

SWORDS MAIN STREET TRANSFORMATION | FAQ

June 2026

Project Vision & Benefits

What is the overall vision of the Main Street Transformation project?

The vision is for a vibrant Main Street that fosters community, supports local business, celebrates heritage and enhances connectivity, creating a welcoming space for all in the heart of Swords.

Why is the project happening?

The transformation of Swords Main Street and its local laneways was a key part of the [Sustainable Swords Strategy](#), published in 2022. This place-making strategy was the result of two years of consultation and work with the community. It aims to make Swords a better place to live, work and visit, positioning it for the future as a more attractive, vibrant, and resilient town. FCC is now appointing a team to bring the proposals from Sustainable Swords into a design that works for the town, its visitors, businesses and inhabitants.

What did the Sustainable Swords Strategy say about the Main Street?

The consultation for Sustainable Swords heard about issues such as:

- Broken, uneven, and cluttered footpaths.
- Lack of safe crossing points.
- Limited green spaces and places to sit.
- Traffic congestion.
- Lack of facilities in local laneways.

These issues are being considered as part of the Main Street Transformation project.

What measures did the Sustainable Swords Strategy propose for the Main Street?

The Sustainable Swords Strategy made proposals which aim to make Main Street safer, greener, and more inviting for both residents and visitors, encouraging them to stay and shop. Suggestions which are now being considered in the Main Street project design include:

- Wider footpaths with safer crossings.
- More green space and biodiverse planting.
- Extra benches and outdoor seating.
- Play areas for children.
- More effective bus stops.
- Increased accessible parking.

- More inviting laneway spaces leading onto Main Street.
- Accessible urban design so everyone can get around easily, regardless of their abilities.

What did the Sustainable Swords Strategy propose for Liveable Laneways?

Swords Main Street is connected westwards to the River Ward and eastwards to off-street parking areas by a series of laneways that add considerably to the character of the town centre. The purpose of the Liveable Laneways project is to:

- Provide accessible and convenient pedestrian access.
- Facilitate greater footfall, vibrancy, activity and investment in the town centre.
- Enhance the perception of safety, making the laneways more welcoming and attractive for all.
- Develop a strengthened sense of community.

Which laneways will be part of the Liveable Laneways Project?

Chapel Lane, Mainscourt, Rivermall, Cock Tavern Lane, St. Colmcille's Court, Malahide Road.

Is the Main Street being pedestrianised?

No, there are no sections of Main Street being pedestrianised.

What benefits will the project bring for businesses?

In a Sustainable Swords Business Survey, the quality of public realm, accessibility, and connectivity were cited as issues facing businesses. Aims of the project include improving the attractiveness of Main Street and improving the vitality of the street; attracting additional footfall onto Main Street and improving the public space to make it more likely that people will dwell longer and spend money in local businesses.

Are there examples of similar projects improving business performance elsewhere?

The project team has studied a number of other successful projects such as the transformation of Blackrock Main Street, and undertook visit to Athlone to learn about the Athlone Town Centre Regeneration & Enhancement Project. Preliminary findings have seen an increase in dwell time and footfall, which makes units more attractive to retailers. Following the project, there has been a significant increase in planning permissions sought in the area with a number of vacant units coming back into use.

Car Parking, Traffic & Public Transport

Will any car parking be removed from Main Street and why?

The layout of parking spaces on the Main Street and provision of parking in the wider area is being evaluated. Car parking studies are being carried out to ensure that any potential removal of parking on Main Street would not put excessive pressure on parking in the area.

Will there Accessible Parking spaces be provided on Main Street?

There will be an increase in the number of Accessible Parking spaces on the Main Street and its surrounds. The optimal location for these spaces will be decided in collaboration with key stakeholders.

Will Loading Bays be retained?

The number of loading bays on Main Street will be maintained, with precise location informed by feedback during consultation activities.

Are any traffic changes proposed for Main Street?

As recommended by the Sustainable Swords Strategy, a one-way system is being considered for general traffic travelling north on Main Street towards Swords Castle, while the street would remain two-way for buses, cyclists and emergency vehicles. This change would reduce south-bound through-traffic on Main Street helping rebalance the street from a vehicle-dominated corridor towards a place-focused environment, making it calmer and safer for pedestrians and cyclists and improving the attractiveness of the town centre. It will also help deliver faster journey times for buses. This proposal will be further considered as part of the design stage to assess the impact of this on Swords.

Will there be a cycle lane on Main Street?

A range of design options are currently being assessed to determine how best to accommodate cycling on and around Main Street as part of the wider Swords cycling network.

Will there be any changes to the bus routes and stops on Main Street?

All buses will still be able to travel in both directions along Main Street (north and south). The number of bus stops on Main Street will remain the same, and an additional bus stop at the south of Main Street on the North bound lane will be considered. There may be minor changes to the exact location of bus stops to accommodate the revised landscaping and street design.

How is this being coordinated with other transport projects happening around Swords?

Main Street is being planned with consideration to:

- MetroLink
- R132 Connectivity Project
- Bus Connects

Projects such as Seatown Road Active Travel Scheme and the St. Colmcille's Quiet Way will enhance connectivity for cyclists into Main Street.

This will prepare Swords Main Street to become an easily accessible and inviting place to visit and spend time in.

Trees, Planting and Biodiversity

Will there be additional planting on Main Street?

There will be an overall increase in green space and biodiverse planting as part of the proposals for Main Street. Landscape architects are a key part of the project design team. Trees, planters, better pavements, seating and play elements are being looked at as part of the landscape design, as well as Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS).

What's the plan for the existing trees on Main Street?

An arboriculture assessment (tree survey) is being undertaken to determine the condition of existing trees on main street. The landscape design will consider if any existing trees need to be removed as part of the public realm upgrades as some current trees are causing damage to the surrounding footpaths. Any tree removal will be carefully assessed as part of a wider landscape strategy that seeks to achieve a net gain in tree planting, enhanced biodiversity, and a greener town centre environment.

Project Timeline

When will the Main Street and Laneways project happen?

Currently, project designs are being developed and project studies being carried out.

A Non-Statutory Public Engagement will be held in Summer 2026. There will be a public drop-in information day on 8 July and a survey will be open to the public on FCC online consultation portal between 19th June – 31st July. Additionally, a series of targeted stakeholder workshops will be held in June 2026.

There will be a stakeholder update in before the end of 2026.

It is the intention to apply for planning permission for the scheme in 2027.

Will construction be disruptive? Will the whole street be closed off?

The construction will be done in sections and phases, allowing businesses to remain open and ensuring access to all.

How can I find out more?

Fingal County Council will be engaging with the public in a number of ways over the coming weeks; there will be targeted workshops with key stakeholders and local community held in late June, and a public drop-in information day will be held on 8 July in Carnegie Library from 4-7pm.

How can I share my feedback on the vision for Main Street?

There are a number of ways to share feedback on your hopes and concerns for the project; by attending the public Drop-in Information Day, via the online feedback form on the FCC consultation portal, and/or by registering and attending one of the targeted workshops if it applies to you.

What happens next?

The feedback gathered during this Public Engagement period will inform the designs for Main Street and the local laneways which will be developed in 2026.

As part of the planning process in 2027, a statutory consultation will be held inviting further input from the public. Once planning permission is received, works on Main Street may commence in 2028.