

Ballinamore Town Centre Health Check



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Ballinamore Main Street

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Introduction

This report presents a comprehensive town centre health check for Ballinamore, a town in Southeast Leitrim that was conducted by planning students from Queen's University on 18-19th July 2024. It provides a detailed analysis of Ballinamore's current condition, encompassing the physical characteristics of the town centre and the perceptions of local residents.

Through this health check, we aim to identify strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities within Ballinamore, ultimately proposing some ideas to enhance its liveability, vibrancy and appearance. The town centre health check methodology involved the creation of land use and vacancy maps, footfall and vehicle counts, parking surveys and analysis of Ballinamore's public realm. These physical survey methods were supplemented by qualitative insights gathered through questionnaires distributed to local residents online and in-person and a consultation drop-in opportunities that utilised the Place Standard tool in the Scout Hall on the afternoon of 18th and morning of 19th July. The feedback obtained provided invaluable perspectives on the community's needs and aspirations.



Fohera River in Ballinamore

First Impressions

The first impressions of Ballinamore were positive as we arrived at the Island Theatre, which is an impressive cultural space before travelling to the other end of the linear town centre to the recently opened Junction Hub in the old train station (pictured below left), which houses a school of art, enterprise space and facilities for community and youth services with a new high quality public square. The relationship with the Ballinamore Canal offers attractive views of the Main Street, which contains several fine historic buildings albeit some are currently between uses with the Courthouse being the most prominent vacant building. It was noted that in some instances, upper floors were occupied as residences when former commercial ground floor uses have ceased to operate.

The town contains quite a good variety of stores and places to eat and drink but contains a significant number of buildings that could be utilised to increase the town centre residential population and enhance the commercial vibrancy of Ballinamore. The Main Street has high levels of vehicular through traffic and on-street parking is very well-utilised; however, the available car parking to the rear of the properties of Main Street is under-utilised. Efforts from local bars / restaurants to spill out into the street are curtailed by both narrow footpaths and high levels of on-street parking.



The Junction Hub



Main Street

Policy Context

National Planning Context

Ballinamore is situated in the southeast of County Leitrim within the North Midlands of Ireland. Its development should be guided by the County Development Plan and adhere to the broader planning principles established by the Irish government. This includes alignment with national institutions, the strategic guidelines set by the three Irish regional assemblies, and the goals outlined in the Project Ireland 2040 National Planning Framework (NPF).

These frameworks collectively ensure that local development initiatives support the long-term social, economic, and environmental objectives of both the region and the nation.



Ballinamore, located in County Leitrim, is part of the Northern & Western Regional Assembly and the border region, making it eligible for funding aimed at cross-border projects and reconciliation initiatives.

Additionally, Ballinamore and Leitrim County Council can access state funds, loans, and grants such as:

- The Rural Regeneration Development Fund
- Development Fund, the Town Centre First scheme
- Ireland Strategic Investment Fund (ISIF).

These financial resources can support essential projects like housing developments and other local initiatives, aligning with broader regional and spatial planning strategies.

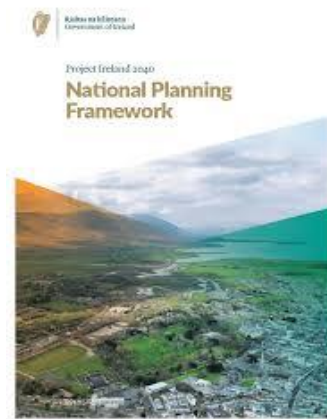
Policy Context

Local Policy Context

Project Ireland 2040 National Planning Framework

The National Planning Framework (NPF) is a key national document that guides Ireland's strategic planning and development for the coming decades, with a strong emphasis on sustainable growth.

Together with the National Development Plan 2021-2030 (NDP), the NPF outlines a comprehensive strategy for infrastructural investment and sustainable development from a national perspective. These frameworks provide essential guidance for local authorities and regional assemblies as they formulate their strategic and economic plans, such as Leitrim County Development Plan and Regional Spatial & Economic Strategies.



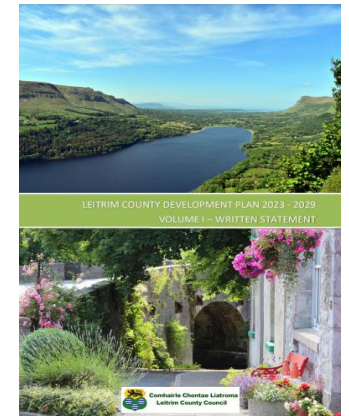
National Planning Framework

Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029

The vision for Ballinamore, as outlined in the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029, is to strengthen its role as a self-sustaining growth town with well-developed infrastructure, significant employment opportunities, and comprehensive community facilities. The plan aims to promote balanced and sustainable growth by focusing on the development of at least 30% of all new homes within the town's existing built-up area, prioritising infill and brownfield sites.

This approach supports the regeneration of underutilised town centre areas and leverages zoned and serviced lands to accommodate population growth.

The overarching goal is to enhance Ballinamore's capacity as an economic driver within its region by consolidating its residential, retail, tourism, and service functions. This will be achieved by fostering sustainable, compact growth, and preserving the town's unique character while ensuring that its development aligns with broader regional objectives.

