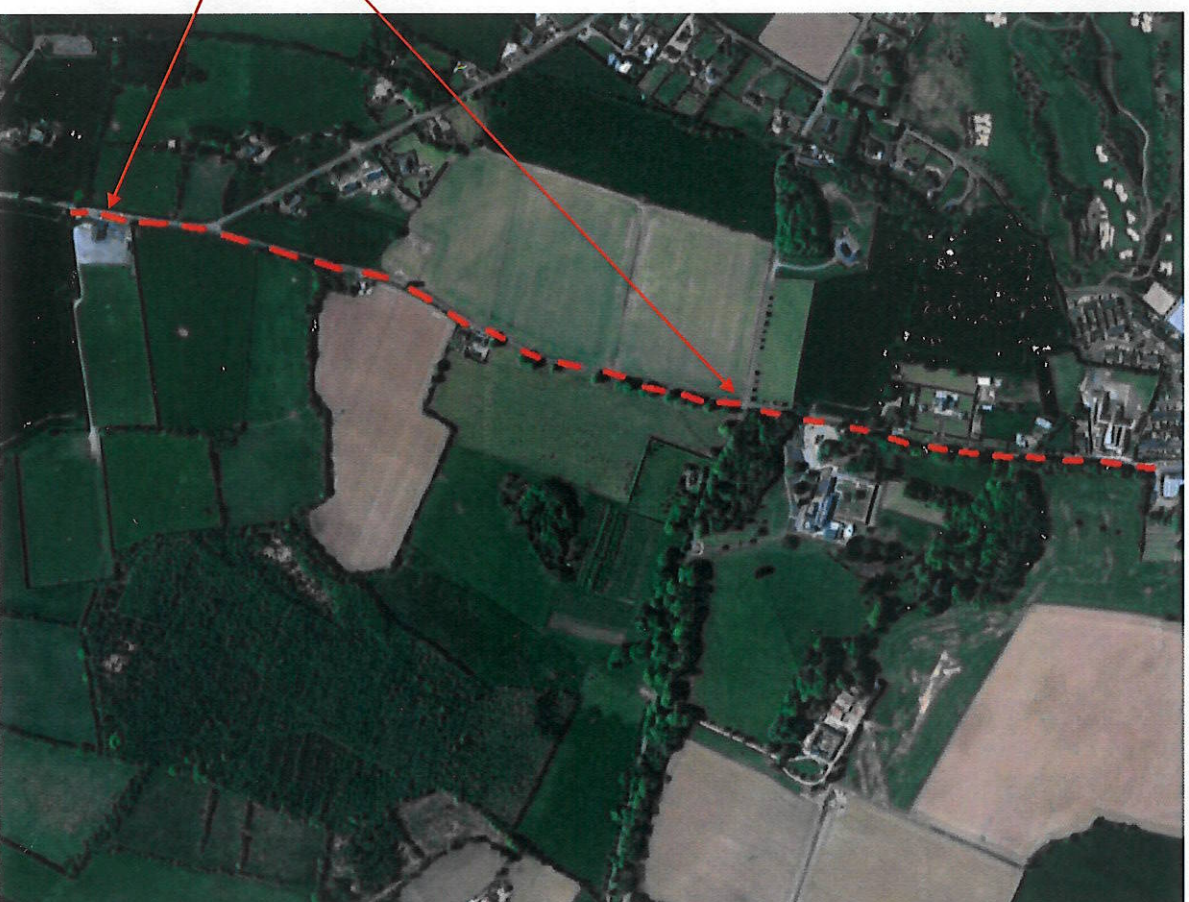
Through a collaborative approach the community can contact the relevant landowners and propose each landowner enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to enable the provision of the land for development of a cycle / pedestrian lane to link the village centre to the GAA facility.

The development of this proposed link will provide a safe pedestrian and cycle connection for all members of the community to avail of with the GAA club facilities.

The image to the right sets out the proposed location of a cycle / pedestrian lane.

