



Ballyboghil Village: The Pitch and Putt course, behind the old National School Community Centre. The greens, still in perfect condition after a busy summer, September 2010.

Section 3

Ballyboghil: Village Design Guidance



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3.1 Sustainable Design Objectives

Environmental Sustainability

Reduce pressure on the environment:

- Foster walking and cycling by provision of safe, attractive, clutter-free pedestrian and cycling routes between attractors of activity: school, church, community facilities, shops, recreation areas and proposed village park
- Promote biodiversity by conserving existing indigenous hedgerows and trees. Introduce 'green' pathways close to the village. Encourage community-led planting programmes, and support the local Hedgerow Society
- Provide opportunities for food production through allotments and/or community gardens
- Recognise the microclimatic advantages of tree belts and hedgerows
- Use quality, sustainable materials and detailing to make streets and spaces more attractive, accessible and inclusive
- Make the best use of land – a finite resource
- Foster waste reduction. Relocate and provide a convenient, attractive and well-maintained recycling area in the village

Making Ballyboghil more attractive and sustainable: Local Identity

- Recognising and building on the historic origins and the strong, distinctive identity of Ballyboghil village will assist community and economic regeneration. A quality environment with pride of place will benefit the community, attract visitors and promote long-term economic, social and environmental well-being
- A quality public realm is very important as the outdoors meeting place for all people of the village

Heritage and Culture

- The history and heritage of the place are central to shaping and building local distinctiveness
- Conserve older building stock and find sustainable opportunity for sensitive reuse
- Cherish distinctive local features – provide good signage and further develop cultural tourism

Community

- Assets that help constitute local identity include a strong community spirit, a culture of friendliness and neighbourliness, and a strong and unique local brand that is born of history and shared experience.
- Promote community participation in the implementation of proposals for the public realm



Leisure

- Strengthen existing amenities and leisure and make them accessible to all sectors and age groups
- Diversify: Target additional leisure activities that could act as attractors to the village

Natural Beauty

- Recognise the extraordinary value of an unspoilt rural environment and strive to maintain it
- Confining development within the village envelope will confirm its identity and strengthen the distinction between village and open countryside
- Maintain important views from the village to the countryside
- Develop good walking trails from village into countryside incorporating special features. Identify more 'green' roads around the village and help make them pedestrian friendly

Economy and Destination

- Identifying what attracts visitors to an area is important in enhancing distinctiveness – look for untapped opportunities
- Village shops, within convenient walking distance play a vital economic and social role in rural areas and are important for essential day-to-day needs. Aim to diversify to increase market share, eg crafts, coffee shop etc, in the village
- Local country markets devoted to indigenous agricultural and craft produce are good for the rural economy and the village, becoming attractors of visitors. Explore ways to further enhance this activity and possibly extend it into the public realm in summer months
- Encourage home-based office and economic activities provided they do not cause traffic problems in their neighbourhood

New Buildings

- Site-sensitive, contemporary, sustainable design recognising the special character of place will be encouraged
- Design for adaptability and flexibility – to promote long building life and socially sustainable settlements which are adaptable to life change
- Conserve energy in buildings. Aim for zero carbon design and incorporate high insulation, passive design and energy-efficient components. Exploit orientation. (www.seai.ie)
- Shape building form to create attractive, usable public and private spaces. Design to minimise wind and overshadowing, and to enhance shelter and sunlight. The examples shown in the VDFP Plan show how this might be done
- Use environmentally friendly and sustainable materials for construction. Minimise construction waste and spoil by careful specification and segregation
- Reduce water consumption through water-sparing sanitary equipment. Encourage rainwater harvesting and grey water recycling in new development

3.2 General Village Objectives

3.21 Entrances to the Village



Generally:

- Upgrade village and speed signs
- The hedgerows and trees creating leafy approach roads to Ballyboghil should be rigorously protected, and, where degraded, new planting encouraged with indigenous types
- New entrances on approach roads should be permitted only where it is possible to minimise damage to, or use a degraded section of hedgerow. There are good models for this already on the West entry in Ballyboghil (see pp 19 and 20)
- Protect stone walls

North Entrance, past the GAA Club

- Introduce traffic calming on the approach to the village centre
- Renewed paved, raised platform at this location would heighten the sense of entry and reduce speed
- Introduce new signage

North East Entrance: arrives into Main St past the pub

- Ensure that this quiet, beautiful approach road is not spoiled by ribbon development
- Consider designating this road, and the hedgerow loop walk as a 'green road' with restrictive speed limit
- Relocate the recycling centre away from its position at the end of this road at the entrance point to the Main Street

East Entrance: From M1 and East coast

- Beautiful transition from open landscape to trees and hedges should be kept and a footpath made off the road edge, within the riverside green area

West Entrance from Oldtown, Garristown, the Naul

- Well screened houses and mature hedgerow make for attractive entrance
- Footpath/cycleway proposed behind the hedge on the river bank as part of a walking network

South Entrance from Swords and airport

- Better arrival sign and traffic calming needed to slow traffic on long entrance as landscape gives way to spaced out development on either side of the road
- Introduce new signage

3.22 The Public Realm



Generally:

- Promote the removal of overhead wires and poles, **especially around the village core and Main Street**
- Establish a principle of unfettered pedestrian and disabled mobility - **this should be applied to the Main Street first**
- Reduce visual clutter, on-street signage and planters
- Keep green in the public realm by retaining trees, grass, shrubs, preserving glimpses to countryside etc
- Provide new village outdoor furniture (seats, litter bins, lighting) as necessary; it should be contemporary in style and similar in type throughout the village to provide cohesive identity
- Assess existing litter bins – supplement, clean or replace where necessary with contemporary, attractive solutions
- Preserve stone walls and trees
- New, contemporary street lighting of village scale relating to pedestrian routes and traffic will enhance safety and look better - contributing towards overall civic quality
- Proposed new tree planting should be deciduous.
- Encourage the implementation of a 'litter-free' village
- Bollards are visually intrusive and best avoided in village locations, except where safety is a priority. Favour trees or planting instead
- Promote the floodlighting of the Church of the Assumption, Ballyboghil bridge and the ruinous old Church of the Assumption

Opportunities

- It is proposed that public footpath outside the school will be extended into the school grounds and an extended paved platform located on the road between school and church as a traffic calming measure.
- Four raised, pavement pedestrian crossings are proposed; on the Main Street outside the School and opposite the church; at the junction of Main St and Ballagh Road; at the junction of Main St / Ballyboghil /Oldtown Rd; and outside the petrol station

3.23 Public Buildings

Generally

- Recognise the importance of setting and 'place-making' in new design
- Landmark buildings (Catholic church, community centre, pub and new school), are modest in scale. Variations in scale may dominate them unnecessarily
- Introduce descriptive historical information for heritage buildings and notice board for events

Primary School

- Provide pedestrian crossing and traffic calming to school approaches, as proposed
- The entrance to the school grounds is quite open and although it is well maintained its appearance could be softened, perhaps with more planting in front of the buildings as well as at the entrance, (this is partly detailed in the civic space proposal)