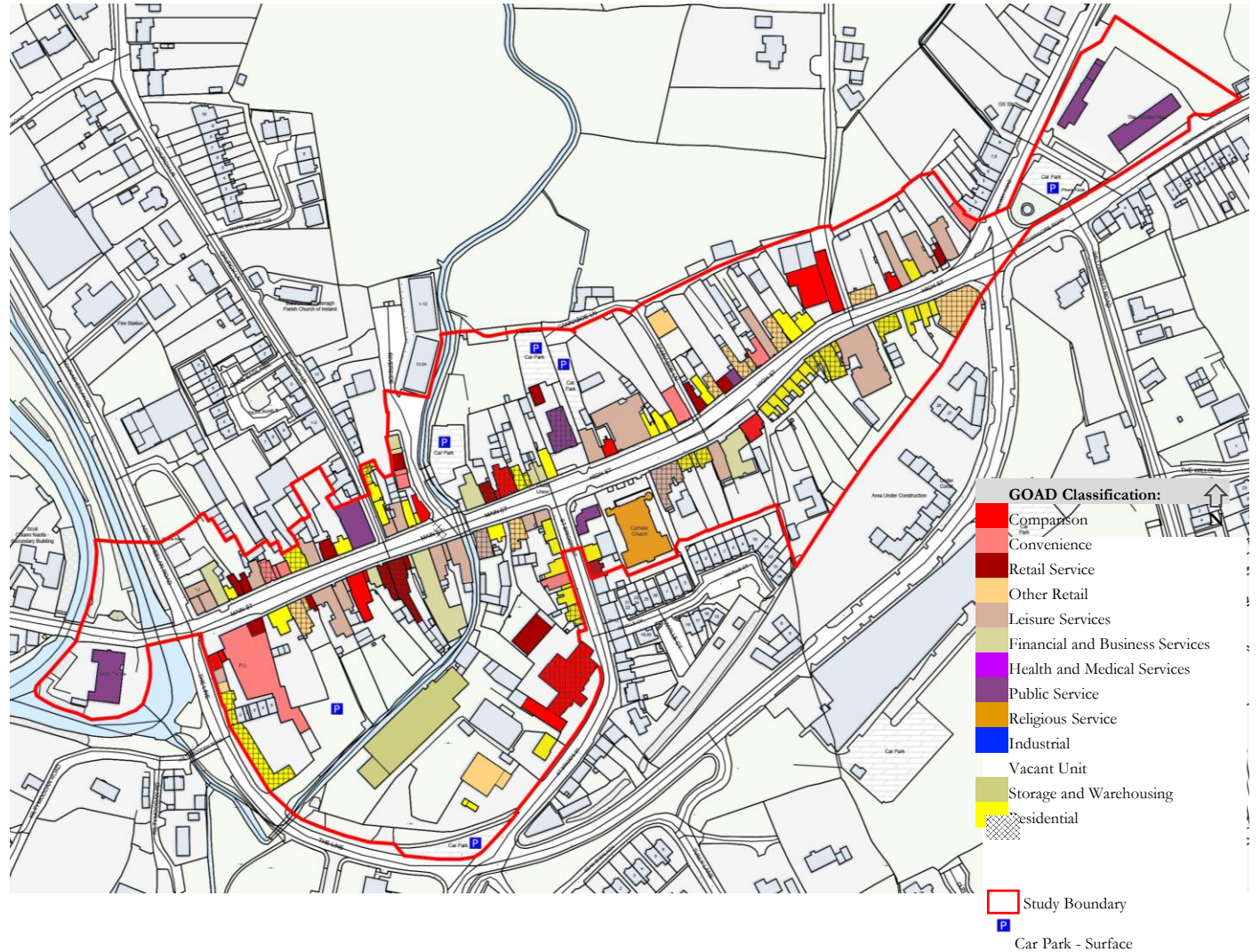
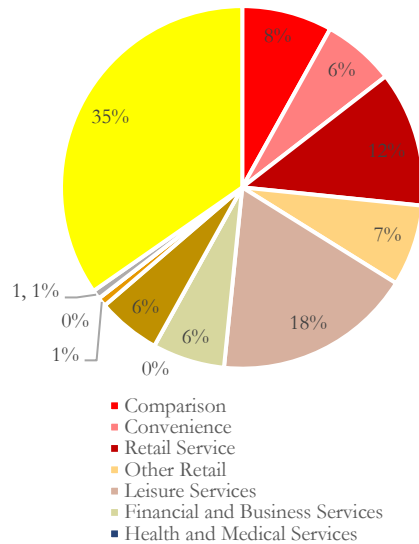


Leitrim County Development Plan

Land Use

Map And Analysis

Land uses of the ground floor have been recorded according to the Goods, Opportunities, Amenities, and Development (GOAD) classification. The most common type of use is residential, which accounted for over a third of the total, followed by leisure services which account for just under a fifth and retail services being the third most widespread category with 12% of the surveyed units.



Vacancy

Map And Analysis

All of the vacant properties identified during the survey are shown on this map. Overall vacancy can be characterised as widespread and includes properties of both residential and commercial use, signalling a diverse opportunity for development. Some of the larger vacant units both commercial and residential appear to have been developed during the economic boom of the Celtic Tiger.

Overall occupancy: 75%


Overall vacancy: 25%

Retail unit vacancy: 22%

Residential vacancy: 33%

Future proposals of this report aim to provide suggestions for regeneration of some of these spaces.

Key:

 Vacant Unit

 Study Boundary



Vacancy Observations

Examination Of The Three Prominent Vacancy Trends

VACANT

VACANT

All floors are vacant in both residential and retail units

A number of completely vacant residential and commercial properties have been observed throughout the town. The central Ballinamore Courthouse is one of the most noteworthy ones



VACANT

OCCUPIED

Ground floor appears occupied while upper floors look vacant

Most commonly – a functioning commercial unit on the ground floor such as a convenience or a food take away while the upper floor or floors appear residential and vacant



OCCUPIED

VACANT

Ground floor appears vacant while upper floors seem to be occupied

There appears to be a vacant commercial unit on the ground floor and occupied residential units on the upper floors. This type of vacancy has been extensively observed in Ballinamore



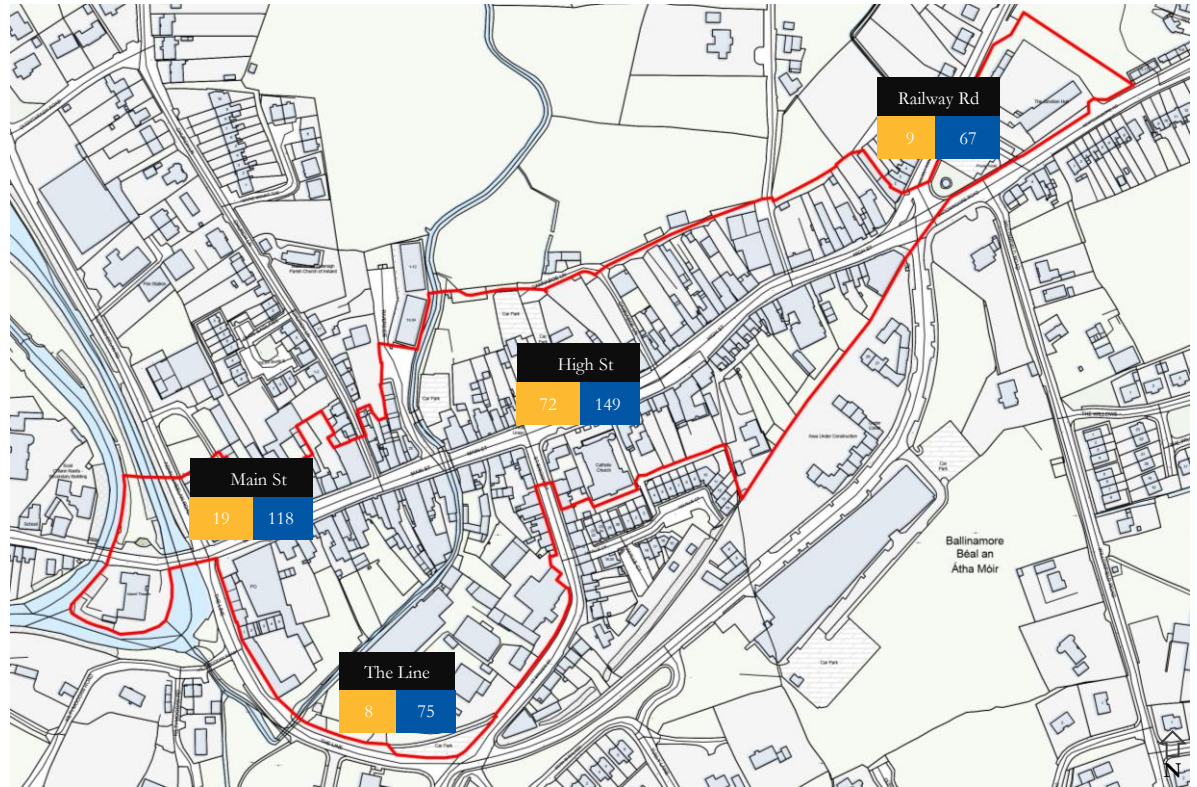
Vacancy observations along Main and High Streets