Connect proposed southern footpath link to Mount Henry Crossroads with proposed cycle lane

O' Dempsey's GAA Club Facility



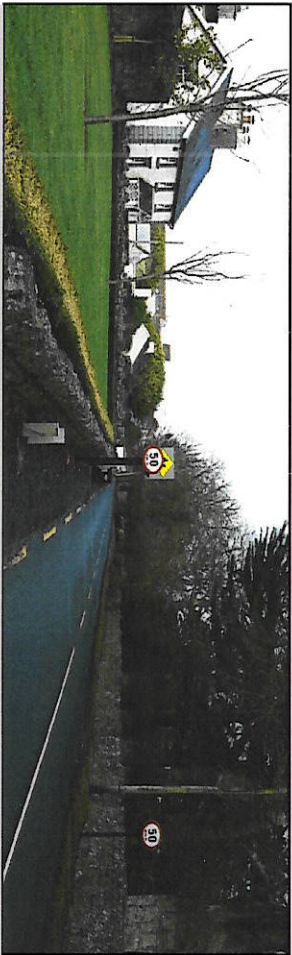


## 2. Proposed Footpath link Mount St. Anne's Retreat

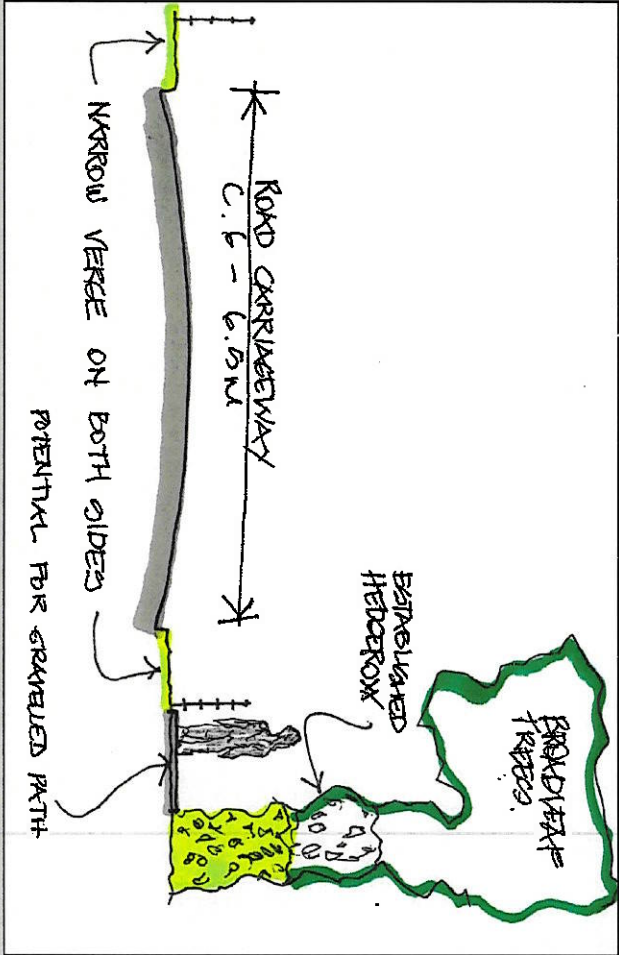
Currently there is no pedestrian access south of the community centre in the Village Community Centre. The plan sets out that in line with the objective to connect the Village and Community Centre to the GAA facility to the south of the village, a footpath be provided connecting the village centre with the Mount St. Anne's Resort and Conference Centre. As with the provision of the connection to the GAA facility a Memorandum of Understanding should be entered with the landowners to collaborate for provision of the footpath connection.



Southern Exit Road from the Village Centre



Southern Approach to the Village Centre



Sketch Section through approach road from Mount Henry Crossroads - Inside wall option (detailed survey required)



