



Donabate Town Centre First Health Check

March 2025



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development



Lár Bailte ar dTús
Town Centre First

Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council





Donabate Town Centre First Health Check Report

April 2025

This report covers the activities and outputs achieved during the engagement with the Donabate stakeholders interested in forming a town team in the months of September, October, and November 2024 as well as January and March 2025.

The report is compiled by Wessel Badenhorst, the Health Check process facilitator appointed by the Town Regeneration Office of Fingal County Council, in collaboration with the staff of the Town Regeneration Office, namely Declan Ryan, Martina Hilliard, Niall Kelly and Paul O'Neill.

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1. Introduction

The Town Centre First Health Check project for the town of Donabate in North Fingal commenced in September 2024 and concluded in April 2025. The project involved a dedicated team of people from the town who represented the Donabate Community Council, the Tidy Towns group, the local schools, the active retirement groups, the local community services and the local business community. They were ably supported by the local elected members and Council officials from the Town Regeneration Office and the Community Department.

The activities included action planning workshops with the town team working group, a presentation of the Lusk TCF process and plan, and the drafting of a Town Centre First (TCF) draft action plan for the team to work towards implementing in the next three to five years.

The capacity building process also used the context of the recently completed Donabate Framework Plan, with a focus on the recommendations for the town centre. The process also presented an opportunity to prepare documents that will give a demographic and policy context for planning town centre actions. These are included in the Donabate Town Centre First Profile as per Appendix A.

This report outlines the process that resulted in the final output – an action plan that lays the foundation for cooperation and building trust among stakeholders with a greater possibility to deliver actions that will result in enhancements of the town centre of Donabate.

The town team working group agreed an action plan as per Appendix C. There was a shared understanding that Donabate is experiencing high population growth, of which one significant challenge is the limitations on the existing town centre to serve the town's population. Two policy documents will guide the spatial development and expansion of the town centre namely the Fingal Development Plan and the Donabate Framework Plan. The TCF Action Plan agreed by the working group is designed to support and augment the proposed developments in the town centre. The main objectives of the plan are as follows:

Objective 1: To support the improvement of the public realm in the town centre with the implementation of the Donabate Framework Plan

Objective 2: To strengthen the Donabate town centre as the core of a fast-growing town.

Objective 3: To increase community engagement with activities in the public spaces of the town centre of Donabate.



2. Overview and Methodology

There are three components to the capacity building process in line with the national Town Centre First policy guidelines namely:

1. Composition of the Town Team
2. Understanding the Place
3. Defining the place and opportunities
4. Enabling the Place through focused actions for the town

The process was planned to take place over a series of workshops.

The methodology is based on the premise that the composition of the town team with a range of local stakeholders represented, creates the conditions for learning among each other as well as creating familiarity and building trust. As the town team progresses through the workshops, perspectives and ideas from the respective stakeholders are shared, discussed, and tested in a facilitated constructive manner. The outcome is that the ideas that percolate into actions will have been shaped in a process of co-creation.

These actions however have to be framed with two conditions in mind namely that those nominated in the town team will take the lead responsibility for ‘driving’ and implementing actions; and where other parties are involved or impacted, there will be consultations and negotiations to ensure the viability of proposed actions.

Another key aspect for building the town team capacity is the focus on relationship building in particular with elected representatives, key Council officials, Agency executives (e.g. Dublin LEADER Partnership and DDLETB) and other local office holders (e.g. the local priest and the school principal). This is an ongoing process, but especially important during the action planning phase.

The workshops conducted were as follows:

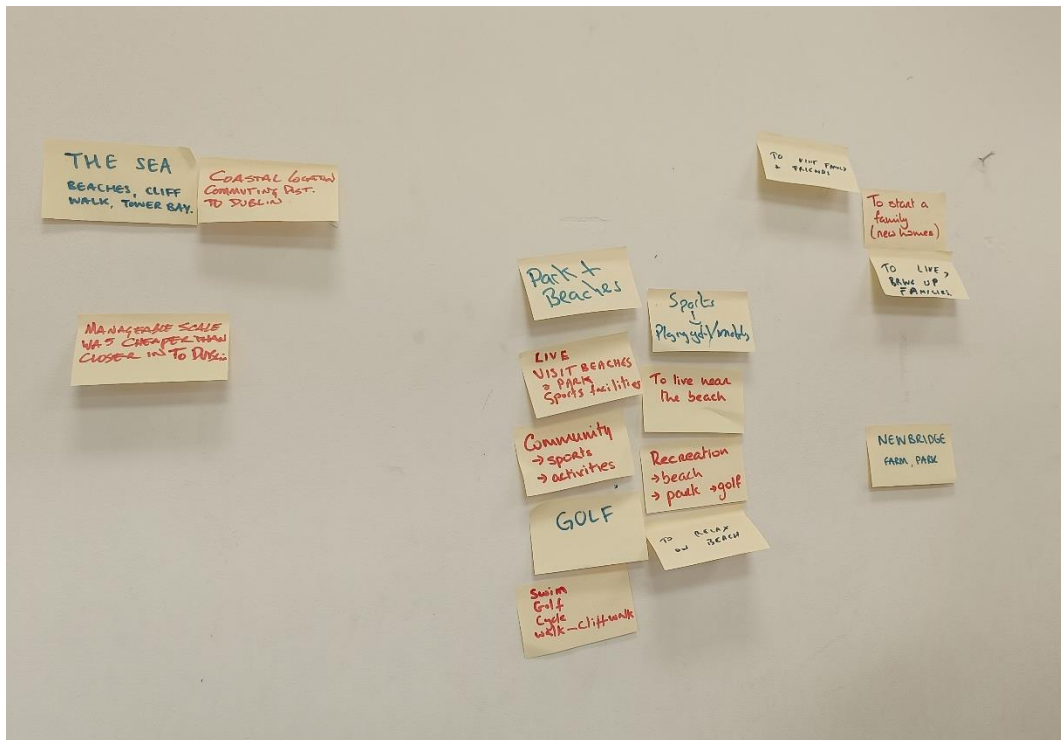
a. Town Centre First Policy Workshop: 26 September 2024

The Town Regeneration Office of Fingal County Council invited interested persons from a range of identified organisations to attend the workshop at which the following points were discussed:

- An overview of the Town Centre First Policy and its relevance for Donabate
- The process of the formation of a town team.
- The role of the town team in formulating a Town Centre First Plan.
- A schedule for the planning process.
- Aspirations for the town of the residents present in the workshop.

At the end of the workshop participants were divided into small groups to discuss two questions namely: What is my dream for my town? and Why do people come to Donabate?

The discussions from the groups were captured on handwritten notes and plotted to conclude the workshop with an overall impression of the town.



From the ‘why come to my town’ exercise (See notes in image above), it became clear that the stakeholders have a positive view of their town in relation to the amenities on offer, in particular the coastal environment, which provide a quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

The answers to the question ‘Why do people come to Donabate?’ are as follows:

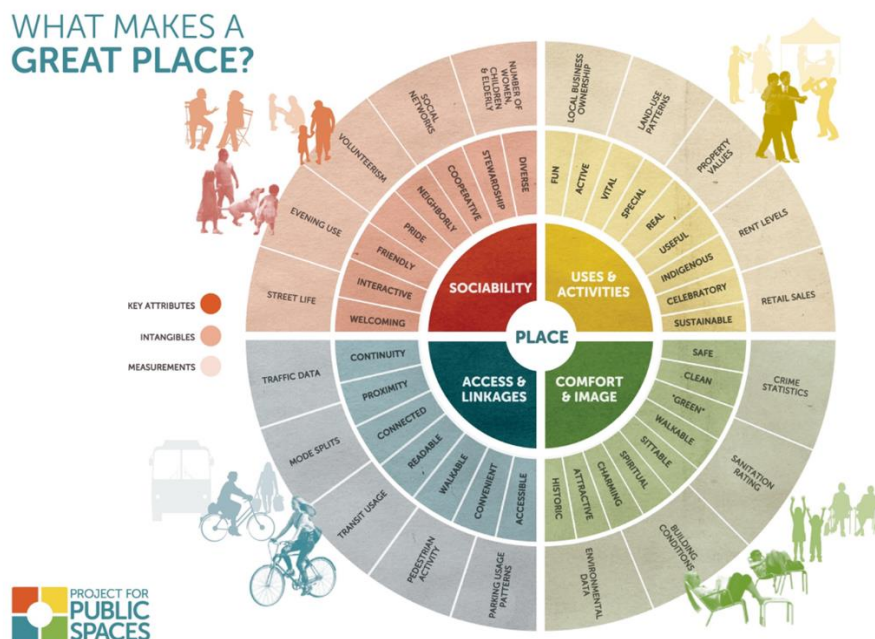
- To live and bring up their families.
- To live in the newly built houses which are more affordable than the city.
- To live in an area with manageable scale that is cheaper than areas closer to Dublin.
- Convenient location to commute into Dublin.
- To work in town services.
- To visit Newbridge House, Farm and Park.
- To visit family and friends
- To visit the beaches and coastal natural areas.
- To live near the coast.
- Because of the good community and sports facilities.
- Because of the good golf courses.
- To receive mental health treatment.
- To reside in temporary homeless accommodation.

The main challenge appears to be that the town has to adjust to rapid population growth and new building development with existing services in the village centre being oversubscribed.

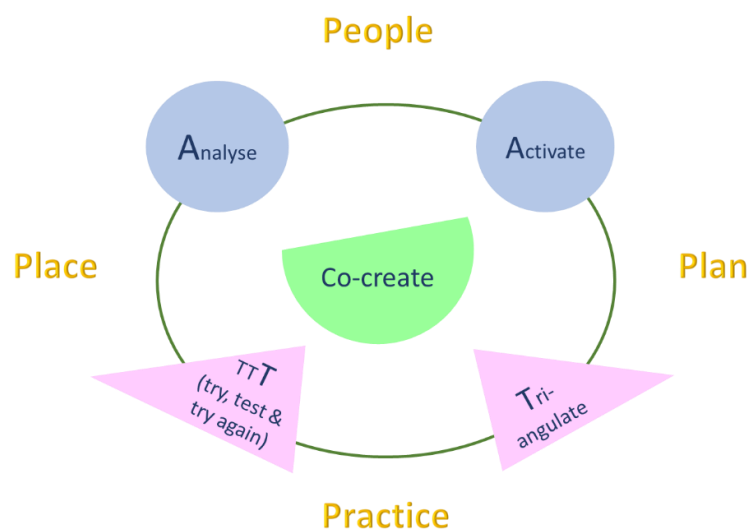
b. Place Comparison and Placemaking Workshop: 15 October 2024

The workshop started with a presentation by Laurence Lord of AP+E Architects on the Lusk Town Centre First Plan and the process of developing the Lusk for Life Town Centre First Plan. This was then discussed regarding guidance for a Donabate TCF Plan.

Thereafter participants were introduced to the Placemaking Approach developed by the Project for Public Spaces in New York which was instrumental to the revival of several neighbourhoods in New York City. In particular the method to evaluate 'What Makes a Great Place' was explained using the Place Diagram below.