Footfall And Vehicle Count

The highest number of pedestrians and vehicles was recorded on High St, followed by Main St. The Line had the third highest vehicle count, whilst Railway Rd had the fewest vehicles recorded. Both The Line and Railway Rd had a similarly low count of pedestrians recorded.

Overall, from the combined total of recorded pedestrians and vehicles, on average nearly **90%** passed through Railway Rd, Main St and The Line **by car**. The higher number of pedestrians in the middle of High St coupled with higher vehicle count and low pedestrian count on Railway Rd, Main St and The Line may suggest that there is little pedestrian movement from the fringes into the town centre and that the people prefer to drive into the town centre.

Although The Line is part of the town's bypass route, the data shows that both Main and High St had nearly double the number of vehicles recorded compared to The Line. This that shows that a significant number of vehicles still pass through the town centre whether because it is more convenient to access goods and services or due to a habit.



Average Footfall Count

Average Vehicle Count

Day	Time Interval	Railway Rd (High St)		Main St (SuperValu)		The Line (St Bridgid's St)		High St (St Patrick's Church)	
		Pedestrians	Vehicles	Pedestrians	Vehicles	Pedestrians	Vehicles	Pedestrians	Vehicles
Thursday	13:00 - 13:15	10	54	15	156	10	75	63	160
	14:00 - 14:15	10	59	10	111	3	71	85	125
	15:00 - 15:15	6	27	5	101	16	73	70	163
Friday	10:45 - 11:00	13	96	23	103	5	76	68	139
	11:45 - 12:00	5	97	44	121	6	82	73	159
	Overall Average	9	67	19	118	8	75	72	149
	% Travelled by Car		88		86		90		68

Public Realm

Considerations

Amenities

Despite its relatively compact size, Ballinamore features a variety of shops, takeaways, pubs, accommodation, as well as business, financial and cultural institutions which cater to the needs of the town's residents, visitors as well as those who live in the nearby rural areas. However, the vacancy analysis of the town centre demonstrates ample opportunity for business and accommodation development.

While Ballinamore boasts a welcoming atmosphere and a solid range of existing amenities, there is potential for improvement in certain areas. The recently completed Junction Hub provides an example of how an existing area with historic significance can be enhanced and developed into a modern gathering place for the residents and visitors alike. The Island Theatre also holds significant possibilities for serving the local community as well as attracting visitors. However, from the ongoing construction projects, a new housing development along Ballinamore Bypass should be mentioned as it shows that the town continues to expand.



The Junction Hub (Connected Hubs, 2024)



Ballinamore Main Street



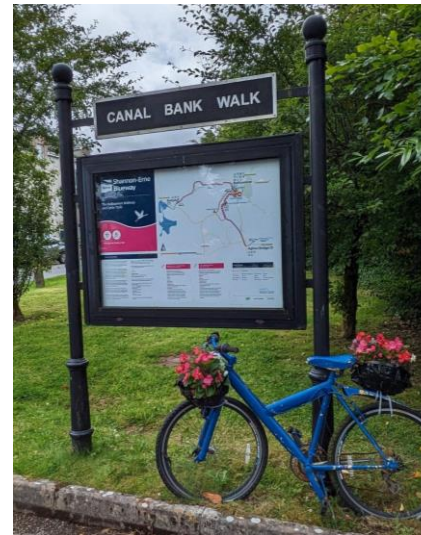
Ballinamore High Street

Public Realm

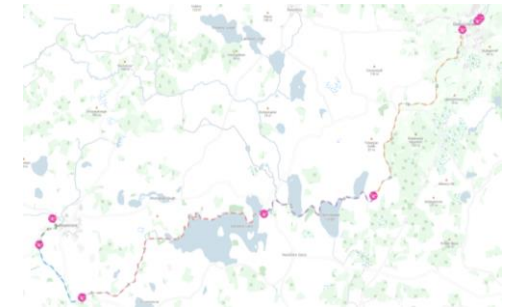
Public Spaces And Activities

The town's primary Main Street and High Street are welcoming and well-maintained. The town can be accessed and navigated by vehicle due to ample parking throughout and by foot, although, the pedestrian infrastructure would benefit from improvements to make it more accessible and interconnected.

The Junction Hub provides a possible meeting space both indoor and outside. The town centre could benefit from additional seating, in particular sheltered seating due to frequent rainfall, and sheltered gathering spaces as well as amenities such as recycling bins and public toilets. The picturesque Ballinamore Canal provides opportunities for recreational activities such as boating and trail walking along its shores. These recreational activities are already being promoted through, for example, Ballinamore Looped Walking or Cycling Trail and Ballinamore Marina to Ballyconnell Waterway, however, more publicity would be beneficial and could contribute to Ballinamore's profile and boost its appeal as a destination.



Canal Bank Walk



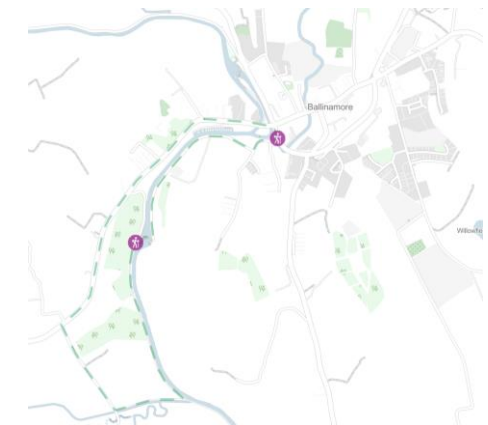
Ballinamore Marina to Ballyconnell Waterway
(Blueways Ireland, 2024)



Junction Hub Area



Island Theatre



Ballinamore Looped Walking or Cycling Trail
(Blueways Ireland, 2024)

Desire Lines

Pedestrian Infrastructure

The map on this page shows the existing pedestrian crossings in black as well as several popular crossing locations observed during the survey in red known as desire lines.

