



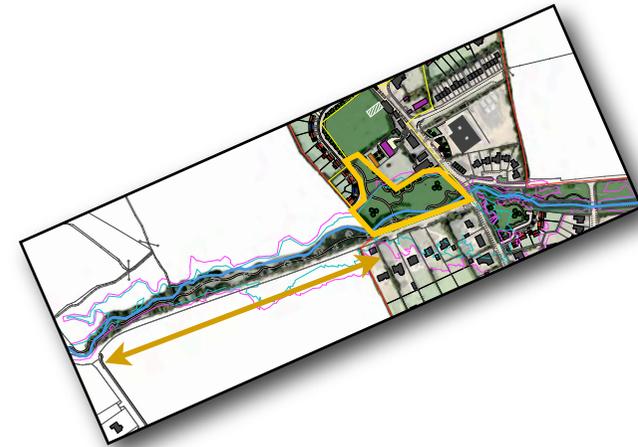
2.15 Civic Space outside the School, Design Yard and Small Business Units

The proposals for a Village Park are shown in **Development Area 12**. Within the park is an exceptional opportunity to use the river in landscape design, continuing the riverside walk towards the Grange, another remarkable opportunity. The area behind the church is reserved for any parish activities which may need space, possibly linked with and open to the park.

The proposed Design Yard behind the old agricultural building at A, and small business units at B, is also seen as an opportunity to reuse an existing agricultural building which is of architectural and vernacular interest.

The plan, **below**, shows the proposed Village Park plus the proposed Riverside Walk as far as the junction with Drishogue Lane.

The proposed civic space is discussed at B, in the following section 2.16.



2.16 Public Realm: Village Main Street (North)

A strategy for the Main Street overlaps with a number of the proposals already discussed, including the Cnoc Dubh frontage, the School, the Small Business and Design Yard area and the proposed Village Park. The areas discussed here are to do with improving the public realm and the enjoyment of shared public space.

Each area is represented with three graphics, an aerial view of the existing area (top left), a plan and aerial photograph (right) showing proposals for its improvement.

New Village Square at **A**

This area is currently a no-man's land between the unfinished frontage and the Main Street and junction beside the pub. A new civic village square is proposed at this location at the junction of Main Street and Ballough Road. Small retail and commercial services are proposed around this hard landscaped square which shall incorporate some planting and car parking'.

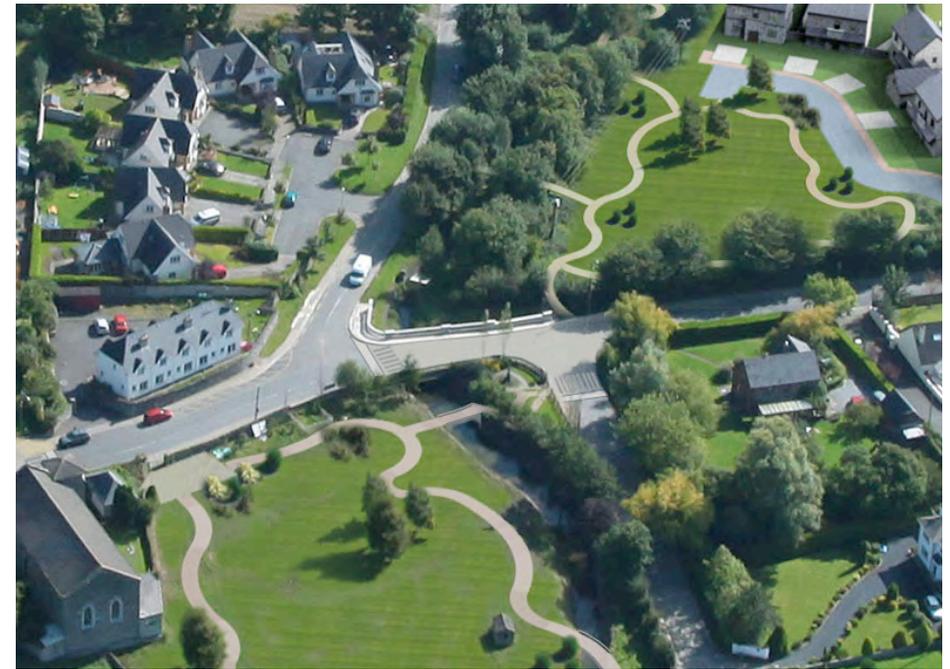
New Civic Space In Front of the School at **B**

The classic meeting place at the entrance to school in any village already works well in Ballyboghil. The proposal is to provide more space in front of the school directly opposite the church, by modifying the position of the school boundary wall, maintaining a footpath and existing trees and paving the new area as a mini village square with seating and lighting. This area could become a civic focus for the village. The paving would extend across the road as a traffic calming measure. This proposed new civic space will benefit both the school and the Church. This arrangement will benefit the school by giving more space to parents collecting children and by taking the pedestrian 'footfall' to school away from traffic exiting staff car park and Ballyboughal Square. In addition it will provide an over spill area for those attending funerals, weddings and Sunday Mass in the Church.



The Junction at C

The ambiguous nature of this crossroads with its skewed junctions may be an effective traffic slowing mechanism already. It is suggested here that a paved platform be laid and pedestrian priority crossings be indicated along the Main Street, to remove any ambiguity for people on foot and to make the riverside area and bridge more accessible. The crossings are also linked with access to the proposed Village Park and the Celtic cross garden.



2.17 Public Realm: Village Main Street (South)

Retail focus at D

The dispersed nature of the southern part of the Main Street is, on the whole, mitigated by hedgerows, and screen planting in front of Keeling Juices. The focal point is the service station with convenience shop.

The site frontage of the Grange development, across the Street, could be linked with a crossing of the road, probably with lights, and a larger platform across the street to impart civic quality. The proposed image shows an extension to the garage, a paved platform across the street and a small retail / residential area opposite the service station.



Right: Mature trees and frontage planting contain the service station effectively, along the village Main Street, and extended commercial area is shown schematically in the proposal to retain the trees and strengthen the commercial node on either side of the street along the South half of Main Street. An image of the existing service station and the mature trees is shown, **below**.