This was followed with a presentation and discussion on the community-led placemaking approach and process and specifically the cycle that starts with place analysis; followed up with ideas on activating the place; then designing activities and physical improvements with triangulation in mind (the strategic placement, arrangement and allocation of objects in a place); and finally, the implementation of actions through a phase of trial and error and try again. See graph below.



c. Place Analysis Workshop: 12 November 2024

The workshop started with a presentation by the facilitator of the Donabate Town Centre First Profile prepared for the town team consisting of an overview of relevant aspects of the Fingal Development Plan for the town including key spatial development objectives. The Framework Plan and its relevance for a TCF Plan was highlighted. The presentation also covered demographic charts on population growth, age profile, household types, home ownership, educational profile, travel patterns, economic status, and industries in which residents work. See Appendix A.

The four quadrants of the Place Diagram were used for the place analysis exercise. Participants were divided into four groups and each group tasked to analyse the town in terms of the focus for one of the quadrants. Each group had an A0 size map of the town to plot their points with handwritten notes onto the map. See Appendix B.

Guidance questions were given for each group to consider the criteria for their respective quadrant.

Each group then presented their findings to the other groups. The notes on the meeting capture the findings from each group. See below.

Access & Linkages:

Positives:

- One good pedestrian crossing.
- One side of the footpath in front of the church is wide.
- Train station is close to the town centre.
- Covid parklet was a positive – make permanent.
- Fingal coastal way planned via main street.

Negatives:

- Pathways not double-buggy friendly.
- Lack of braille and sensory pathfinders.
- Steep station access.
- No direct path from town centre to station.
- Limited signage in the town centre.

Comfort and Image:

Positives:

- Strong Village identity (church & green).
- Hangout / meeting spaces.
- Town is generally clean and safe.
- Good mix of amenities (although lack of space for all).

Negatives:

- Strong village identity – (stranglehold).
- Characterless buildings closed street fronts – dated.
- Lack of pedestrian space – traffic prioritised.

Uses and Activities:

Positives:

- Good use of Community Centre and Newbridge House
- Used for Food shopping, pharmacy, betting, and drink.
- Church.
- Green.

Negatives:

- More seating at the green needed
- Better use of derelict spaces needed.
- A dedicated youth space needed.
- Limited things to do, - only one pub, three restaurants, nothing for teens, no theatre or cinema.

Sociability:

Positives:

- The Mall.
- Triangle Coffee Co.
- Public Seating

Negatives:

- Permeability issues.
- More footpaths needed.
- Separate cycle lanes needed.
- Speed limit through the town should be reviewed.
- Land beside the church should be utilised for community use.

d. Action Planning Workshop: 28 January 2025

At the start of the workshop, the facilitator presented an overview of the learning from the process thus far including a summary of the context for the development of a TCF plan for Donabate. This included an overview of statistics from the town's demographic profile (See Appendix A), as per the table below:

Significant population growth	29.9% population increase in Donabate (9,669 in 2022; 7,443 in 2016)
Age profile shows the town in a phase of the maturing of families	24.0% of the population were aged younger than 15 years in 2022 compared to 28.7% in 2016.
	56.3% of the population were aged 25 – 64 years old in 2022. compared to 54.4% in 2016.
Large increase in number of households	30.8% increase in the number of households in Donabate (3,157 households in 2022; 2,414 households in 2016).
High level of home ownership	76.4% of households own their homes in 2022.
	12.9% of households rent their homes from a private landlord in 2022.
	5.0% of households rent their homes from the local authority in 2022.

Workshop participants then broke into small groups to discuss the main areas for possible actions given the place analysis conducted in the previous workshop and the context of a fast-growing town with a modest town centre. The groups reported their discussions and themes and comparisons were then collated to get an indication of areas for possible actions.

e. Draft Action Plan Workshop: 27 March 2025

In the final workshop participants discussed a draft action plan where the facilitator, together with the Town Regeneration Office, arranged the ideas from the previous workshop into draft actions under three main objectives namely:

Objective 1: To support the improvement of the public realm in the town centre with the implementation of the Donabate Framework Plan

Objective 2: To strengthen the Donabate town centre as the core of an expanding town.

Objective 3: To increase community engagement with activities in the public spaces of the town centre of Donabate.

Actions were discussed, amended, and agreed by participants. Resources for implementation of actions and the timelines for implementation however were not concluded and will be a task for the new town team. See the Draft Action Plan as per Appendix C.

2. Next steps

The next step is for the TCF working group and FCC Town Regeneration Office to agree a Terms of Reference for the establishment of the Town Team, after which persons will be invited to serve on the Donabate Town Centre First Team. It is envisaged that the Town Team will form two working groups, one focused on community and one on business.

3. Conclusion

There was a high level of participation of the town team in the series of workshops held.

There was a high standard of inputs as well as the range of contributions and ideas. This makes it possible to have a successful action planning process.

The support from the Town Regeneration Office is appreciated by the participants.

There is a foundation laid for the possibility to enhance town centre development using the Donabate Town Centre First Health Check Action Plan. Although the plan does not specifically identify resources for implementation, many of the actions will be self-resourced by the Town Team using their own time and skills to implement actions with active support from the FCC Town Regeneration Office.

Appendix A: Donabate Town Centre First Profile

Produced by Fingal County Council Town Regeneration Office, September 2024



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A. Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide the Donabate Town Centre First Team with key information that will guide their analysis and planning of actions that will promote the vibrancy and attractiveness of the town centre.

The document is informed by the following sources:

1. [Written Statement of the Fingal Development Plan 2023 to 2029](#)
2. [Donabate Framework Plan](#)
3. [Central Statistics Office Small Area Statistics Map 2022](#)
4. [Pobal HP Deprivation Index Map 2022](#)

This document is condensed from desktop research and should be read in conjunction with other deliberations of the Donabate town team which collectively helps to establish a 'health check' for the town in 2024.

B. Policy guidelines from the Fingal Development Plan 2023 - 2029

The following excerpts from the Fingal Development Plan has relevance for the future development of Donabate and for actions and initiatives being considered by the Town Centre First Team.

1. *Vision for Fingal*

At the core of the vision for Fingal is an emphasis on sustainable development that will increase the County's self-reliance and resilience while accentuating the distinctive qualities of the place. See excerpt below.

Fingal will embrace healthy placemaking and economic prosperity through building cohesive and sustainable communities, where our cultural, natural, and built environment is protected. Fingal will continue to be a County of distinctive environmental, historical, and cultural assets and local communities, with sustainable development fostering a high-quality of life for those who live, work, and visit here

A sustainable future for the County will be based on the interdependence of the themes of economic growth, social progress, and environmental quality with the aim of increasing the County's self-reliance and resilience.

p10 FDP23-29

2. *Themes underpinning the future development of Fingal.*

Climate Action

The Climate Action crosscutting theme can be summarised as a focus on the transition in Fingal to a low carbon economy, compact growth and well-serviced, connected communities.

Ireland needs to commence the transition to a low carbon economy, with a reduction on reliance on fossil fuels and the unsustainable use of resources. Fingal County Council recognises the need to play its role as a key stakeholder in making the transition to a low carbon economy.

Future development will be concentrated in the existing built footprint of Fingal's towns and villages and urban settlements, in order to achieve compact growth. Developing well-serviced and well-connected communities is a key focus for development within Fingal, with reduced travel distances between home, work, education, and services and enhanced active modal share, with an overall reduction in emissions.

p11 FDP23-29

Healthy Placemaking and Sustainable Development

Healthy Placemaking is an approach grounded in principles of community-led development and working in partnership where the outcome (i.e. a great place) is defined by the use and sense of place rather than the aesthetics. Healthy placemaking is at the heart of the mission of town teams.

Placemaking is a multi-faceted approach to the planning, design and management of new development and public spaces. It is fundamentally about responding to the context of a place, through the understanding of its evolution and history, its functionality, its impacts on those living and working there as well as how it interacts with the environment.

Access to public transport, education, community facilities, leisure, retail, health services and jobs are as important as the aesthetic of a place. This Plan has a key role to play in enhancing and developing Fingal's inherent sense of place, identity, and character, ensuring that our individual communities remain distinctive and ensuring residents have access to a range of accommodation, facilities, and environment in which to enjoy an improved higher quality of life.

p12 FDP23-29

Social Inclusion

The cross-cutting theme of social inclusion have been embedded for many years in many public projects and processes in Ireland. Three focus areas in which progress have been made are integration of ethnic minorities, gender equality and access for people with disabilities. There is however still a long way to go at local level.

A series of positive actions taken to achieve equality of access to goods and services, to assist all individuals to participate in their community and society, to encourage the contribution of all persons to social and cultural life and to be aware of, and to challenge, all forms of discrimination.

The ultimate aim of social inclusion is enabling participation in the mainstream of society for all those who desire it. All processes of consultation, policymaking and practice must not just include, but be driven by, the views and needs of excluded groups. Social inclusion is also about the wellbeing of individuals, families, social groups, and communities.

p12 FDP23-29

High Quality Design

The aim is to create well-designed built environments that are 'people-friendly' (i.e. attractive for people) and in turn, positive for local businesses. The principal outcome should be substantial increases in the liveability of places.

This Plan sets out a range of objectives aimed at creating well-designed environments for both rural and urban settings.

An overarching aim of this Plan is to create and sustain people-friendly places for the benefit of the residents and businesses of Fingal, whilst supporting developers seeking to deliver the highest quality design solutions. Investing in good urban design can create economically successful development that functions well and has a lasting effect into the future.

p12 FDP23-29

Resilience

The cross-cutting theme of 'resilience' is actually a measure of success for adherence to the first four themes, especially in the context of the external threats that local places face ranging from possible major environmental catastrophes to economic downturns.

"The ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate to and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions" (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), 2009).

The key concept of 'resilience' underpins this Plan and is built into the strategic policies and recommendations of each of the four cross-cutting themes: sustainable development, climate change, social inclusion, and high-quality design.

p15 FDP23-29

3. Strategic Objectives for the future development of Fingal

Strategic objective No. 6 specifically identifies a strategic approach to town centre regeneration in order “to promote residential occupancy in our rural towns and villages” and to achieve the objective by means of the national Town Centre First Policy. See excerpt below.

6. Continue to develop a strategic approach to town centre regeneration through Town Centre First: A Policy Approach for Irish Towns and by utilising existing buildings and unused lands for new development, promote residential occupancy in our rural towns and villages and provide for a mix of uses within these areas. Address vacancy and dereliction to create compact attractive, vibrant, and safe environments in which to live, work, visit and invest.

p17 FDP23-29

Strategic objective No. 3 accentuates applying principles of healthy placemaking and enabling life cycle choices with new residential developments “to create sustainable, healthy, inclusive and resilient communities”. See excerpt below.

3. Ensure new residential development is of the highest quality, endorsing the principles of healthy placemaking, enabling life cycle choices and physical, community, recreation and amenity infrastructure are provided in tandem, to create sustainable, healthy, inclusive, and resilient communities.

p17 FDP23-29

Strategic objective No. 11 prioritises the protection, enhancement and connection of the natural heritage, green infrastructure, and open space in the County “for the benefit of quality of life, biodiversity, protected species and habitats”. See excerpt below.

11. Protect, enhance, and connect areas of natural heritage, green infrastructure, and open space for the benefits of quality of life, biodiversity, protected species, and habitats, while having the potential to facilitate climate change adaptation and flood risk measures.

p17 FDP23-29

Strategic objective No. 7 puts the emphasis on “a positive sense of place and distinctiveness of an area” by focusing on the public realm using urban design principles including universal design to design for inclusion. See excerpt below.