The area surrounding the Junction Hub (A) and the sports grounds behind it, which is particularly popular with children, only has one pedestrian crossing which leads into the town centre. In the areas marked with yellow, three lanes need to be crossed to get to the opposite side of the road which may be challenging especially for children and elderly.

A similar observation has been made on the other end of the town, where pedestrians can use a zebra crossing to cross Main St. However, there is no pedestrian crossing to safely cross Covent Rd to access the Island Theatre (B).

Additional crossings in those areas would improve pedestrian safety and make the town more accessible by foot. Raised pedestrian crossings also would aide in slowing down the traffic which would make the environment safer for pedestrians.



Desire Line Areas



A Junction Hub Area



B Island Theatre Area

Existing Pedestrian Crossings



1 Main St



2 High St



3 Railway Rd (Google Maps, 2019)

Car Parking

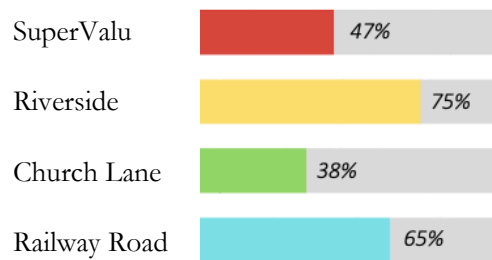
Map And Analysis

Ballinamore is served by several off-street car parks located throughout and adjacent to the town centre.

Additionally, many residents and visitors opt for on-street parking along Main St.

This section will discuss and analyse the findings of the study, identifying the key issues that affect the patterns of parking behaviour in the town.

Average Car Park Usage at Midday in Ballinamore Town Centre:



Car Parking

Observations



Many vehicles are parked on footpaths, creating concerns regarding accessibility and pedestrian safety, particularly for wheelchair or pram users.



Poor pedestrian infrastructure and connectivity between car parks and the town centre creates further accessibility issues and may discourage drivers from using them.



Some car parks throughout the town lack clear, visible signposting. This exacerbates their inefficiency and worsens issues such as pavement parking.



As shown by the data collected, several off-street car parks are underused, indicating that there is an abundance of spaces, and they are perceived as less convenient than on-street parking.

Car Parking

Observations And Proposals

The high number of vehicles parking on footpaths can be attributed to the lack of road markings for parking spaces along Main St, and a general lack of consideration for the impact of parked vehicles on pedestrian mobility.



This can be addressed by delineating a limited number of specified parking spaces. Main St is generally wide enough to accommodate this, resulting in more efficient and safer parking behaviour. Public awareness campaigns could be used to further discourage this method of parking.

Accessibility issues as a result of poor pedestrian infrastructure. Parking can become unsafe and uninviting for residents and visitors. This deterrence can have knock-on social and economic impacts.



Creating high-quality pathways that are well-lit, well maintained and clearly signposted with appropriate accessibility features ensures that car parks are safe and pleasant for pedestrians to directly access shops and services throughout the town centre.

The general underuse of car parks leads to a higher concentration of vehicles parking along Main St, reflected in complaints from residents of car dominance throughout the town centre.



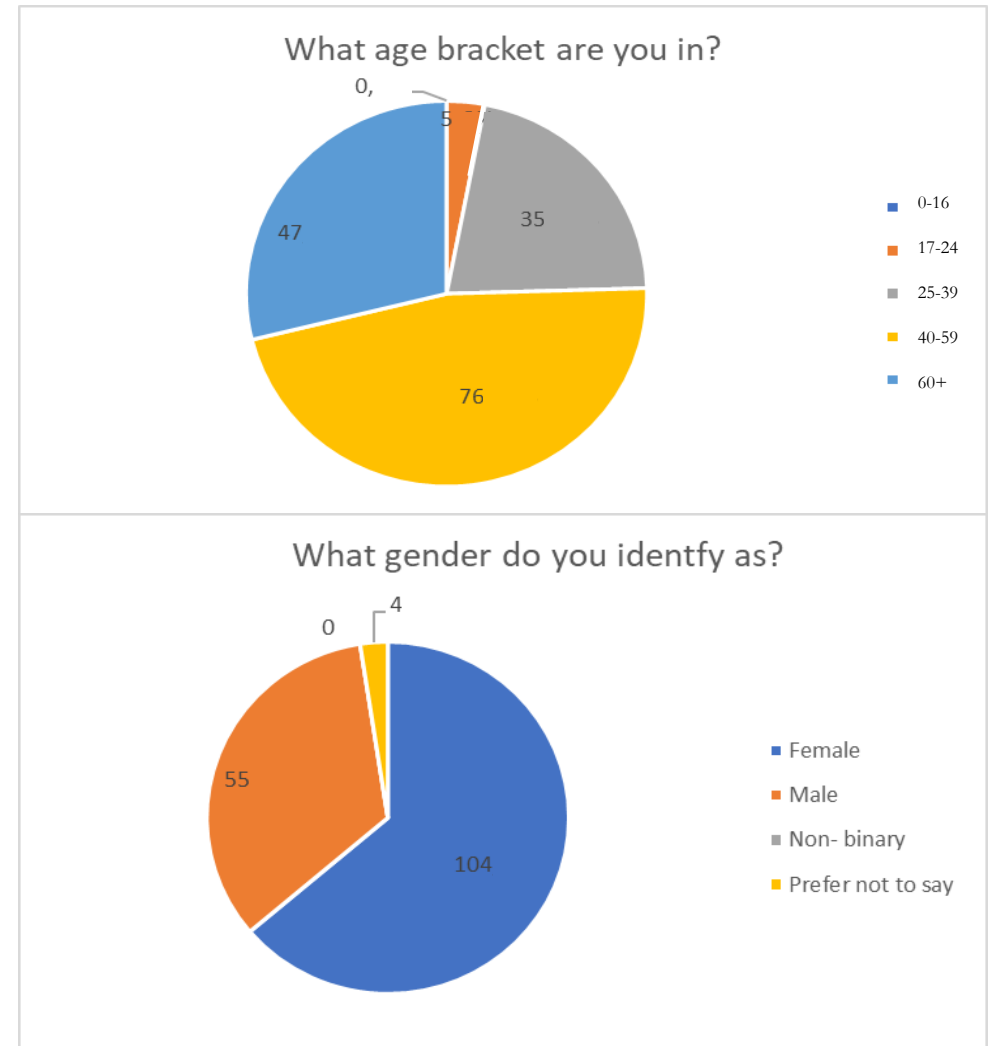
Through the introduction of limited on-street parking, enhanced pedestrian accessibility, clear signposting and improved public awareness of their benefits (i.e. safety), car park usage will be encouraged. This will alleviate concerns of car dominance and create a more pedestrian friendly environment along Main St.

Questionnaire Responses

Introduction

During the study, questionnaires were distributed both online and throughout the town for residents and visitors to complete. These surveys aimed to identify the priorities of the local population, focusing on the availability of facilities, the overall livability of Ballinamore, and potential areas for improvement. A total of 163 responses were collected and subsequently analysed to gain insights into the community's needs and preferences.

