# Prosperous Town Health Check & Initial Public Realm Plans



December 2018







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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

#### 1.0 Executive Summary

Ireland's Towns and Villages are the centre of the social and civic life of much wider communities. Town centres with a vibrant commercial offering, diverse services and attractive public realm sustain economic growth, attract more people to the region, and promote a sense of well-being and identity. It is vital for town centres to be successful and viable to provide for their populations as well as to encourage visitors.

Prosperous Town Centre serves a wide hinterland as a local service centre. However despite the designation of the Old Main Street as an Architectural Conservation Area, the degradation of the town due to high volumes of through traffic presents many challenges. Traffic calming measures in tandem with an investment in the public realm including strengthening the identity of the town are urgently required to enhance the vitality of the town.

#### 1.1 Introduction: Background and Purpose of the Health Check

Recent economic conditions have impacted the fabric of our communities with an increase in vacant lands and dereliction. To sustain these communities targeted action is required to support economic recovery and civic life.

Government initiatives including the National Planning Framework (NPF) have recognized this and seek to concentrate future growth in areas where services can be provided but note that "Activating these strategic areas and achieving effective density and consolidation, rather than more sprawl of urban development, is a top priority". P14 NPF

The Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, (DAHRRGA) launched the Town and Village Renewal Scheme in August 2016, in response to research indicating that rural towns and villages were increasingly challenged by recent economic conditions. The Town and Village Renewal Scheme is designed to support locally led and targeted actions to revitalize towns and villages in partnership with Local Authorities.

The purpose of the Health Check as described in the Framework for Town Centre Renewal (Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation - 2017) is to provide a "stock-take" of the current economic, social, environmental and physical situation relating to the Town or Village in order to assess the vitality and viability of town centre.

Research data (outlined in the next chapter) was undertaken in collaboration with Kildare County Council, local business owners and members of the community between May and August 2018. This is detailed further in Chapters 2 – 6 of this report.

The data and findings resulting from the surveys together with desktop research and community workshops are the subject of this report, compiled by Cathal O'Meara Landscape Architects.



Attractive built environment, New Main Street

#### **2.0 CONTEXT**

#### 2.0 Context

#### Prosperous

The history of Prosperous Town originates with the confident dreams of Sir Robert Brooke who attempted to establish a cotton industry in the area in 1780. By 1784 almost 4,000 people were employed, however by 1786 all was lost to his creditors and the industry abandoned. The town declined in importance dramatically in the following years culminating with the Rising of 1798, when the surviving remnants of the Industrial heritage were destroyed.

Population decline was also evident during the late 20th century when the town witnessed a decline from 868 persons in 1991 to 814 in 1996. Recent years however have seen a strong demand for housing in the area and have witnessed significant population growth. This has risen from 1523 persons in the year 2000 to 2,333 in 2016. This growth however has largely been focused on suburban type housing developments outside of the town core, which have occurred on a field-by-field basis and terminate in cul-de-sacs, with resultant poor connectivity and permeability.

This pattern of development, which serves a largely dormitory population and the limited options for public transport, has contributed to the dominance of cars as the primary transport choice for many. The more recent commercial developments along New Main Street have been laid out at relatively low densities and in a way that is at variance with traditional patterns of town development evident in Old Main Street. These patterns have created buildings set back from the Street to allow for car parking to the front, in contrast with the continuous frontages evident in the older parts of the town.

The town centre has thus been degraded from the centre of public life (Old Main Street) to a road bisected by car parks (New Main Street). The visual dominance of traffic and parked cars contribute little to the public realm by restricting activity spilling out into the street from the adjacent businesses and represents a lost opportunity for business and for Prosperous as a whole.

Within the context of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 Prosperous is designated as a small town. This designation describes "consolidating development within the town centre, followed by the sequential development of land/sites in a logical progression from the town centre". (P56, Kildare County Development Plan 2017 – 2023). In line with this designation the Development Plan has identified a prominent site of 1.3ha at the junction between New and Old Main Street and seeks to create "Strong edges similar to those found in the historic heart of the town along Old Main Street".

#### 2.1 Objectives

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While some Irish towns have identified a successful community and commercial model – many have not. The objective of this Health Check is to provide a "stock-take" of the current economic, social, environmental and physical situation relating to Clane in order to assess the vitality and viability of town centre. The assessment analysis is based on Quantitative and Qualitative factors including

- Accessibility to people living in the area
- General amenity appearance
- Land Use and Dereliction/Vacancy survey
  - Pedestrian/Footfall Counts

- Pedestrian Shed Walkable Catchment Survey
- Car Parking Survey

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- Car Parking Occupancy
- Public Realm Audit including accessibility
- SWOT Analysis
  - Business & Shopper surveys

• Public participatory design workshops This process involved consultation and input from various sources including the community, visitors and traders.

Following assessment of specific criteria, recommendations/ actions are outlined based on factual findings and community needs/inputs. It is intended that this assessment can be repeated after a period of 6 years (consistent with the Local Area Plan time-frame) and the quantitative and qualitative factors can be compared to determine whether Prosperous town is improving or dis-improving over that time period.

#### 2.2 Study Area

The Town Centre Study Area is identified in the Kildare County Development Plan 2017 – 2023. It is recognised however that within the context of town centre wider issues are also of relevance to the function of the town centre, which may not be located within its area. Some of these wider issues were identified and discussed as part of this plan.