7. Ensure the highest quality of public realm and urban design principles are applied to all new developments, ensuring developments contribute to a positive sense of place and local distinctiveness of an area and facilitate the universal design approach into all developments.

p17 FDP23-29

Strategic objective No. 5 identifies the approach to planning and design using placemaking and public realm initiatives “to facilitate revitalisation and consolidation of our towns and villages and neighbourhoods”. See excerpt below.

5. Protect the unique character of Fingal. Support and facilitate revitalisation and consolidation of our towns, urban and rural villages, and neighbourhoods, through placemaking and public realm initiatives, which encompasses a multi-faceted approach to planning, design, and management.

p17 FDP23-29

4. Fingal Settlement Strategy

The Settlement Strategy projects the requirements for future development to accommodate future population and covers all types from metropolitan conurbations to towns and villages. Donabate is identified as a Self-sustaining Growth Town in the 'Metropolitan Area' with a potential for an additional 532 units for this Plan period on existing residential zoned lands.

Table 2.14: Core Strategy – 2023–2029 Fingal Development Plan

Core Strategy Areas	Settlement Type	Name	CSO Census Population 2016	Estimated 2023 Population	Estimated 2029 Growth	Estimated 2029 Population	Projected Housing Demand (Units)	Total Available Zoned Residential Land	Total Units / Potential Yields	Lands – With Permission (Extant) – Units
Metropolitan Area	(1) Dublin City and Suburbs Consolidation Area	Blanchardstown – Mulhuddart LEA, includes The Ward, Dubber, Tyrellstown, Mulhuddart, Corduff & Abbottstown	34,420	39,583	3,258	42,841	1,761	90	4,495	917
		Ongar LEA – includes Blakestown, Coolmine	50,214	57,746	1,803	59,549	975	33	1,659	785
		Castleknock LEA, includes Roselawn, Delwood, Castleknock Park, Knockmaroon & Lucan North	32,633	37,528	3,005	40,533	1,625	52	2,623	509
		Santry and Ballymun	2,485	2,684	925	3,609	500	12	600	358
		Belcamp and Balgriffin	6,702	7,238	912	8,150	493	36	1,791	-
		Baldoyle / Sutton	13,402	14,474	925	15,399	500	34	1,709	1,386
		Howth	8,294	8,875	925	9,800	500	20	1,006	710
	(2) Key Town	Swords	47,120	54,188	6,077	60,265	3,285	122	6,110	2,468
	(3) Self Sustaining Growth Town	Donabate	7,443	8,187	3,039	11,226	1,643	112	3,912	532
Core Area	(4) Self Sustaining Towns	Malahide	17,053	17,906	1,623	19,528	877	46	1,610	109
		Portmarnock	9,549	10,408	1,060	11,468	573	32	1,120	230
	(5) Towns and Villages	Baskin	349	366	19	386	10	2	24	46
		Coolquay	349	366	37	404	20	37	93	-
		Kinsealy	405	425	268	693	145	11	220	41
		Portrane	1,236	1,298	196	1,494	106	11	106	-
		Rivermeade	720	756	172	928	93	17	174	-
		Rowlestown	896	941	185	1,126	100	48	480	9
	(4) Self Sustaining Towns	Balbriggan	22,084	23,851	3,519	27,370	1,902	103	3,603	93
		Rush	10,359	10,877	925	11,802	500	53	1,600	338
		Lusk	8,353	8,771	555	9,326	300	27	818	132
		Skerries	9,783	10,272	174	10,446	94	9	273	7
	(5) Towns and Villages	Ballyboghil	681	708	163	871	88	21	206	-
		Ballymadun	424	441	19	459	10	16	41	-
		Balrothery	1,943	2,021	87	2,107	47	11	164	43
		Balscadden	503	523	16	539	8	8	20	1
		Garristown	798	830	160	990	86	20	202	21
		Loughshinny	633	658	38	696	20	4	57	5
		Naul	715	744	83	827	45	11	105	28
		Oldtown	1,028	1,069	93	1,162	50	18	180	14
	(6) Rural	Rural areas	5,446	5,555	126	5,681	68			
Totals			296,020	329,289	30,386	359,675	16,425	1,014	35,001	8,782

The Donabate Local Area Plan adopted in 2016 has been extended to 2026 (p60, FDP 23-29).

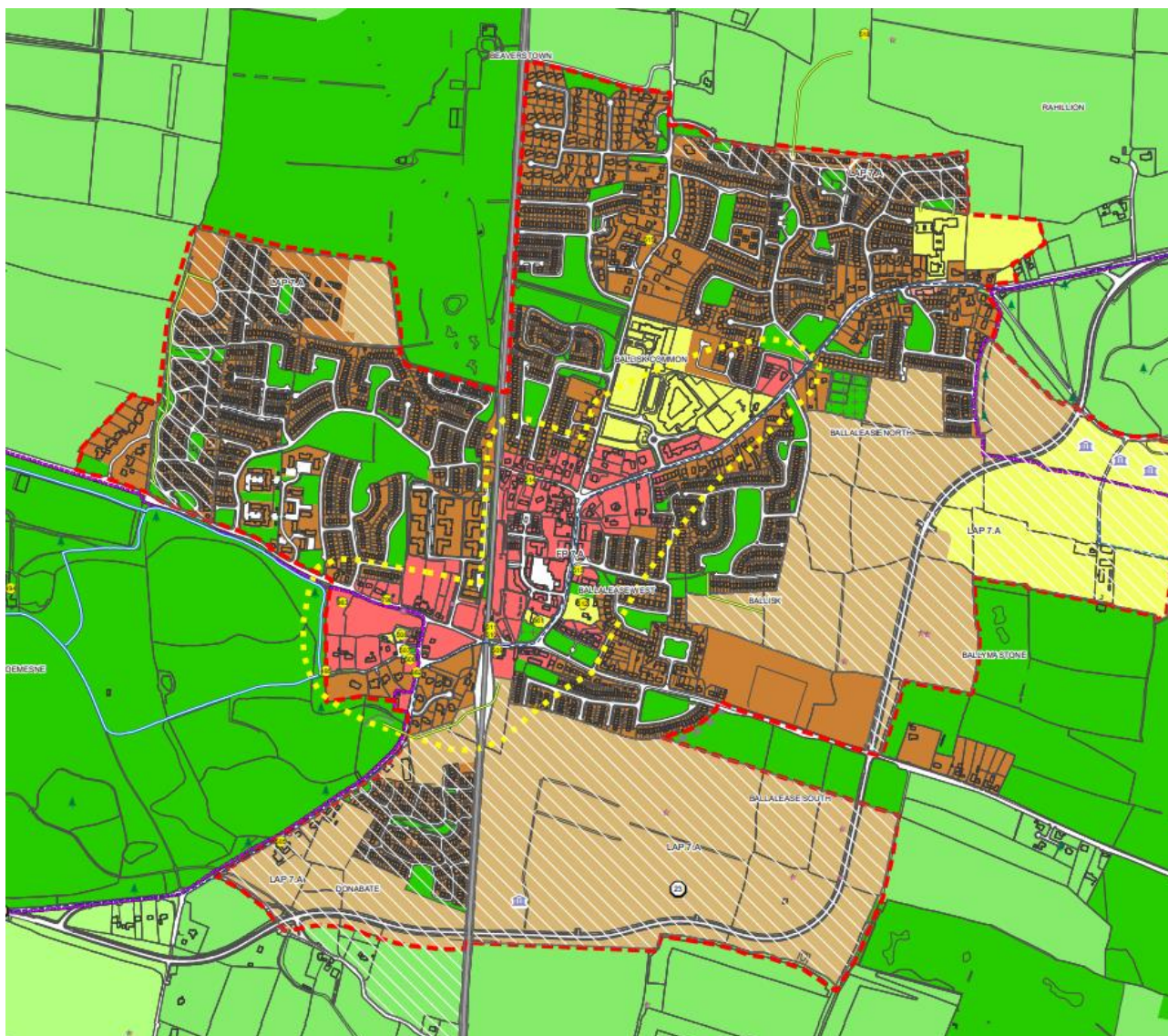
The Donabate Framework Plan (FP 7.A) was adopted in March 2024. The Fingal Development Plan defines Framework Plans as follows: “They are non-statutory plans that will provide more detailed design guidance in order to unlock the potential of the applicable lands. They will be advisory in nature, with a long-term vision for the future, allowing sufficient flexibility to manage change depending on the particular circumstances presenting, including societal, economic, environmental, and cultural. These plans will be informed by research and baseline data, which will identify opportunities for future development and highlight constraints that may exist in an area. They offer a vision for an area within the structure of the Development Plan” (p64, FDP23-29).

Towns and Villages Policies

Policy CSP40 – Sustainable Expansion and Development

Promote sustainable expansion and development at a level appropriate to and integrated with the existing town or village, meeting the socio-economic and civic aspirations of the community, whilst preserving the settlements distinctive character, heritage, amenity and local identity.

5. Donabate Zonings Map



Draft Fingal Development Plan 2023 - 2029

DONABATE / PORTRANE

Sheet No.7

Zoning Objectives

	CI - Community Infrastructure	Provide for and protect civic, religious, community, education, health care and social infrastructure
	GB - Greenbelt	Protect and provide for a Greenbelt
	GE - General Employment	Provide opportunities for general enterprise and employment
	HA - High Amenity	Protect and enhance high amenity areas
	LC - Local Centre	Protect, provide for and/or improve local centre facilities
	OS - Open Space	Preserve and provide for open space and recreational amenities
	RA - Residential Area	Provide for new residential communities subject to the provision of the necessary social and physical infrastructure
	RB - Rural Business	Provide for and facilitate rural-related business which has a demonstrated need for a rural location
	RC - Rural Cluster	Provide for small scale infill development serving local needs while maintaining the rural nature of the cluster
	RS - Residential	Provide for residential development and protect and improve residential amenity
	RU - Rural	Protect and promote in a balanced way, the development of agriculture and rural-related enterprise, biodiversity, the rural landscape, and the built and cultural heritage
	TC - Town and District Centre	Protect and enhance the special physical and social character of town and district centres and provide and/or improve urban facilities

	Development Boundary
	Framework Plan
	Subject to Local Area Plan

The area earmarked for the Framework Plan coincides with the town centre zoning.