The demographic data from the questionnaire reveals that the majority of participants were aged 50-59 and 60 and over, accounting for 46.6% and 28.8% of respondents, respectively. In contrast, there were fewer responses from younger age groups, particularly those aged 17-24 and 0-16. Additionally, the data shows a higher proportion of women participating compared to men, with fewer opting for the prefer not to say option.



Questionnaire Responses

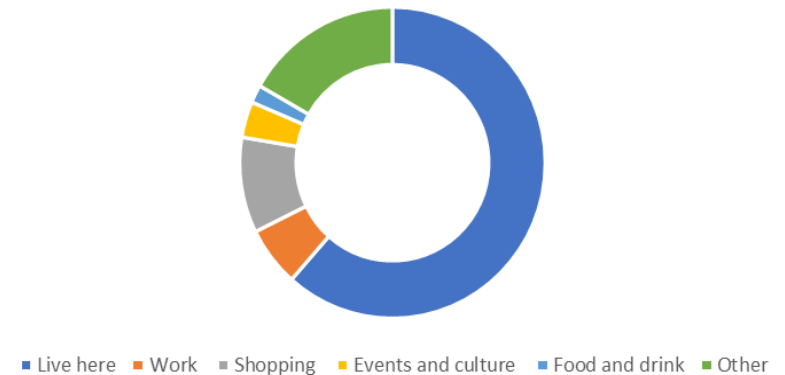
Reasons For Visiting And Travel Distance

Among those who participated in the questionnaire, the vast majority—nearly 61.5%—were residents of Ballinamore. The second most common reason for being in the town was work, at 10%, followed by shopping at 9.9%. A smaller portion of participants were in Ballinamore for other reasons, such as visiting family, attending events or cultural activities, enjoying the food and drink at local bars, cafés, and restaurants, or for educational purposes.

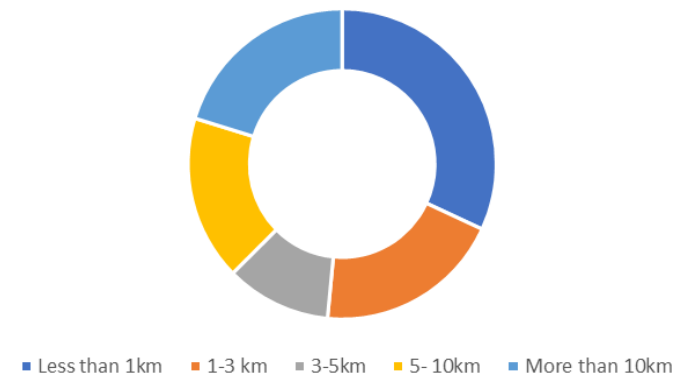
Responses varied regarding how far people travel to reach Ballinamore, reflecting the diverse connections people have with the town. The most common response was that participants travelled less than 1 km, indicating that many are residents or live nearby.

The second most popular response was from those traveling more than 10 km, suggesting that Ballinamore draws people from surrounding areas. The third most common distance was 1-3 km, further emphasizing that the town serves both its immediate community and those from a bit farther away. These patterns align with our initial impressions of the town center, highlighting its role as both a local hub and a destination for those living in the wider region.

What is your main reason for visiting Ballinamore?



How far do you have to travel to get to Ballinamore?

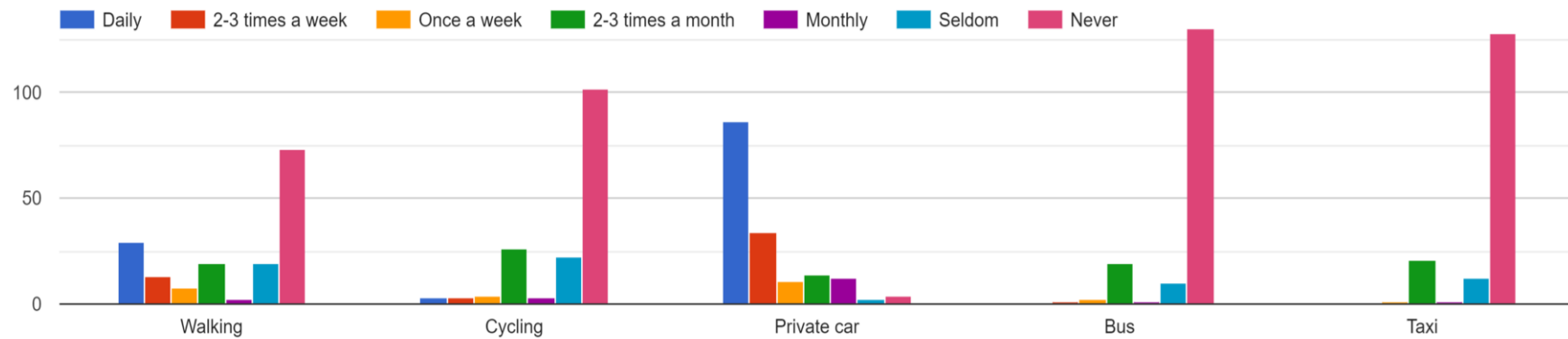


Questionnaire Responses

Travel Methods

The questionnaire responses paint a clear picture of how individuals travel to Ballinamore, with the overwhelming majority relying on private cars as their primary mode of transport. The dominance of car usage is evident, as very few people use local bus services, taxis, or even cycle into town. In fact, 128 respondents have never used a taxi, and 130 have never taken a bus. Walking is the only alternative to driving that sees occasional use, with 29 people walking into Ballinamore daily. This is likely due to the close proximity of the respondents to the town centre. However, the minimal use of other transportation options highlights a lack of facilities and infrastructure to support alternatives to driving or walking.