View of southern exit road from the Village Centre



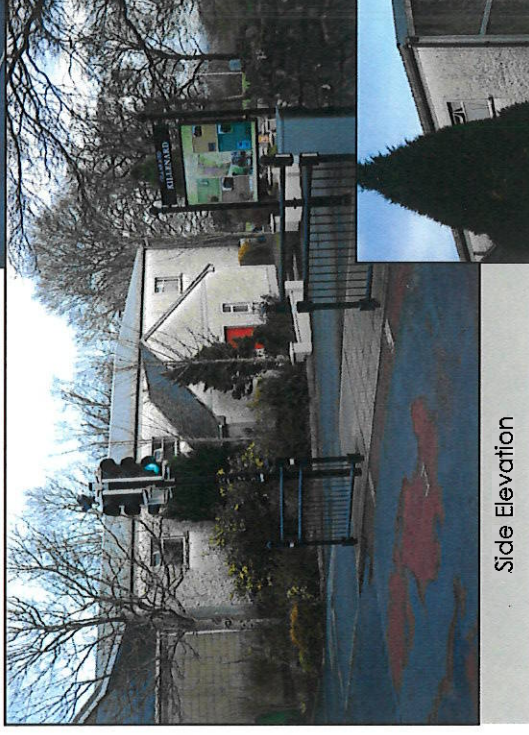
### 3. Community Centre Upgrade

The Community Centre is a key facility within the Village Centre. This was represented through the public consultation workshops. As such, a list of options to improve the facility were gathered and are listed below:

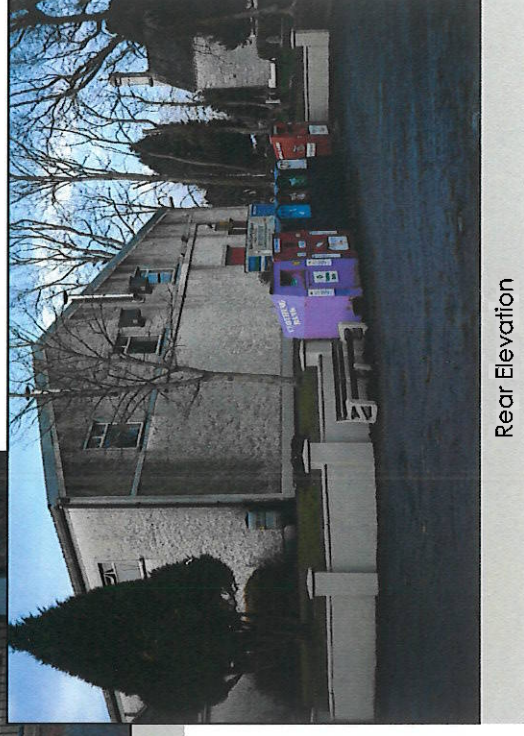
- Seek SEAI (Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland) grant and upgrade for centre
- Upgrade external appearance and landscaping of the centre grounds
- Repair, renew and revamp internal finishes throughout the centre's rooms, hall, kitchen and offices
- Tarmacadam provide car parking space markings to the adjacent car park
- Provide electrical maintenance and upgrade
- Provide insulation to the floor and ceiling of rooms to enable the provision of a ballet studio within the centre