C. Donabate Framework Plan

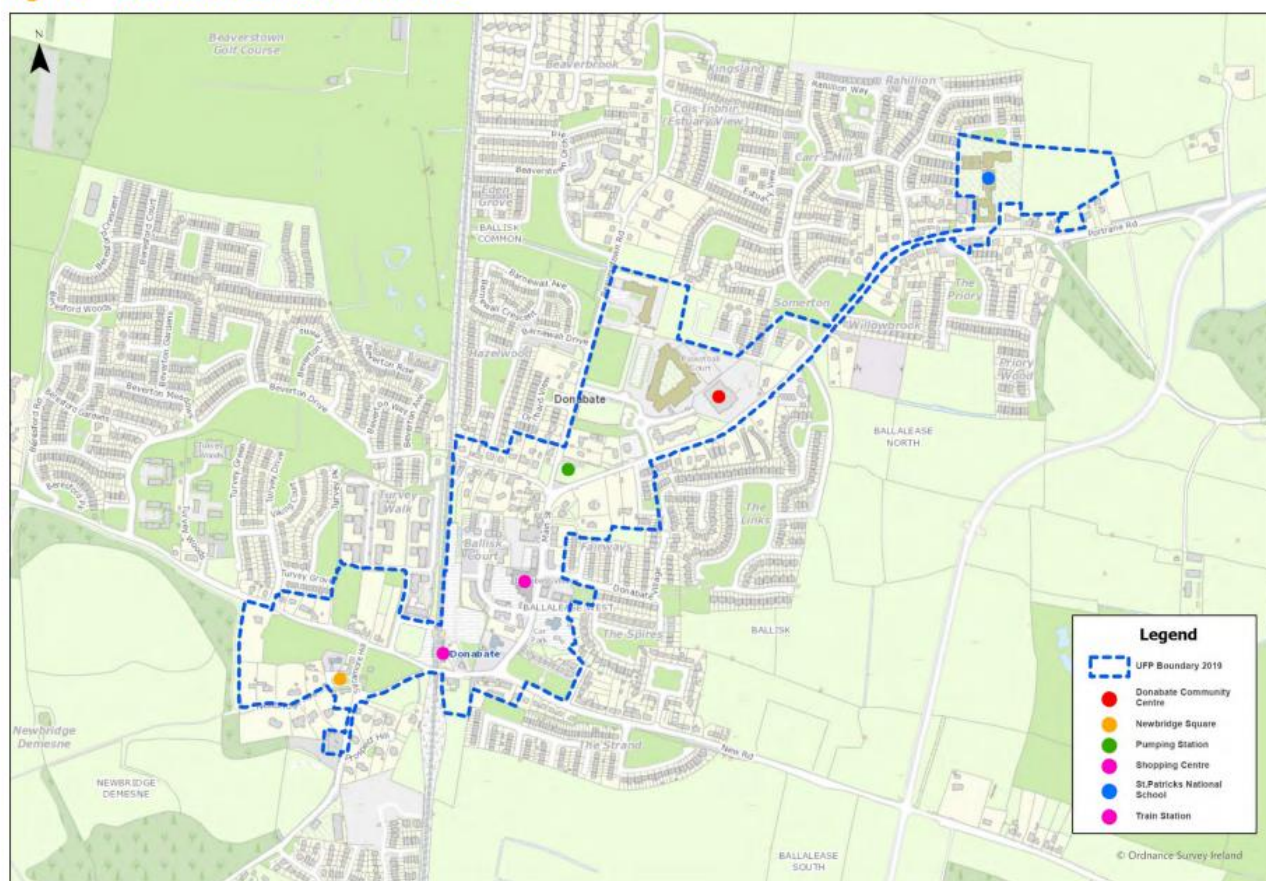
The [Donabate Framework Plan](#) was adopted in March 2024 and fulfilled an objective of the Fingal Development Plan 2023 – 2029.

The commercial area and town centre is described as follows:

Donabate has a distinctive and unique physical character and history. It is a linear town with commercial activity focused on the Main Street and on the streets leading from it. The retail offer is predominantly local, independently operated convenience floorspace with supporting services. The recently constructed Donabate Distributor Road connects Hearse Road to Portrane Road and loops to the south of the town, offering an opportunity to remove through-traffic from the town centre and provide for enhanced pedestrian, cycle, and public realm opportunities in the centre of Donabate. (DFP p1)

The scope of the Plan is to provide a vision and future development guidelines, including a Public Realm Strategy, for the Plan area that encompasses the areas zoned town centre in the Fingal Development Plan. See map below.

Fig. 1-5: Donabate Framework Plan Area

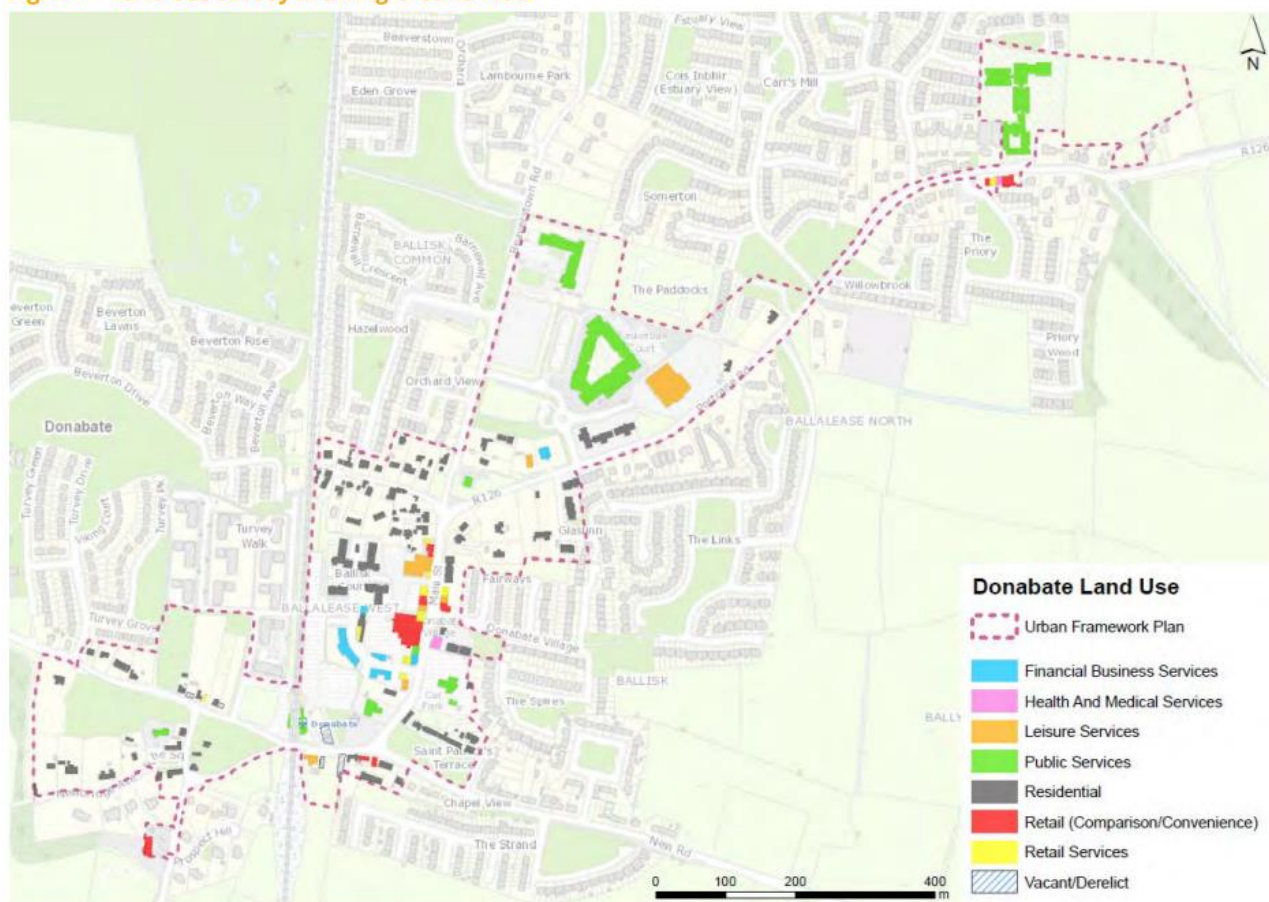


The strategic perspective for the development of the town centre is captured as follows in the Plan:

Connectivity, accessibility, public realm improvements, improved mix of units and variety of land uses, combined with a high quality of urban design and architecture are critical to the rejuvenation of the Main Street area. New retail, restaurant, business, and employment opportunities will be encouraged and developed, where possible, and improvements to existing tourist facilities and activities should be welcomed as a way of bringing new life and vitality to the Donabate area. (DFP p3)

The map below shows the sites where retail, leisure, private and public services are located in the Plan area.

Fig. 3-9: Land Use Survey Drawing Ground Floor



The public consultations during the development of the Plan indicated the following positive attributes (Strengths):

- Donabate is a safe and accessible area with a strong community spirit, with established community groups and adequate provision of community facilities.
- The proximity to the surrounding historic sites, walking routes, nature reserves and beaches was highly valued.

(DFP p13)

During the public consultations, the following needs (Challenges and Opportunities) were raised:

- Branding and marketing needed to highlight and showcase Donabate's assets.
- A need for greater diversification of uses and increased levels of planting/greening in the village.
- The desire for Donabate to become more welcoming to the pedestrian, with the introduction of additional traffic calming measures, increased provision of waste bins, CCTV, and lighting along main routes.
- An increase in the number of civic spaces within the village.
- Greater cohesion in shopfront designs.
- The refurbishment of derelict sites to help preserve and enhance the existing character of the village.
- The need for welcome signs along the main routes into the village, alongside the implementation of pathfinding signs displaying directions to all of the local historical sites and nature reserves.

(DFP p13)

- The widening of footpaths to make Donabate more accessible for the elderly or members of the community who may be visually impaired and have mobility issues.
- The need for new developments to consist of a high-quality design that incorporate sustainability and interact effectively with the streetscape.
- New developments should add to the appearance of the village, through the removal of on-street parking, increase in public open space and capping the heights of the developments to reflect the existing heights in the village.
- The importance of being able to walk and cycle to / from the village, the schools, train station from surrounding areas in a reasonable time and to be able to move through the village with ease.
- The need for an increase in the number of cycle paths along the main routes in and out of the village.
- The provision of more seating and seating areas along Main Street and the installation of murals/street art.
- Increased security presence at the train station to help prevent and deal with any anti-social behaviour.
- An increase in the provision of secure bicycle parking, equipped with bike boxes, implemented outside the train station.
- An increase in the provision of bus stops in the village, especially outside the main attractions and facilities in the area.
- An increase in the provision of designated parking for those with disabilities, as well as the addition of sound alerts to traffic crossings and ramps to footpaths for those with disabilities, mothers with prams, and the elderly.
- The desire to see Donabate village become more pedestrianised along with the potential to introduce a shared streets initiative such as what was implemented in Malahide.
- The need for additional off-street parking facilities if Donabate was to become more pedestrianised.
- More E.V. charging points be introduced.
- Traffic calming measures such as shared surfaces, speed bumps and speed cameras were also identified as a necessary addition to the village to help reduce the speed of traffic passing through the village.
- The lack of facilities for young people (teenagers).
- Additional meeting points and events for the young and older members of the local community.
- The lack of recreational services such as bars and restaurants in the village.
- A remote working hub in the village could help the creation of indigenous businesses in Donabate.
- The need to link Newbridge Demesne to Donabate Village.
- The need for a civic / cultural / arts centre with performance space.
- A skatepark for youth.
- Stepdown housing for older residents.
- The need to retain and enhance heritage features.

(DFP p14)

The conclusion from the public consultations was that the Framework Plan should provide “a coherent, holistic approach to improvements to the public realm in the town.” (DFP p16)

The Plan contains several design proposals to guide the upgrading of the public realm, including:

- The Donabate Village Green/Chapel View Town Park (DFP p21)
- Square at St Patrick’s Church (DFP p22)
- The Hand Pocket Park (DFP p24)
- The Educate Together site (DFP p25)
- The Community Centre site (DFP p26)

The Plan also proposes several pedestrian and cycling connections across the village. The Plan also contains design proposals to improve street frontages such as Smyth's pub, The Square and Hearse Road.

The Framework Plan contains the following strategy objectives for improving the public realm in the town centre:

- To create a pedestrian priority town centre, and to define places where people of all ages can meet, and places to enhance their experience of the town.
- To redefine the existing public spaces that can play host to a wide range of one-off and regular events, including incidental play spaces for children, age-appropriate spaces for teenagers to enjoy, places for farmers' markets, garden festivals, cultural festivals, parades and other community gatherings and places that are accessible and inclusive.
- To enhance the setting and visual character of existing structures and landmarks that will consolidate the sense of place and the character of the town.
- To create the potential to build on existing established uses, while also attracting new business sectors, supporting local people to develop new business opportunities.
- To promote environmental sustainability through the appropriate use of materials, the designation of spaces as potential biodiversity zones, and the use of sustainable drainage systems where possible.
- To have a strong pedestrian focus, with convenient, direct, and safe access throughout the centre while not excluding vehicular traffic to be able to access and exit the town centre car parking facilities.