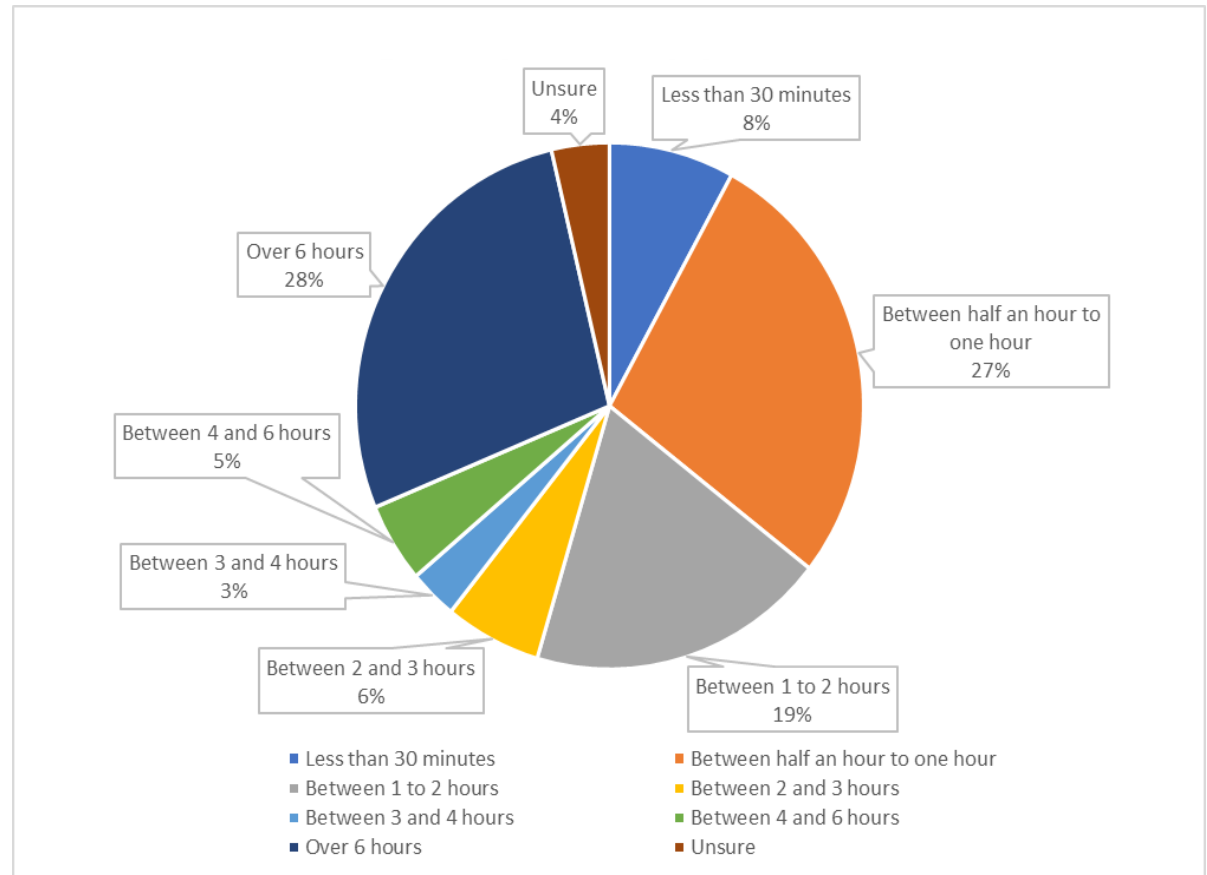
How often do you travel to Ballinamore by the following methods?



Questionnaire Responses

Time Spent In Town

Regarding time spent in Ballinamore, a large proportion of respondents, around 28%, spend over 6 hours in the town, likely reflecting those who either live there or work directly within the town limits.



Questionnaire Responses

Are There Any Services Or Facilities That You Feel Are Missing From Ballinamore?

The responses to the question about missing services and facilities in Ballinamore highlight several recurring concerns among residents. A significant demand exists for more coffee shops or cafes, as well as improved dining options, indicating a desire for better social and culinary amenities. The lack of a reliable taxi service and better public transport, including bus shelters, are also frequently mentioned, reflecting transportation challenges in the town. Parking issues, particularly the need for more spaces and better management, are another common concern.

Additionally, many respondents emphasise the absence of electric vehicle charging points, signaling the town's need to adapt to modern transportation trends. Healthcare services, particularly the availability of dentists and GPs, are also highlighted as inadequate. Furthermore, there were some calls for enhanced sports and recreational facilities, including an Astro turf pitch and a running track, albeit these would fall outwith the town centre boundary given their scale. Lastly, the lack of certain retail options, such as hardware stores and clothing shops, is seen as a gap that needs addressing to improve the town's overall amenities.



Questionnaire Responses

How Good Is The Following Infrastructure In Ballinamore For Movement And Accessibility?

When participants were asked about the quality of infrastructure in Ballinamore regarding movement and accessibility, their responses clearly aligned with the popularity of certain transportation methods. Notably, 59 participants rated the cycle infrastructure as poor, indicating that perceived deficiencies in quality may discourage people from choosing cycling as a mode of transport.

Car parking was another focal point, with 77 respondents rating its affordability as very good, suggesting that when parking is affordable, more people opt to use their cars as their primary means of transportation. However, the availability of parking received mixed feedback, reflecting concerns about how easily drivers can find spaces.

Disability access throughout the town also garnered mixed reactions. Narrow footpaths and street clutter, compounded by haphazard parking and loading practices—such as cars parked on curbs or without a consistent pattern—were noted as problematic. In fact, 40 respondents rated the current parking situation as very poor.

Despite these issues, the overall quality and cleanliness of footpaths were generally viewed positively. However, the lack of consistent functionality, particularly in terms of accommodating all users, was identified as a key area needing improvement.



Examples of pavement obstructions observed during the study

Questionnaire Responses

Could You Name Up To Three Places That Could Be Improved In Ballinamore?