Front Elevation



Side Elevation



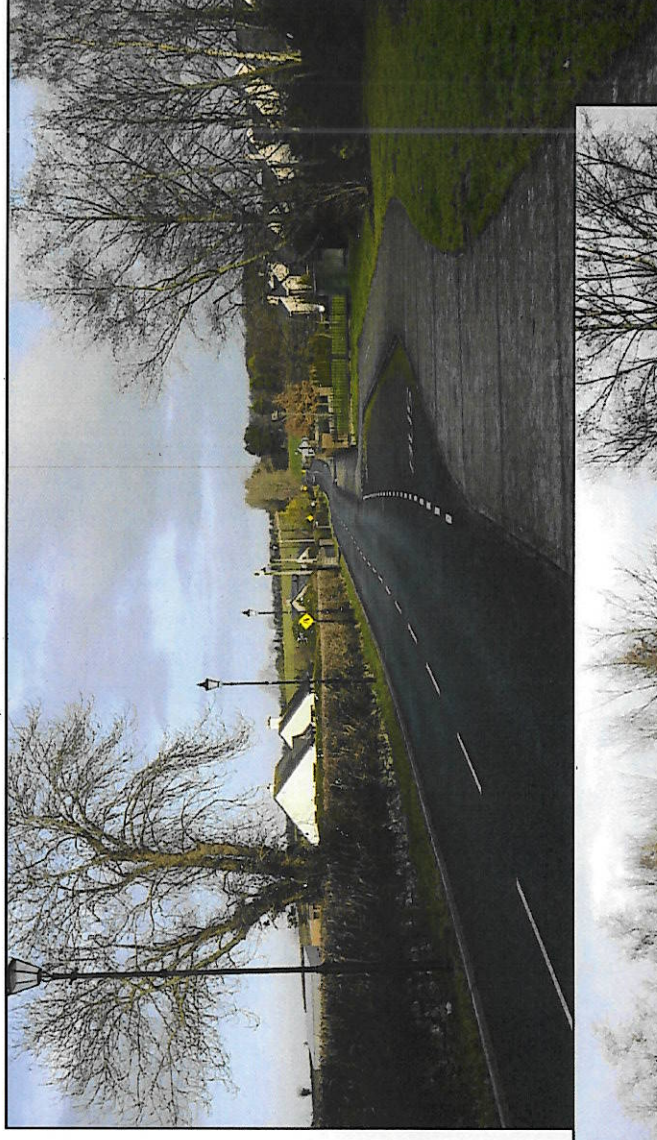
Rear Elevation



## 4. Duke Street Park Competition

Co-ordinate and organise a competition with the pupils of St. John's National School to design a play area / public realm improvement with the area of land adjacent to the row of dwellings at the Duke Street estate.

This area of land represents an opportunity space that can be changed to a community friendly space. Opportunities to provide a play area or an improved public space should be explored. Furthermore this space is located across from the permitted Retirement Village scheme. Improving this space would benefit the community as a whole for future generations.





## 5. Public Realm Improvements

Maintain and enhance the Village Centre which is well defined and framed by the church, resort entrance and school

Car park at Community Centre to be resurfaced and realigned to accommodate school drop-off

Stone wall to be repaired and rebuilt in sections as necessary (Yellow)

Pedestrian link to be extended from National School to the south at Mount Henry crossroads

Provide an outdoor Exercise Area for whole community as part of the Community Centre





# Proposed Mount Henry Crossroad Improvements



Mini-roundabout with  
pedestrian crossing

Existing Fences to be  
replaced

Fence Moved to Edge of  
Road

New path / cycleway  
linking O'Dempsey's GAA

Junction re-aligned to  
roundabout



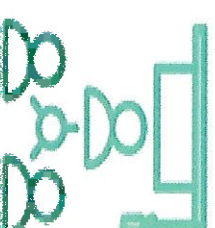
# 13. Delivery

**Killenard is a special place. Its rural setting and landmark buildings combine to create a village with its own distinctive character and charm. And despite the lack of pedestrian connection to the south of the village and poor level of public open space, Killenard is home to a strong community who are passionate about their village.**

Through this Sustainable Community Plan, the people of Killenard have put in place a clear vision for the future development within the village. The village will be safer, reducing traffic speed and creating footpaths and cycle lanes to provide stronger linkage from Killenard Community Centre to a key community asset: O'Dempsey's GAA Club.

It will be more attractive, improving the public realm and repairing fencing and walls. It will be sustainable, supporting local facilities and reducing car dependency. Above all aim is to make Killenard an even better place to live.

Fulfilling this vision will require collaboration with the many stakeholders, a lot of hard work and perseverance but by keeping true to the Sustainable Community Plan principles, by harnessing the energy and enthusiasm that exists and above all, by working together, it will be possible to bring about a wonderful transformation to Killenard.



# Appendix 1: Information

## Planning Policy – National

Project Ireland 2040: National  
Planning Framework

[http://npl.ie/wp-content/uploads/  
Project-Ireland-2040-NPF.pdf](http://npl.ie/wp-content/uploads/Project-Ireland-2040-NPF.pdf)