(DFP p17)

The following analysis of the Main Street is captured in this image compilation below (DFP p34):

Fig. 8-3: Analysis of Main Street



The current condition of the Main Street is described as follows:

There are wide vehicular blacktop carriageways and footpaths that are narrow in places, and interspersed with various grass verges and planted areas, street trees, bollards, and misplaced street furniture. The generous carriageway width encourages cars to travel quickly and discourages ease of pedestrian movement across the street (DFP n34)

The proposed improvements are captured in the following design (DFP p35):

Fig. 8-6: Improvements to Main Street



However, these improvements can only be made after a Transport Appraisal for the Main Street and adjoining streets have been conducted and the extent of the works required have been estimated.

D. Demographic Profile of Donabate

Data derived from CSO's 2022 Small Area Population Statistics using the Towns layer, unless otherwise stated.

1. Population growth

The population of Donabate grew from 7,443 in 2016 to 9,669 in 2022, an intercensal increase of 29.9%. See table below.

Year	Female	Male	Total
2016	3,775	3,668	7,443
2022	4,917	4,752	9,669

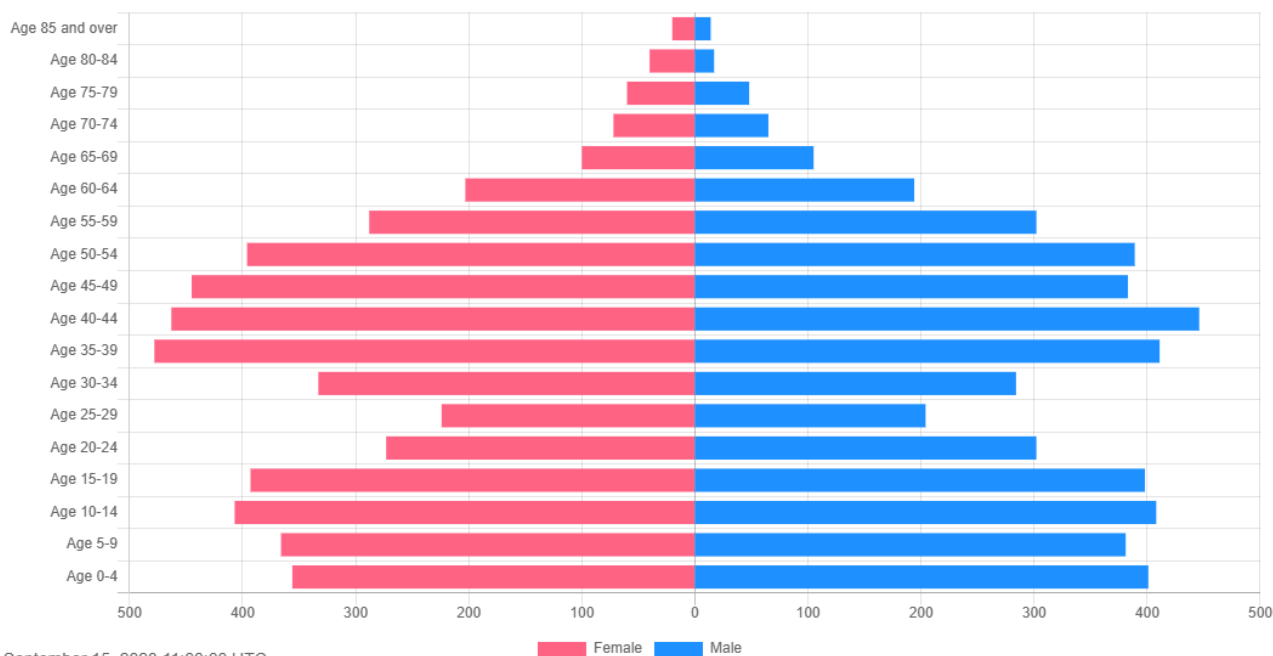
2. Age profile

The change in the age profile from 2016 to 2022 is characterised by the maturing of families. The proportion of the age group of children aged younger than 5 years old and the cohort of 5 to 14 years old decreased in 2022 compared to 2016, while the cohort of 15 to 24 years old increased. Similarly, the cohort 25 to 49 years old decreased, while the cohort 50 to 64 years old increased. See the table below.

Age Group	2016	%	2022	%
Younger than 5 years old	641	8.6	757	7.8
5 to 14 years old	1,494	20.1	1,562	16.2
15 to 24 years old	927	12.5	1,366	14.1
25 to 49 years old	2,981	40.0	3,671	38.0
50 to 64 years old	1,073	14.4	1,772	18.3
65 years and older	327	4.4	541	5.6
Total	7,443		9,669	

This is evident in the population pyramids of the town in 2022 and 2016. See below.

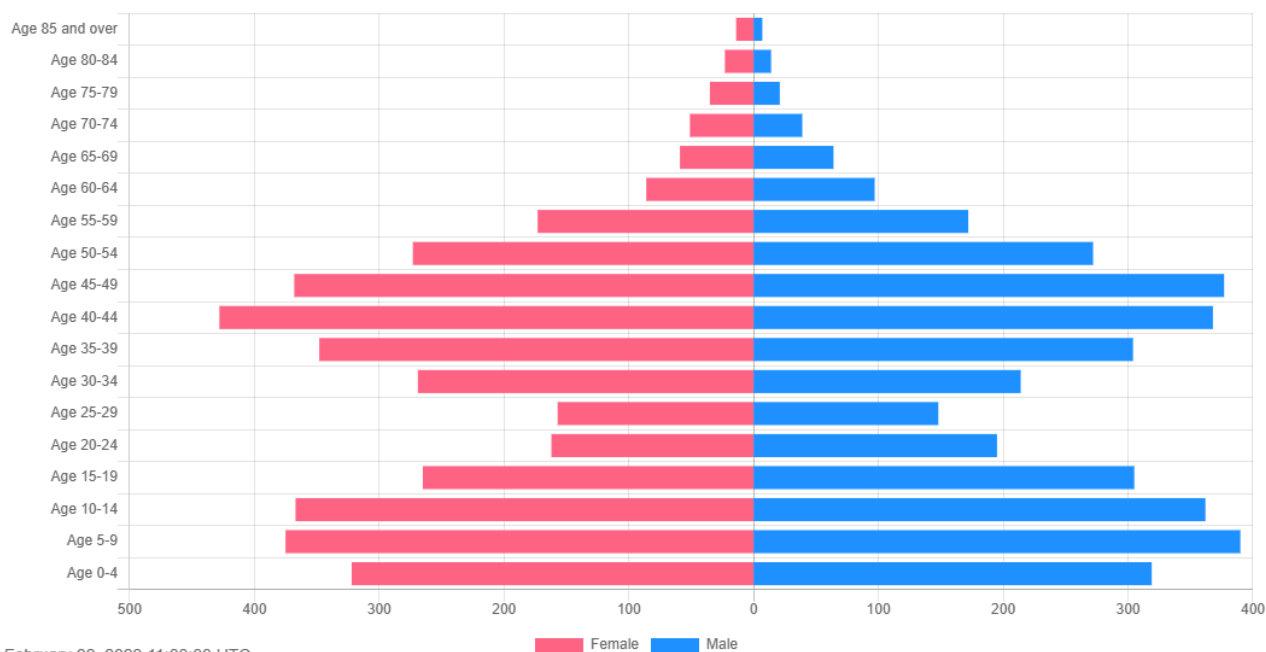
Population pyramid 2022:



September 15, 2023 11:00:00 UTC

© Central Statistics Office, Ireland
<https://data.cso.ie/table/SAP2022T1T1ATOWN22>

Population pyramid 2016:

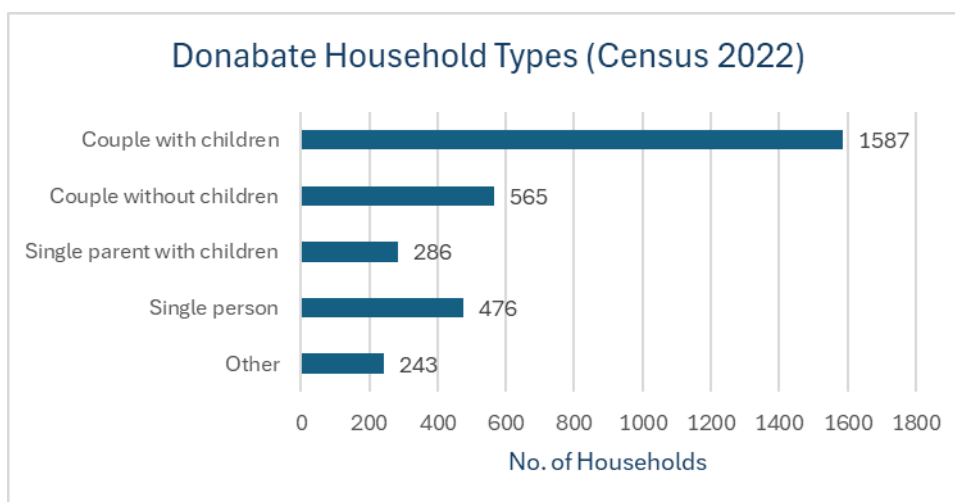


© Central Statistics Office, Ireland
<https://data.cso.ie/table/SAP2016T1T1ASET>

3. Households

There are 3,157 households in Donabate. In 2016 there were 2,414 households.

62.2% of households include children (1,963) in 2022, while in 2016 the percentage of households with children were 64.0% (1,545).

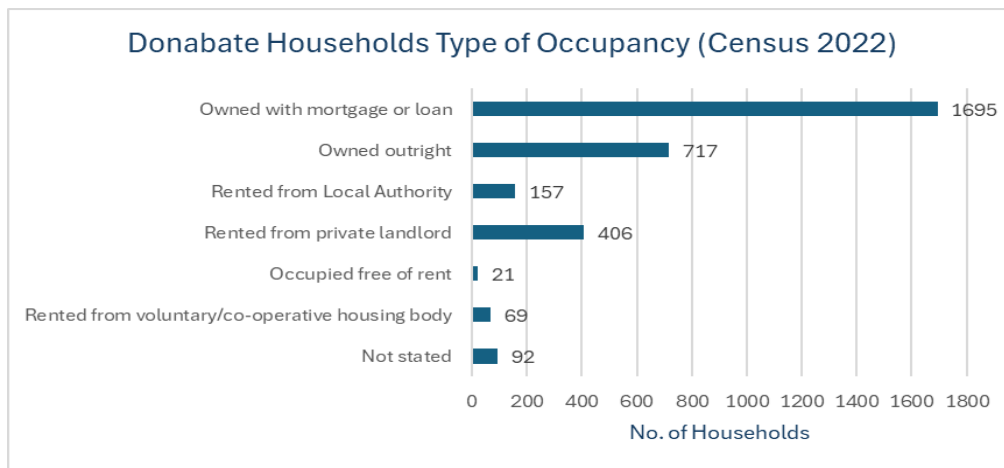


76.4% of households own their homes.