Cafes/ Restaurants

Derelict

Court House

Facilities

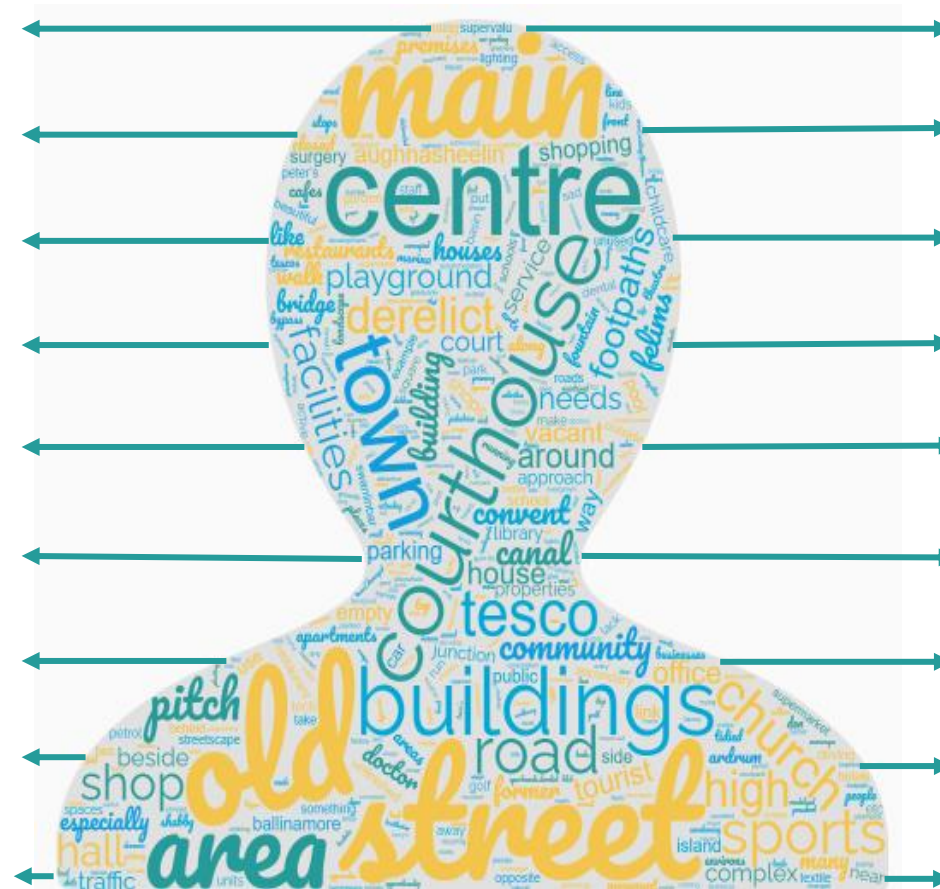
Parking

Streetscape

Apartments

Shops

Facilities For Youths



Main Steet

Centre Area

Courthouse

Footpaths/ Roads

Vacancy

Canal

Community

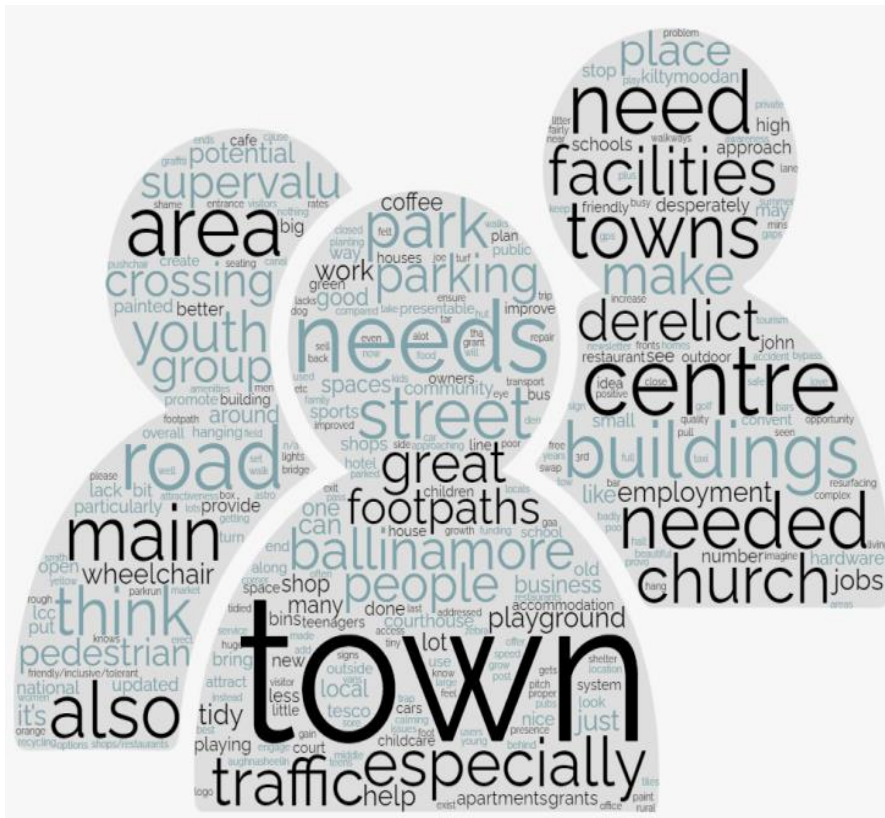
Buildings

Sports Hall

Questionnaire Responses

Areas That You Feel Could Be Improved In Ballinamore?

Responses...



"Needs to be improved road safety at the schools with traffic calming measures. The sports complex needs an upgrade, and the town needs an Astro turf pitch"

"Tesco /bypass area needs urgent addressing. Courthouse and Convent provide huge potential and opportunity. Poor Parking needs to be addressed. Lack of small coffee shops / restaurants"

"Pedestrian crossings are a big issue, as well as ambulance service. All of the derelict buildings really take away from the town."

"Ballinamore is not making the best use of its 'waterways' location. Compared to what Drunshambo have done, we have not leveraged this sufficiently and a lot more could be done to develop the natural beauty for both recreational and tourist usage"

"I would love to see more community spaces, theatre and restaurant in the town as I don't think it has anything like that and it can come across as a bit rough there"

"Little work on green area near canal which could be used for green space to play and relax"

"Old derelict buildings would be great if tidied up. Ensure playground gets updated and flooring needs to be done in some spaces."

"A better laid out parking system on the Main Street should be implemented as people just throw their car in all directions on the side of the Main Street"

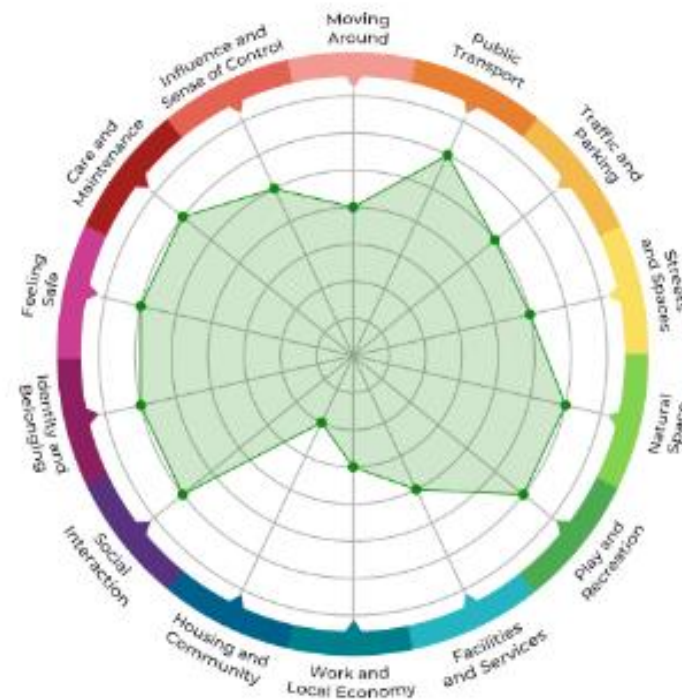
"More facilities for teens and young adults!"

Place Standard Consultation

To complement the questionnaires, drop-in consultations were advertised in the afternoon of 18th and morning of 19th July in the Scout Hall. These sessions allowed residents to informally discuss their feelings about Ballinamore with the Scottish Government's Place Standard Tool being utilised to start the very rich conversations that followed. It is based on getting people to score their place from 1 (significant room for improvement) to 7 (very little room for improvement) against 14 criteria.

The Place Standard consultation is summarised in the diagram to the right, which averages the scores taken for the 14 criteria. It should be noted that only 3 Place Standard diagrams were completed but that there was a strong consensus in how the criteria were rated. The overall picture was predominantly positive with the highest scores corresponding to safety, care and maintenance, identity and belonging, social interaction, play and recreation, natural space and public transportation all scoring 6 out of 7. the lowest scores related to housing and work opportunities.

