

COLLINSTOWN

VILLAGE PLAN 2022 – 2025



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OUR VISION

The people of Collinstown will benefit from and contribute to a friendly, welcoming village that sustains all generations, has a thriving centre and is connected to its beautiful natural surroundings.

WE VALUE

- Our environment:** We protect and enhance our natural and village environment.
- Social inclusion:** All generations have opportunity to be involved in a rich village social life.
- Community spirit:** We are a neighbourly, supportive and fun-loving community.
- Age friendliness:** Our village is for all generations.
- Pride in our village:** We have pride in the place where we live.
- Our people:** We value the skills and knowledge of all generations and the role they play in current and future village life.

QUALITY OF LIFE CONDITIONS

In considering how they would like the village in the future, local people thought that the following elements were vital:

- People are safe
- People live in a healthy environment and have access to health care for good physical and mental health
- Village facilities and services cater for needs of all ages
- Good infrastructure supporting village development
- People have a sense of belonging and not isolated
- People can access opportunities for lifelong learning
- Opportunities for local employment
- People can access and enjoy the natural environment
- Village sustainability through an increasing population

OUR OUTCOMES

The primary intention of this plan is to enable people in and around Collinstown to achieve their intended vision for the village:

The people of Collinstown will benefit from and contribute to a friendly, welcoming village that sustains all generations, has a thriving centre and is connected to its beautiful natural surroundings.

This will be achieved through a focus on the three long term strategic themes across which fall 9 outcomes:

THEME 1: Health & Social Wellbeing

Outcome 1: As an Age Friendly Village, all people of Collinstown, from all generations, can participate in community activities.

Outcome 2: All people of Collinstown can feel connected to and involved in Community life.

Outcome 3: All people of Collinstown can feel safe.

Outcome 4: All people of Collinstown have a good understanding of and connection with village heritage and identity.

THEME 2: Sustainable Environment & Infrastructure

Outcome 5: All people of Collinstown have access to a village infrastructure that supports home and work life.

Outcome 6: All people of Collinstown have a strong sense of village pride and collectively maintain a clean and attractive village.

Outcome 7: All people of Collinstown can access and sustainably use the beautiful natural environment, especially Lough Lene.

THEME 3: Education & Economy

Outcome 8: The Collinstown area will experience increased revenue via tourism

Outcome 9: Collinstown will encourage and support self-employment opportunities

* identified as a priority by an individual at the community meeting

Theme One: HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELLBEING

Outcome 1: As an Age Friendly Village, all people of Collinstown, from all generations, can participate in community activities.				
Action Project	Indicators of success	Timeframe	Potential Partners	Strategy and funding programme links
a) Provide activities for all ages, especially young people, including intergenerational activities ****	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Increased range of activities offered ▸ Increased engagement, inclusion & connections across generations ▸ Increased sharing of skill sets ▸ Reduced social isolation 	Medium	Westmeath Community Development Westmeath County Council Community Development Section	
b) Hall Committee continue to encourage effective use of the hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Increased daily & hourly usage of hall ▸ Increased number of clubs/activities using the hall ▸ Increased number of community members using hall 	Medium	Local activity and sport groups/clubs	
c) Connect with the National Positive Aging Strategy - Business of Aging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Local infrastructure is age appropriate for increased access ▸ Increase in age appropriate resources 		Westmeath County Council	National Positive Aging Strategy

Outcome 2: All people of Collinstown can feel connected to and involved in Community life.				
Action Project	Indicators of success	Timeframe	Potential Partners	Strategy and funding programme links
a) Increased rural transport runs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Increased access to the wider community ▸ Increased numbers of people travelling outside of village on a weekly basis ▸ Increased positive health and sense of well being 	Long	Local Link	Local Link
b) Relaunch website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Increased knowledge of local activities & community life ▸ Increased participation in local activities & community life ▸ Reduced social isolation ▸ Increased positive mental health ▸ Increased community engagement from community groups with adding content to website 	Short	Westmeath Community Development	Leader Programme 2023 - 2027
c) Create a “village space” where a coffee shop is a viable business option	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Increased access to a central meeting place ▸ Increased socialisation & sense of belonging 	Long	Westmeath Community Development	Leader Programme 2023 - 2027

d) Provide public seating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Increased access to a central meeting place ▸ Increased socialisation & connections cross the community ▸ Increased sense of belonging 	Short	Westmeath County Council Community Development Section	Town & Village Renewal Scheme Outdoor recreation scheme
e) Utilise use of hall during the day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Increased daytime activity ▸ Increased socialisation & connections cross the community 	Short	Westmeath Sports Partnership	
f) Provide activity targeted at mid-teens and young adults – [ensure non-sports related] *	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Mid-teens and young adults have increased socialisation and connection with others 	Short		

Outcome 3: All people of Collinstown can feel safe.				
Action Project	Indicators of success	Timeframe	Potential Partners	Strategy and funding programme links
a) Enable safe access to Lough Lene *****	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased numbers of people safely accessing the outdoors 	Medium	Westmeath County Council Roads Department	
b) Traffic calming *Identified as a community priority*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreased traffic speed through village Increased safety for pedestrians Decrease in road traffic incidents 	Short	Westmeath County Council Roads Department	Town & Village Renewal Scheme
c) Re-establish text alert service *	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased sense of safety Reduced antisocial behaviour and reported crime 	Short	An Garda Síochána Muintir na Tire	Muintir na Tire funding programme
d) Address carparking on village footpaths *Identified as a community priority*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased safety for pedestrians & cyclists Increased socialisation as increased safe access to village hall 	Short		

Outcome 4: All people of Collinstown have a good understanding of and connection with village heritage and identity.