12.9% of households rent their homes from a private landlord.

5.0% of households rent their homes from the local authority.

See chart below for a breakdown of type of occupancy in Donabate.



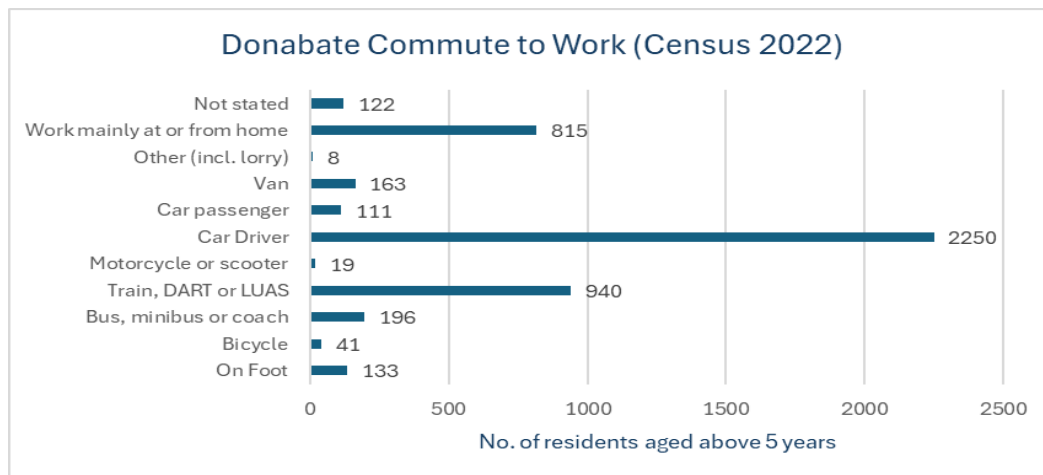
4. Travel patterns

49.2% of Donabate residents travel to work by car.

23.7% of Donabate residents use public transport to commute to work.

17.0% of Donabate residents work from home.

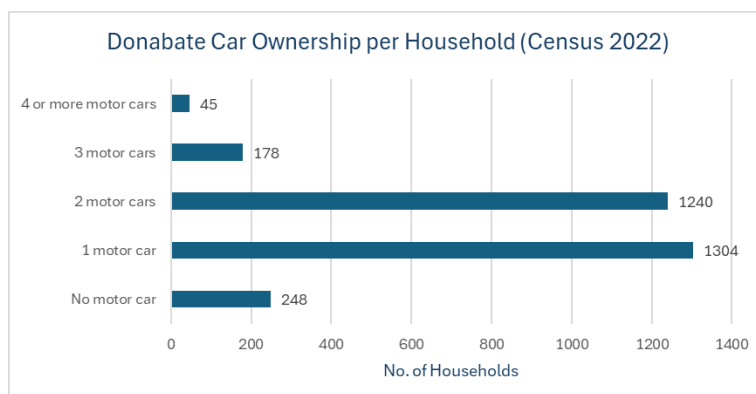
See chart below for breakdown of modes of transport to work for residents of Donabate.



41.1% of households in Donabate own two cars (42.2% in 2016).

51.5% of households in Donabate own less than 2 cars (52.9% in 2016).

7.4% of households in Donabate own more than 2 cars (4.9% in 2016).

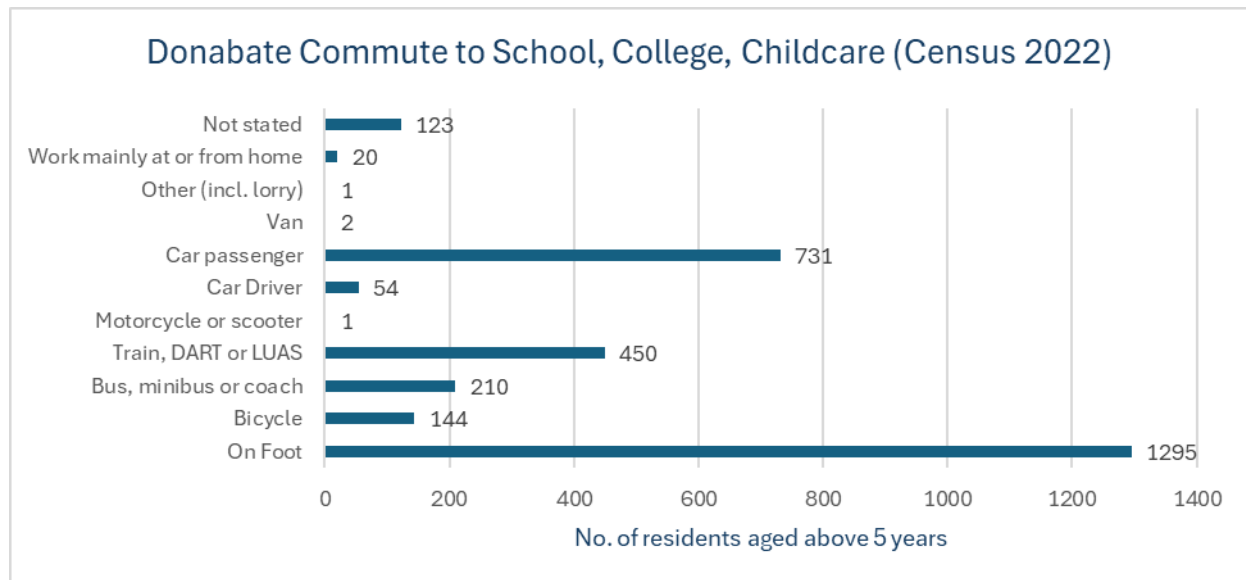


47.5% of Donabate residents go to school, college or childcare by foot or bicycle.

25.9% of Donabate residents travel to school, college, or childcare by car.

21.8% of Donabate residents go to school, college or childcare by bus or train.

See chart below for breakdown of modes of transport to school, college, or childcare for residents of Donabate.



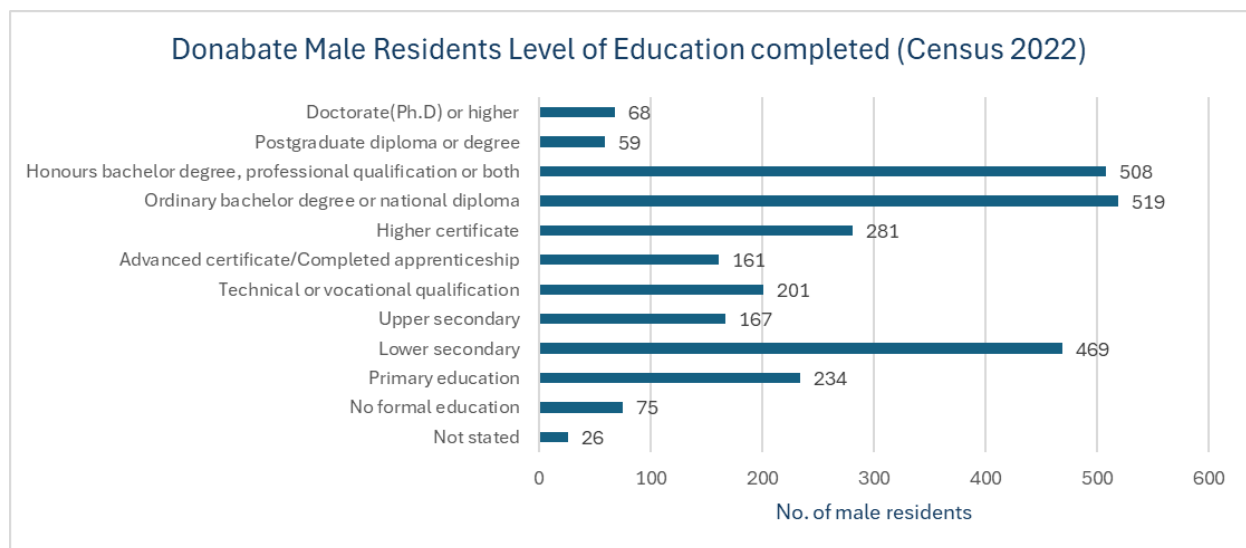
5. Education

28.4% of male residents in Donabate completed a level of education lower than Leaving Cert equivalent.

23.4% of male residents in Donabate completed a vocational qualification including apprenticeship.

42.1% of male residents in Donabate completed a third level degree or higher.

See chart below for a breakdown of the levels of education completed by male residents of Donabate.

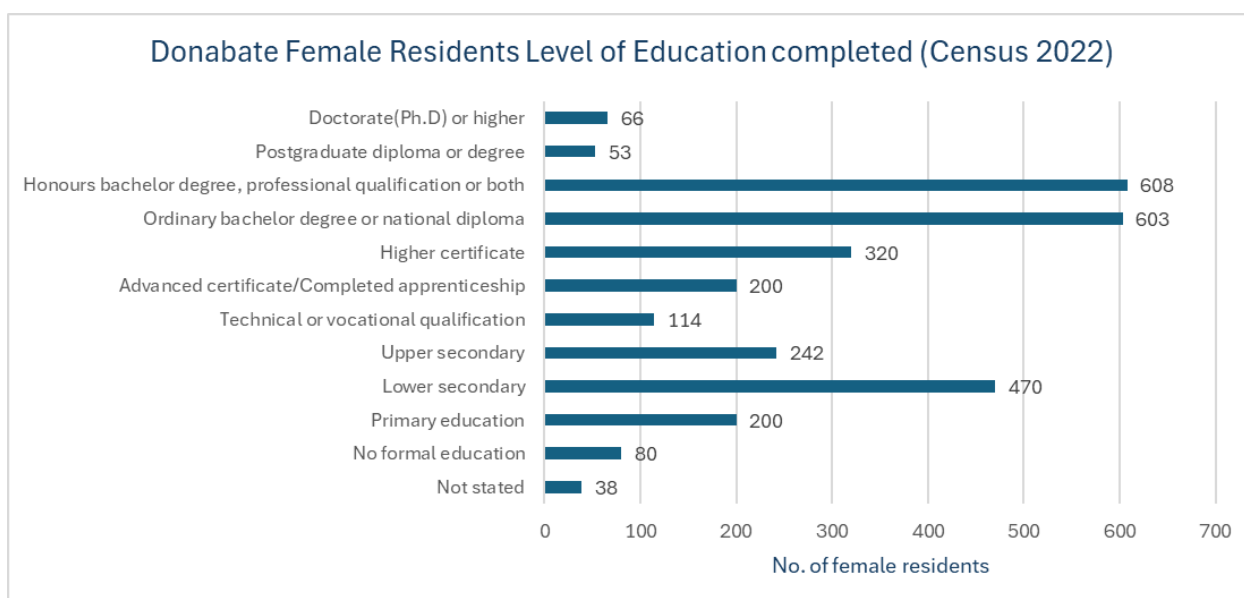


25.4% of female residents in Donabate completed a level of education lower than Leaving Cert equivalent.

21.4% of female residents in Donabate completed a vocational qualification including apprenticeship.

45.0% of female residents in Donabate completed a third level degree or higher.

See chart below for a breakdown of the levels of education completed by female residents of Donabate.