Ideas suggested during the consultations related to the need to re-use the Courthouse with strong interest in a heritage attraction related to the famous local author, John McGahern, with some concern for the need for community / educational / arts uses to strengthen the economic resilience of any museum function. Traffic calming measures, enhanced public space and tackling vacancy were the other issues raised at these consultations. Those in attendance displayed a real pride in the success of festivals as a means of attracting footfall and tourists to Ballinamore.



Conclusion

SCOT Diagram

Based on the questionnaire responses, drop-in consultations, field survey, and all the other feedback and observations, this report concludes with a comprehensive Strengths, Challenges, Opportunities and Threats (SCOT) diagram. The most prominent observations are summarised under each of the four headings, and then further discussed on the subsequent pages.

STRENGTHS

- Strong community spirit
- Sense of safety
- Natural beauty
- Experience in hosting festivals

CHALLENGES

- Vacancy
- Limited employment opportunities
- Parking infrastructure
- Street accessibility concerns

OPPORTUNITIES

- Enhanced public spaces and community engagement
- Outdoor recreation
- Reusing vacant premises for town centre living
- Heritage tourism
- Attracting remote workers
- Economic diversification

THREATS

- Competition from neighbouring towns
- Climate change
- Economic uncertainty
- Infrastructure deterioration

Conclusion

Strengths

Ballinamore offers a unique blend of natural beauty, welcoming community and abundance of outdoor recreational opportunities.

- **Strong community spirit:** Experienced first-hand during the field trip, Ballinamore's community fosters a welcoming and supportive environment. The residents themselves perceive Ballinamore as friendly and peaceful along with words such as town, spirit and belonging.
- **Sense of safety:** Ballinamore's residents also perceive the town as safe, which was both stated in questionnaire responses and drop-in consultations.
- **Natural beauty:** Ballinamore is nestled amidst breathtaking natural beauty. The town is surrounded by lush woodlands, hills and many loughs. The picturesque scenery offers opportunities for hiking, fishing, boating, and simply enjoying the tranquility of nature.
- **Experience in hosting festivals:** Ballinamore has a proven track record of hosting successful festivals, such as the popular Ballinamore Family Festival and Cowboys and Heroes Festival, which attracts thousands of visitors annually and boosts the local economy.



Picturesque Drumcoura Lough

Conclusion

Challenges

- **Vacancy:** The vacancy study which encompassed most of the town, concluded that the overall vacancy in Ballinamore stands at 25%, with retail vacancy being at 22% and residential vacancy at 33%. Indeed, vacancy rates are something, which have been actively discussed and emphasised in questionnaire responses and in-person consultations.
- **Limited employment opportunities:** Smaller towns and villages can sometimes face challenges in attracting and retaining businesses, which has been observed in Ballinamore.
- **Parking Infrastructure:** The Main Street has narrow footpaths and these were regularly very busy with on-street parking, whilst the closeby off-street parking locations were very underused. Furthermore, the residents have also been suggesting that efforts to revise existing car parking arrangements could facilitate a more vibrant Main Street by optimising off-street parking. The lack of EV charging points has also been raised.
- **Street accessibility concerns:** Ballinamore faces challenges in both vehicular and pedestrian infrastructure. The lack of cycle infrastructure despite the town’s advertised cycling trails has been mentioned as a concern by many residents. In terms of pedestrian infrastructure, during the study, instances of abrupt termination of pavements have been observed coupled with absence of dropped kerbs, which may pose a challenge for people who use mobility aids and pushchairs.



Possibilities for Pedestrian Infrastructure Improvements

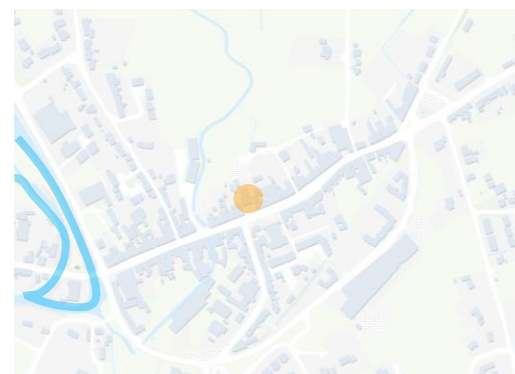
Conclusion

Opportunities

- **Enhanced public spaces and community engagement:** By repurposing the former Courthouse, Ballinamore could foster a stronger sense of community and provide a valuable resource for residents. The town centre could also benefit from additional seating areas, including sheltered seating and public sanitary amenities, to encourage more active use by residents.
- **Outdoor recreation:** Expanding upon existing walking, cycling and waterway trails, Ballinamore could better utilise its canal resources and natural setting to promote sports activities.
- **Reusing vacant premises for town centre living:** the vacancy rates demonstrate a wider need to rebalance the town centre towards residential usage to increase footfall and economic activity in Ballinamore.
- **Heritage tourism:** Leveraging the connection to John McGahern for tourism development, as well as promoting Ballinamore's historic and significant sites such as the former Courthouse, the reconstructed Railway Building which is now the Junction Hub, and other historic buildings and sites could attract more visitors to town.
- **Attracting remote workers:** Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the increasing popularity of remote work could make Ballinamore an attractive destination for people seeking a better quality of life. The town's quieter lifestyle and proximity to nature can attract individuals seeking a change of scenery.
- **Economic diversification:** Ballinamore could benefit from attracting new businesses and support the existing ones. Questionnaire responses indicate a demand for more cafe and dining options, reliable taxi service, healthcare providers, hardware and clothing stores.



A visualisation of the proposal for the former Courthouse



Town centre proposals marked in orange and recreational water activities in blue



Visualisation of Ballinamore's potential

Conclusion

Threats

- **Competition from neighbouring towns:** Ballinamore faces competition from its neighbouring towns such as Carrick on Shannon, Enniskillen, Sligo and cities such as Dublin, where according to the questionnaire responses, people shop, work and receive healthcare services. By staying proactive and pursuing further development projects such as the Junction Hub and the Island Theatre, and attracting investment and businesses, the town could maintain its unique charm while also competing with the neighbouring towns.
- **Climate change:** While this is a global issue, which requires a coordinated response, Ballinamore can do its part in mitigating and reversing the detrimental effects of climate change. By doing so, the town can solidify its position as a desirable destination for outdoor recreation.
- **Economic uncertainty:** National, regional, and global economic fluctuations can significantly impact business strategies, which in turn can affect the town's development.
- **Infrastructure deterioration:** The town's continued development hinges on maintaining its infrastructure. Deteriorating infrastructure could lead to more residents leaving for areas with better amenities and deter potential visitors.



Ballinamore's heritage trail