## Planning Policy – Regional

Regional Planning Guidelines for the  
Midland Region 2010-2022

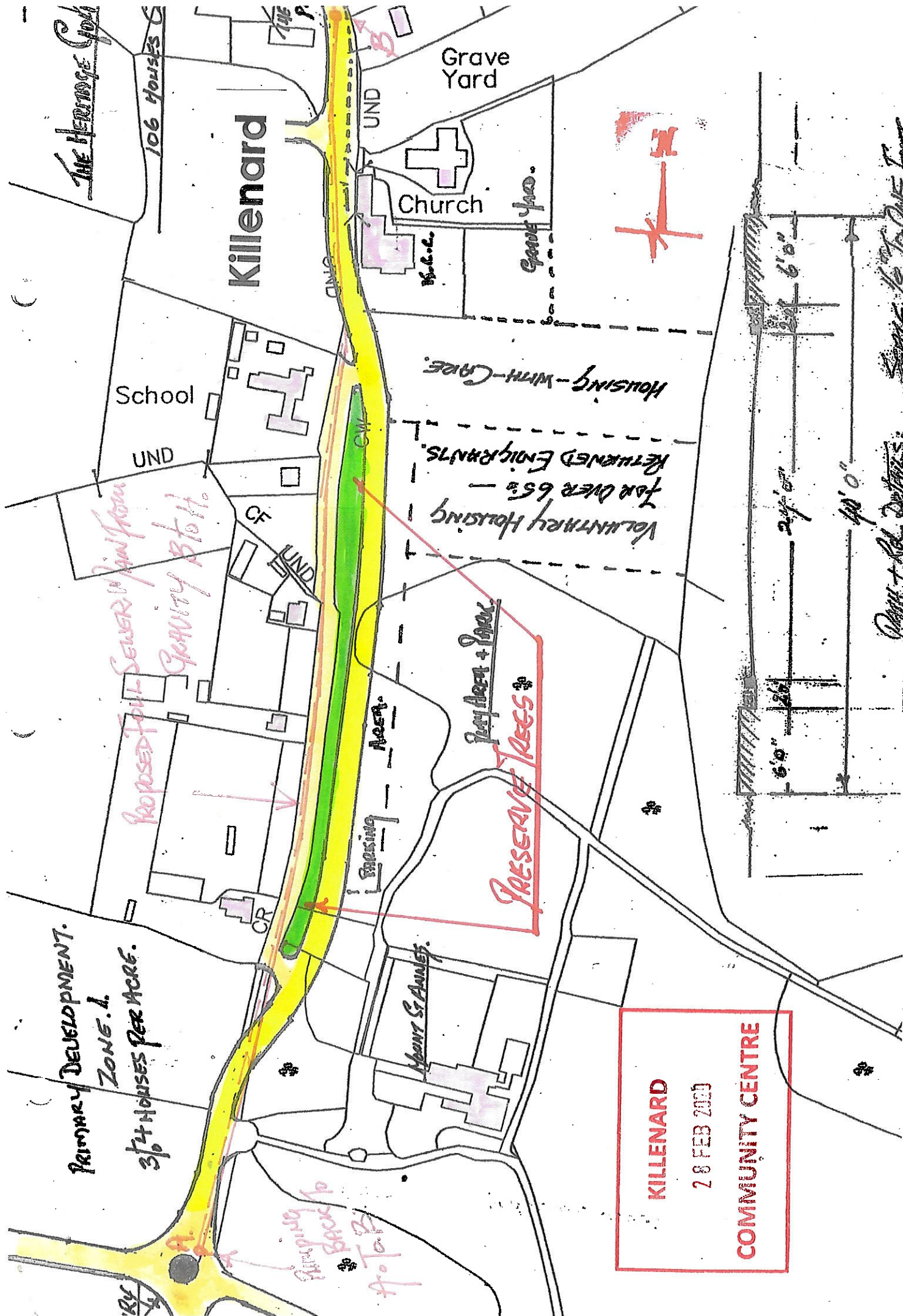
[http://emra.ie/dubh/wp-content/  
uploads/2015/02/Midland-Regional-  
Planning-Guidelines-2010-2022.pdf](http://emra.ie/dubh/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Midland-Regional-Planning-Guidelines-2010-2022.pdf)

## Planning Policy – County

Laois County Development Plan 2017-  
2023

[https://www.laois.ie/departments/  
planning/development-plans/draft-laois  
-county-development-plan-2017-2023/](https://www.laois.ie/departments/planning/development-plans/draft-laois-county-development-plan-2017-2023/)