6. Economic status

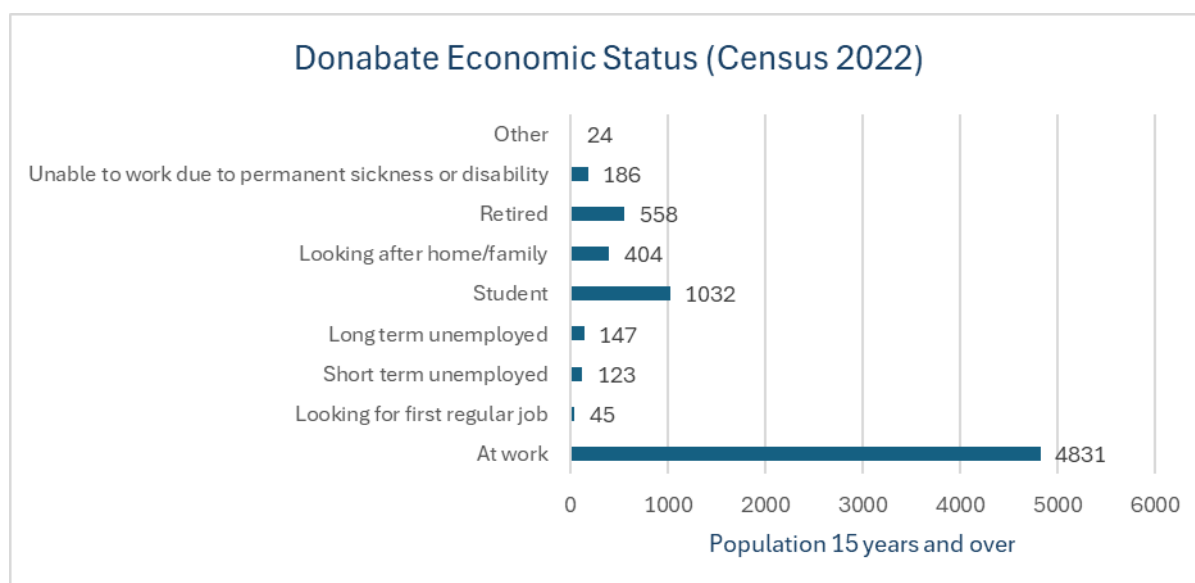
65.7% of Donabate residents over the age of 15 are at work.

14.0% of Donabate residents over the age of 15 are students.

7.6% of Donabate residents over the age of 15 are retired.

5.5% of Donabate residents over the age of 15 look after the home.

3.7% of Donabate residents over the age of 15 are unemployed.



7. Industry

The industry sectors in which the largest proportion of male residents of Donabate work are Commerce and Trade (31.7%), Transport and Communications (17.5%) and Professional Services (14.3%). See table below.

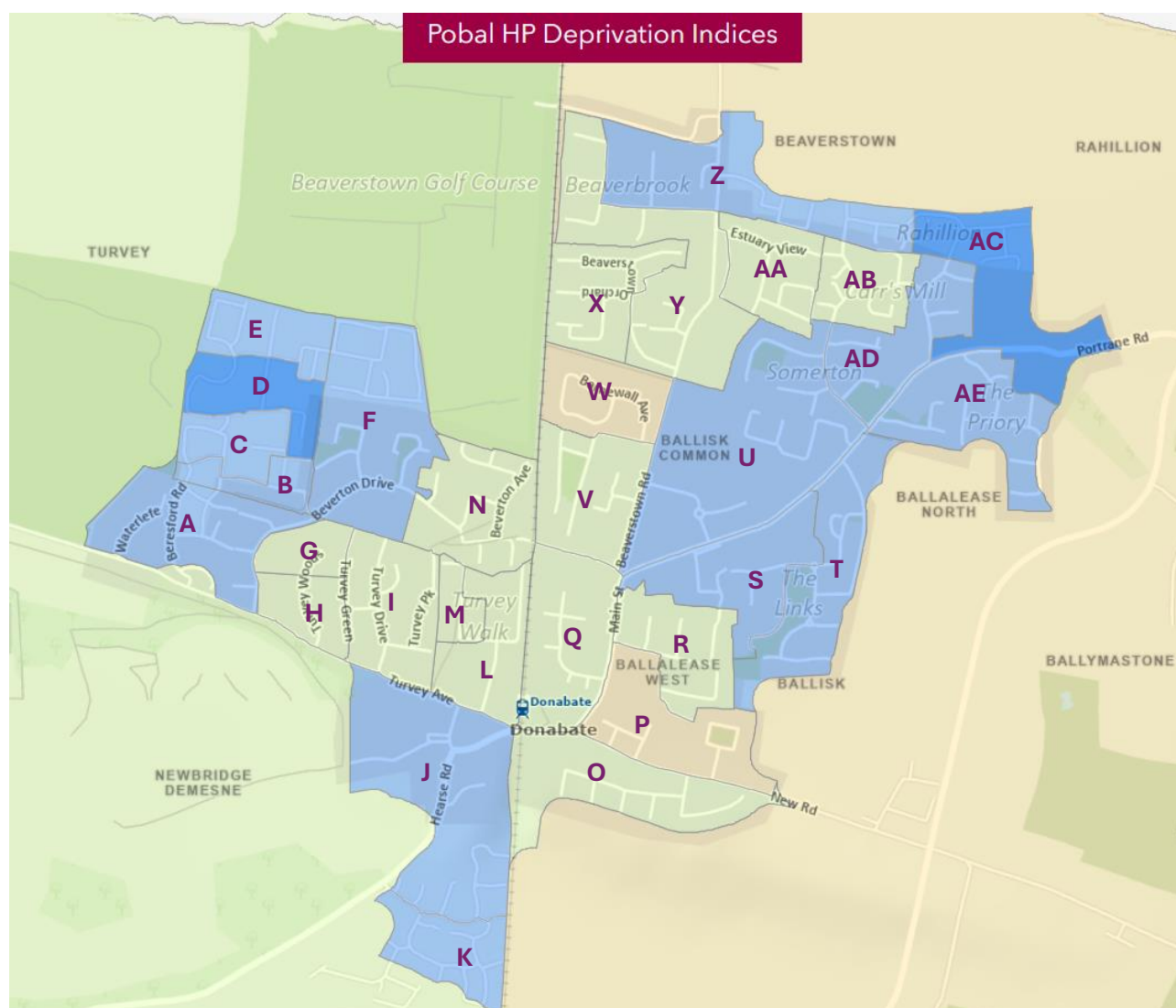
The industry sectors in which the largest proportion of female residents of Donabate work are Professional Services (37.1%), Commerce and Trade (27.3%) and Other* (10.5%). See table below.

* Note: Often the category of 'Other' references freelancers, self-employed and people getting paid for work but not employed. Typically, software developers and people performing work in the creative industries fall in this category.

Industry	Male	%	Female	%	Total	%
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	11	0.4	2	0.1	13	0.3
Building and construction	167	6.6	22	1.0	189	3.9
Manufacturing industries	226	9.0	128	5.5	354	7.3
Commerce and trade	799	31.7	629	27.3	1,428	29.6
Transport and communications	537	21.3	240	10.4	777	16.1
Public administration	162	6.4	187	8.1	349	7.2
Professional services	360	14.3	857	37.1	1,217	25.2
Other	262	10.4	242	10.5	504	10.4
Total	2,524		2,307		4,831	

8. Level of Affluence and Deprivation

The map below is from [Pobal](#) based on the HP Deprivation Index showing relative affluence/deprivation in Balrothery. The small areas are numbered from A to AE with corresponding data below for each small area.



A. Small Area ID: 267065011

Pobal HP Description 2022	Affluent
Population 2022	411
Age Dependency Ratio 2022 %	34.79
Lone Parent Ratio 2022 %	4.69
Prop. Primary Education Only 2022 %	4.13
Proportion at Third Level Education 2022 %	68.81
Unemployment Rate - Male	3.67
Unemployment Rate - Female	3.23

B. Small Area ID: 267065021/01

Pobal HP Description 2022	Affluent
Population 2022	201
Age Dependency Ratio 2022 %	36.32
Lone Parent Ratio 2022 %	7.50
Prop. Primary Education Only 2022 %	2.83
Proportion at Third Level Education 2022 %	54.72
Unemployment Rate - Male	1.96
Unemployment Rate - Female	2.00

C. Small Area ID: 267065021/02

Pobal HP Description 2022	Affluent
Population 2022	246
Age Dependency Ratio 2022 %	39.02
Lone Parent Ratio 2022 %	0.00
Prop. Primary Education Only 2022 %	4.55
Proportion at Third Level Education 2022 %	65.91
Unemployment Rate - Male	4.55
Unemployment Rate - Female	7.27

D. Small Area ID: 267065021/03

Pobal HP Description 2022	Very Affluent
Population 2022	339
Age Dependency Ratio 2022 %	39.53
Lone Parent Ratio 2022 %	0.00
Prop. Primary Education Only 2022 %	1.09
Proportion at Third Level Education 2022 %	87.43
Unemployment Rate - Male	2.06
Unemployment Rate - Female	1.12

E. Small Area ID: 267065021/04

Pobal HP Description 2022	Affluent
Population 2022	208
Age Dependency Ratio 2022 %	33.17
Lone Parent Ratio 2022 %	2.33
Prop. Primary Education Only 2022 %	0.00
Proportion at Third Level Education 2022 %	76.80
Unemployment Rate - Male	3.17
Unemployment Rate - Female	6.35

F. Small Area ID: 267065021

Pobal HP Description 2022	Affluent
Population 2022	409
Age Dependency Ratio 2022 %	18.83
Lone Parent Ratio 2022 %	4.26
Prop. Primary Education Only 2022 %	2.38
Proportion at Third Level Education 2022 %	69.05
Unemployment Rate - Male	2.34
Unemployment Rate - Female	7.14

G. Small Area ID: 267065017

Pobal HP Description 2022	Marginally Above Average
Population 2022	103
Age Dependency Ratio 2022 %	20.39
Lone Parent Ratio 2022 %	100.00
Prop. Primary Education Only 2022 %	14.29
Proportion at Third Level Education 2022 %	46.43
Unemployment Rate - Male	6.06
Unemployment Rate - Female	6.25

H. Small Area ID: 267065012

Pobal HP Description 2022	Marginally Above Average
Population 2022	133
Age Dependency Ratio 2022 %	24.06
Lone Parent Ratio 2022 %	30.00
Prop. Primary Education Only 2022 %	8.25
Proportion at Third Level Education 2022 %	50.52
Unemployment Rate - Male	11.63
Unemployment Rate - Female	12.82

I. Small Area ID: 267065002

Pobal HP Description 2022	Marginally Above Average
Population 2022	357
Age Dependency Ratio 2022 %	25.21
Lone Parent Ratio 2022 %	11.76
Prop. Primary Education Only 2022 %	5.33
Proportion at Third Level Education 2022 %	50.41
Unemployment Rate - Male	6.38
Unemployment Rate - Female	7.07

J. Small Area ID: 267065001/01

Pobal HP Description 2022	Affluent
Population 2022	275
Age Dependency Ratio 2022 %	24.00
Lone Parent Ratio 2022 %	12.20
Prop. Primary Education Only 2022 %	1.13
Proportion at Third Level Education 2022 %	70.62
Unemployment Rate - Male	6.82
Unemployment Rate - Female	10.26

K. Small Area ID: 267065001/02

Pobal HP Description 2022	Affluent
Population 2022	369
Age Dependency Ratio 2022 %	31.98
Lone Parent Ratio 2022 %	20.97
Prop. Primary Education Only 2022 %	4.00
Proportion at Third Level Education 2022 %	68.00
Unemployment Rate - Male	6.45
Unemployment Rate - Female	16.09