Action Project	Indicators of success	Timeframe	Potential Partners	Strategy and funding programme links
a) Archive, raise awareness of and promote village heritage, people's history & ICA history	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Physical archives of local heritage ▸ Increased knowledge of local history within village ▸ Increased community connection and identity 	Medium	Westmeath County Council Heritage Officer Westmeath Community Development	Westmeath County Council Heritage support programmes
b) Raise awareness of and promote Lough Lene history – bell & boat - directly related to action 3(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Recording of Lough Lene history and heritage ▸ Increased knowledge of local history within village ▸ Increased community connection and identity 	Short - Medium	Westmeath County Council Heritage Officer Westmeath Community Development	Westmeath County Council Heritage support programmes
c) Preserve Kailpatrick Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Preservation of Collinstown built heritage 	Short		
d) Establish a Heritage Group *	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Increased connection with and preservation of village heritage 	Short	Westmeath County Council Heritage Officer	

THEME 2: ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

Outcome 5: All people of Collinstown have access to a village infrastructure that supports home and work life.				
Action Project	Indicators of success	Timeframe	Potential Partners	Strategy and funding programme links
a) Consider increased parking between the church and hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Increased parking spaces 	Short - Medium	Land Owners Community Members	
b) Defined parking in the village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Increased access to safe parking ▸ Increased access to local services 	Short	Westmeath County Council Community Development Section	Town & Village Renewal Scheme
c) Hall development *Identified as a community priority*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Increased access to fit for purpose facilities ▸ Increased provision of community activity ▸ Increased participation in activity 	Medium - Long	Westmeath Community Development	Leader Programme 2023 - 2027
d) Clarify & discuss the scope of hall development *Identified as a community priority*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Increased clarity re hall development opportunities 	Short		
e) Provide Bike Racks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Increased travel to/within village by bike 			
f) Consider provision of broadband in hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Increased provision of community activity requiring internet 			Leader Programme [Digital Focus – 2022 – 2023]

Outcome 6: All people of Collinstown have a strong sense of village pride and collectively maintain a clean and attractive village.

Action Project	Indicators of success	Timeframe	Potential Partners	Strategy and funding programme links
a) Community litter pick *	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Decrease in litter ▸ Increased community responsibility towards & pride of village appearance 	Short	Westmeath County Council Environment Department	Litter Management Plan
b) Consider more effective use / positioning of recycled bins *	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Increased ability to recycle plastic effectively ▸ Increased amount of recycling across the village 	Short	Westmeath County Council Environment Department Collinstown Tidy Towns	
c) Develop & maintain village aesthetics via trees and flower beds that encourage biodiversity *	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ A more attractive whole village appearance ▸ Increased enjoyment of and pride in village 	Short	Collinstown Tidy Towns Westmeath Community Development Westmeath County Council Community Development Section	Tidy Towns Town & Village Renewal Scheme Community Enhancement Scheme
d) Ensure scheduled Council road sweep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Decrease in litter ▸ A more attractive whole village appearance 	Short	Westmeath County Council Environment Department Collinstown Tidy Towns	

Outcome 7: All people of Collinstown can access and sustainably use the beautiful natural environment, especially Lough Lene.

Action Project	Indicators of success	Timeframe	Potential Partners	Strategy and funding programme links
a) Create an environment to encourage increased Lough Lene based activity: Fishing, canoeing, island hopping, triathlons Directly linked to action 3(a) Consider promotion of external events *	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Increased activities offered ▸ Increased participation in activities by locals of all ages 	Long	Westmeath County Council Tourism Officer	Outdoor Recreation Fund
b) Lough Lene walk/cycle trail and information points * * * * *	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Increased access to the Lough shoreline & environment ▸ Increased awareness of the Lough environment; wildlife, geology, history... 	Long	Westmeath County Council Roads Department Lake side Wheelers Cycling Club National Trails Office	Westmeath County Council Greenway Plan
c) Picnic benches and safe access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Increased use of Lough Lene environment for social interaction 	Medium	Westmeath County Council	
d) Consider collaborative Lough Lene development group *	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Increased collaboration ▸ Increased sustainable management of the Lough Lene 	Long	Land owners Relevant village & organisation representatives	
e) Encourage Council to make safe the cuts access *	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Increased safe accessibility 	Short	Westmeath County Council	

THEME 3: ECONOMY & EDUCATION

Outcome 8: The Collinstown area will experience increased revenue via tourism				
Action Project	Indicators of success	Timeframe	Potential Partners	Strategy and funding programme links
a) Promote Collinstown for tourism on community website and county tourism sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Increased awareness of Collinstown’s heritage and natural environment within County Westmeath and beyond ▸ Increased number of visitors/tourists to Collinstown ▸ Increased revenue into the village 	Medium	Westmeath County Council Tourism Officer Fáilte Ireland Ireland’s Ancient East	Westmeath County Council Tourism programmes
b) Signage re Lough Lene & other heritage and natural environment sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Increased access to Lough Lene & other sites ▸ Increased visitors/tourists to Lough Lene & other sites 	Medium	Westmeath County Council Tourism Officer Westmeath County Council Heritage Officer	Westmeath County Council Tourism and Heritage programmes
c) Explore signage with village name in Irish & associated stories - direct link to heritage *	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Increased visitors/tourists to the village 			

Outcome 9: Collinstown will encourage and support employment opportunities

Action Project	Indicators of success	Timeframe	Potential Partners	Strategy and funding programme links
All actions under other outcomes collectively progress Outcome 9				
a) Provide information on available childcare services *	Parents with young children have increased access to employment	Short		



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