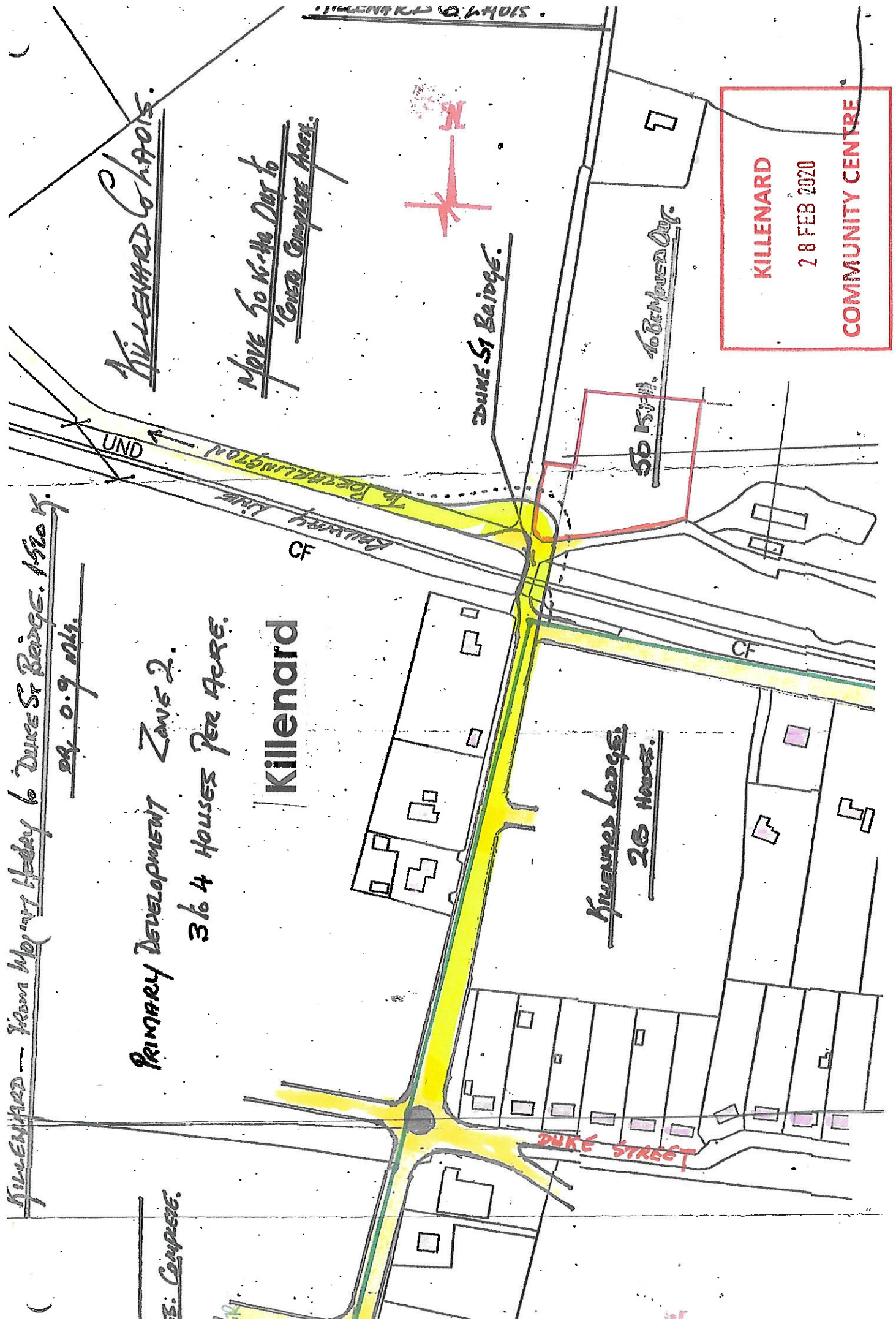


KILLENARD  
28 FEB 2010  
COMMUNITY CENTRE

Drawn + Rd Details: Same 1/4 to One Inch









COMMERCIAL

KITCHEN

KITCHEN

KITCHEN

300 ft

KITCHEN

COMMERCIAL

300 ft

KITCHEN

300 ft