L. Small Area ID: 267065001/01

Pobal HP Description 2022	Marginally Above Average
Population 2022	280
Age Dependency Ratio 2022 %	29.64
Lone Parent Ratio 2022 %	46.81
Prop. Primary Education Only 2022 %	5.03
Proportion at Third Level Education 2022 %	50.31
Unemployment Rate - Male	5.48
Unemployment Rate - Female	15.29

M. Small Area ID: 267065014

Pobal HP Description 2022	Marginally Above Average
Population 2022	195
Age Dependency Ratio 2022 %	22.05
Lone Parent Ratio 2022 %	18.75
Prop. Primary Education Only 2022 %	0.00
Proportion at Third Level Education 2022 %	62.93
Unemployment Rate - Male	7.79
Unemployment Rate - Female	7.02

N. Small Area ID: 267065016

Pobal HP Description 2022	Marginally Above Average
Population 2022	384
Age Dependency Ratio 2022 %	28.65
Lone Parent Ratio 2022 %	7.14
Prop. Primary Education Only 2022 %	4.02
Proportion at Third Level Education 2022 %	48.21
Unemployment Rate - Male	7.41
Unemployment Rate - Female	5.56

O. Small Area ID: 267065009

Pobal HP Description 2022	Marginally Above Average
Population 2022	386
Age Dependency Ratio 2022 %	26.94
Lone Parent Ratio 2022 %	25.00
Prop. Primary Education Only 2022 %	4.71
Proportion at Third Level Education 2022 %	47.45
Unemployment Rate - Male	10.00
Unemployment Rate - Female	10.89

P. Small Area ID: 267065005

Pobal HP Description 2022	Marginally Below Average
Population 2022	194
Age Dependency Ratio 2022 %	34.54
Lone Parent Ratio 2022 %	50.00
Prop. Primary Education Only 2022 %	16.31
Proportion at Third Level Education 2022 %	36.88
Unemployment Rate - Male	8.16
Unemployment Rate - Female	8.33

Q. Small Area ID: 267065003

Pobal HP Description 2022	Marginally Above Average
Population 2022	237
Age Dependency Ratio 2022 %	32.07
Lone Parent Ratio 2022 %	28.00
Prop. Primary Education Only 2022 %	7.35
Proportion at Third Level Education 2022 %	47.06
Unemployment Rate - Male	6.35
Unemployment Rate - Female	2.99

R. Small Area ID: 267065004

Pobal HP Description 2022	Marginally Above Average
Population 2022	283
Age Dependency Ratio 2022 %	30.39
Lone Parent Ratio 2022 %	8.00
Prop. Primary Education Only 2022 %	5.37
Proportion at Third Level Education 2022 %	49.76
Unemployment Rate - Male	2.53
Unemployment Rate - Female	6.67

S. Small Area ID: 267065015

Pobal HP Description 2022	Affluent
Population 2022	551
Age Dependency Ratio 2022 %	33.94
Lone Parent Ratio 2022 %	31.03
Prop. Primary Education Only 2022 %	3.70
Proportion at Third Level Education 2022 %	56.79
Unemployment Rate - Male	3.97
Unemployment Rate - Female	7.50

T. Small Area ID: 267065007

Pobal HP Description 2022	Affluent
Population 2022	421
Age Dependency Ratio 2022 %	27.55
Lone Parent Ratio 2022 %	3.85
Prop. Primary Education Only 2022 %	2.09
Proportion at Third Level Education 2022 %	59.83
Unemployment Rate - Male	4.10
Unemployment Rate - Female	5.38

U. Small Area ID: 267065024

Pobal HP Description 2022	Affluent
Population 2022	387
Age Dependency Ratio 2022 %	25.06
Lone Parent Ratio 2022 %	1.92
Prop. Primary Education Only 2022 %	5.31
Proportion at Third Level Education 2022 %	67.70
Unemployment Rate - Male	5.36
Unemployment Rate - Female	2.97

V. Small Area ID: 267065025

Pobal HP Description 2022	Marginally Above Average
Population 2022	332
Age Dependency Ratio 2022 %	27.11
Lone Parent Ratio 2022 %	10.00
Prop. Primary Education Only 2022 %	4.55
Proportion at Third Level Education 2022 %	47.98
Unemployment Rate - Male	4.21
Unemployment Rate - Female	6.67

W. Small Area ID: 267065026

Pobal HP Description 2022	Marginally Below Average
Population 2022	224
Age Dependency Ratio 2022 %	22.77
Lone Parent Ratio 2022 %	43.48
Prop. Primary Education Only 2022 %	4.32
Proportion at Third Level Education 2022 %	25.18
Unemployment Rate - Male	11.11
Unemployment Rate - Female	9.09

X. Small Area ID: 267065019

Pobal HP Description 2022	Marginally Above Average
Population 2022	304
Age Dependency Ratio 2022 %	27.96
Lone Parent Ratio 2022 %	12.12
Prop. Primary Education Only 2022 %	3.61
Proportion at Third Level Education 2022 %	46.91
Unemployment Rate - Male	9.64
Unemployment Rate - Female	4.88

Y. Small Area ID: 267065023/02

Pobal HP Description 2022	Marginally Above Average
Population 2022	298
Age Dependency Ratio 2022 %	30.20
Lone Parent Ratio 2022 %	5.71
Prop. Primary Education Only 2022 %	5.00
Proportion at Third Level Education 2022 %	63.89
Unemployment Rate - Male	6.25
Unemployment Rate - Female	10.29

Z. Small Area ID: 267065023/03

Pobal HP Description 2022	Affluent
Population 2022	346
Age Dependency Ratio 2022 %	34.68
Lone Parent Ratio 2022 %	11.11
Prop. Primary Education Only 2022 %	0.52
Proportion at Third Level Education 2022 %	74.23
Unemployment Rate - Male	8.60
Unemployment Rate - Female	4.82

AA. Small Area ID: 267065018

Pobal HP Description 2022	Marginally Above Average
Population 2022	358
Age Dependency Ratio 2022 %	31.84
Lone Parent Ratio 2022 %	3.92
Prop. Primary Education Only 2022 %	2.04
Proportion at Third Level Education 2022 %	60.71
Unemployment Rate - Male	7.69
Unemployment Rate - Female	4.44

AB. Small Area ID: 267065023/03

Pobal HP Description 2022	Marginally Above Average
Population 2022	330
Age Dependency Ratio 2022 %	31.82
Lone Parent Ratio 2022 %	6.00
Prop. Primary Education Only 2022 %	5.00
Proportion at Third Level Education 2022 %	55.00
Unemployment Rate - Male	2.30
Unemployment Rate - Female	8.64

AC. Small Area ID: 267065006/01

Pobal HP Description 2022	Very Affluent
Population 2022	304
Age Dependency Ratio 2022 %	38.49
Lone Parent Ratio 2022 %	3.17
Prop. Primary Education Only 2022 %	0.00
Proportion at Third Level Education 2022 %	82.25
Unemployment Rate - Male	0.00
Unemployment Rate - Female	3.66

AD. Small Area ID: 267065022

Pobal HP Description 2022	Affluent
Population 2022	403
Age Dependency Ratio 2022 %	30.77
Lone Parent Ratio 2022 %	7.41
Prop. Primary Education Only 2022 %	1.42
Proportion at Third Level Education 2022 %	63.51
Unemployment Rate - Male	6.06
Unemployment Rate - Female	2.15

Pobal HP Description 2022	Affluent
Population 2022	401
Age Dependency Ratio 2022 %	18.95
Lone Parent Ratio 2022 %	14.29
Prop. Primary Education Only 2022 %	1.96
Proportion at Third Level Education 2022 %	56.47
Unemployment Rate - Male	6.14
Unemployment Rate - Female	5.04

Appendix B: Outputs of Donabate Place Analysis Workshop

The following pictures shows the findings from the group discussions held at the Place Analysis Workshop on 12 November 2024.

Sociability



Uses and Activities



Access and Linkages



Comfort and Image



Appendix C: Donabate TCF Health Check Action Plan

Objective 1: To support the improvement of the public realm in the town centre with the implementation of the Donabate Framework Plan

No	Draft Action	Intended result/outcome	Lead partner	Key partners	Resources	Timeline
1.1	Support the initiatives of Fingal County Council to implement the Donabate Framework Plan	Improvement of the public realm in the town centre as envisaged in the Donabate Framework Plan.	Donabate Town Team	FCC		
1.2	Assist where possible with the communication of the impending changes that will result from the implementation of the Donabate Framework Plan.	A broader understanding and appreciation of the positive changes to Donabate Town Centre.	Donabate Town Team	FCC		
1.3	Assist Fingal County Council with feedback on the testing of initiatives to implement the Donabate Framework Plan and on ideas to tweak or improve initiatives.	Constructive feedback from key local stakeholders.	Donabate Town Team	FCC		

Objective 2: To strengthen the Donabate town centre as the core of a fast growing town

No	Action	Intended result/outcome	Lead partner	Key partners	Resources	Timeline
2.1	Improve the pedestrian and cycling connectivity of the existing village centre with the train station including new pedestrian/cycling bridge across the train lines.	New signage, improved and new direct footpaths, more pedestrian crossings and bridges.	Donabate Town Team	FCC, Irish Rail		
2.2	Promote new retail investment in the areas designated as town centre in the Fingal Development Plan.	Expansion of the town centre to offer more retail, professional services, other services and leisure activities.	Donabate Town Team	FCC		
2.3	Invite proposals for the re-use of derelict spaces in and around the village centre include temporary meanwhile uses.	New activities such as markets, meeting spaces, play areas and art displays/installations.	Donabate Town Team	FCC		
2.4	Engage with landowners (private and public) to secure spaces for community use in and close to the town centre.	More space for community activities in the town centre.	Donabate Town Team	Local Stakeholders		
2.5	Increase traffic calming measures to slow down car traffic in the village centre.	Safer roads for cyclists and pedestrians.	Donabate Town Team	FCC		
2.6	Install a large display with a map of the town.	Centrally located displaying details of retail, services, amenities, tourism & heritage together with QR code for more town information.	Donabate Town Team	FCC, LEADER		
2.7	Create an official general information app and/or social media account to showcase the town.	Creation of a general information app and/or social media account to display information regarding sports clubs, social groups, community organisations, etc.	Donabate Town Team	Local Stakeholders		

Objective 3: To increase community engagement with activities in the public spaces of the town centre of Donabate

No	Action	Intended result/outcome	Lead partner	Key partners	Resources	Timeline
3.1	Improve the seating and amenity in the green open spaces in and around the town centre, specifically around St Patrick's.	Better amenities in public spaces to create conditions for better usage. Use of recycled materials to produce seating.	Donabate Town Team	FCC		
3.2	Facilitate more activities on the green open spaces of St Patrick's with wide-ranging and regular community usage.	More activities such as a range of small community and family-oriented event days, arts and crafts exhibitions, quirky-themed and playful events.	Donabate Town Team	FCC, LEADER		
3.3	Explore the hosting of annual themed street festivals in the town centre.	Expanded use of streets as public spaces to foster and build on Donabate's village identity.	Donabate Town Team	FCC		
3.4	Explore use of car parking spaces at the community centre for a meeting space for parents at the times between school pick-ups and children's activities.	A safe space for parents to meet up as they wait for their children.	Donabate Town Team	Local Stakeholders		
3.5	Encourage businesses in the town centre to host or sponsor community cultural events.	More engagement of businesses in the community events in town centre.	Donabate Town Team	Local Stakeholders		