## **2.2 STUDY AREA**



3.0 Health Check Data Collection

The Town Centre Health Check identified specific quantitative and qualitative measures that could be recorded as a base against which future Health Checks could be compared. These measures were identified as a means of determining the Vitality and Viability of the Town Centre.

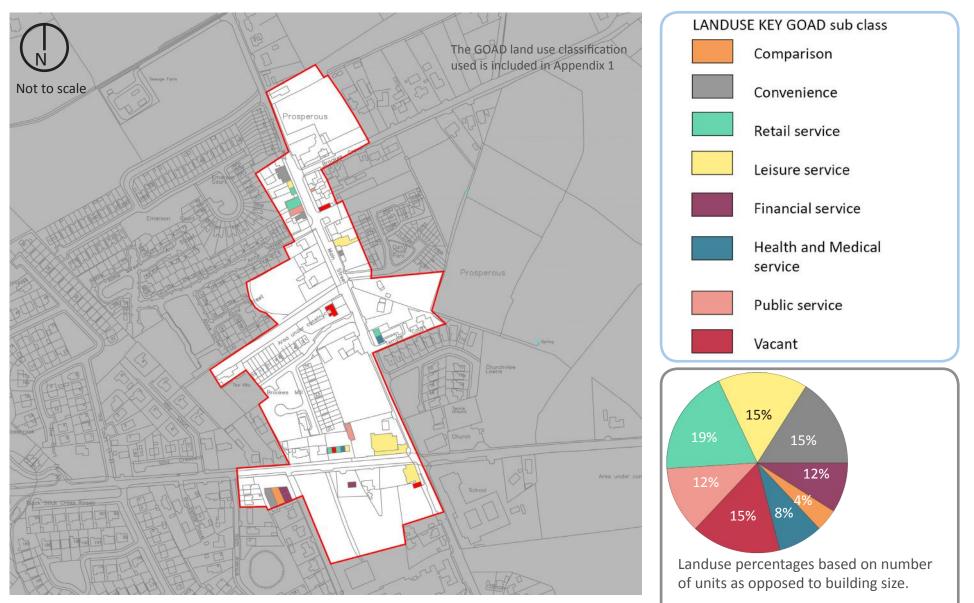
The following indicators were included as part of this survey.

- 3.1 Land Use and Dereliction/Vacancy survey
- 3.2 Pedestrian/Footfall Counts
- 3.3 Pedestrian Shed Walkable Catchment Survey
- 3.4 Car Parking Surveys
- 3.5 Public Realm Audit including accessibility, safety and way-finding
- 3.6 SWOT Analysis



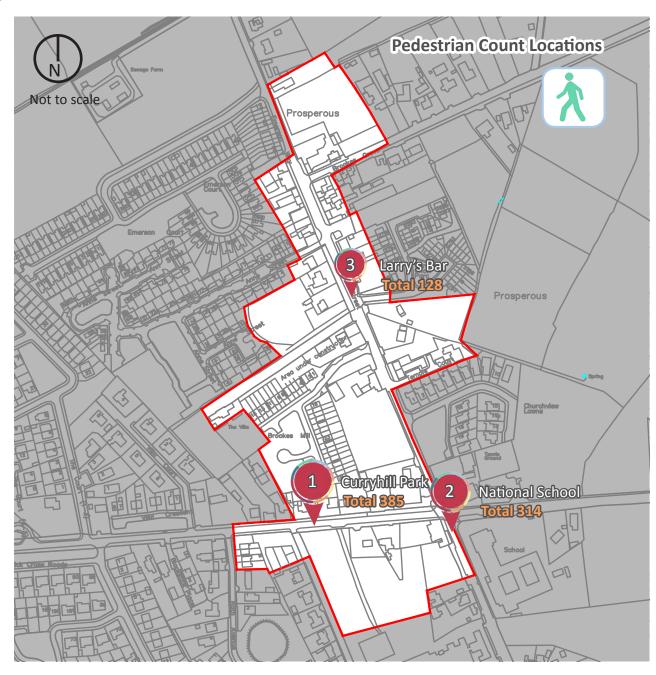
Analysis, Prosperous Town

## **3.1 LANDUSE AND DERELICTION/VACANCY SURVEY**



Built density within the town core is unusually low, this has been identified in the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 as a key design issue. Development sites have been identified that will consolidate the towns existing urban fabric and improve its legibility.

## **3.2 PEDESTRIAN/FOOTFALL COUNTS**



The assessment of pedestrian activity enables understanding of the patterns of use and level of activity within the town centre. This data surmises the towns agility and can help aid future planning and investment in town centres as well as providing a baseline for future comparative studies.

Pedestrian footfall counts for Prosperous were undertaken on Tuesday 22-05-2018 at 3 points within the town: The R403 in front of Prosperous National School, the R403 at Curryhills Park and at Larry's Bar on Main Street. 3 hour long counts were conducted at each point.

| 13:00-14:00: | Curryhill Park:<br>National School:<br>Larry's Bar:<br><b>Total Pedestrians:</b> | 232<br>67<br>23<br><b>322</b>  |
|--------------|--|--------------------------------|
| 15:00-16:00: | Curryhill Park:<br>National School:<br>Larry's Bar:<br><b>Total Pedestrians:</b> | 104<br>219<br>72<br><b>395</b> |
| 17:00-18:00: | Curryhill Park:<br>National School:<br>Larry's Bar:<br><b>Total Pedestrians:</b> | 49<br>28<br>33<br><b>110</b>   |

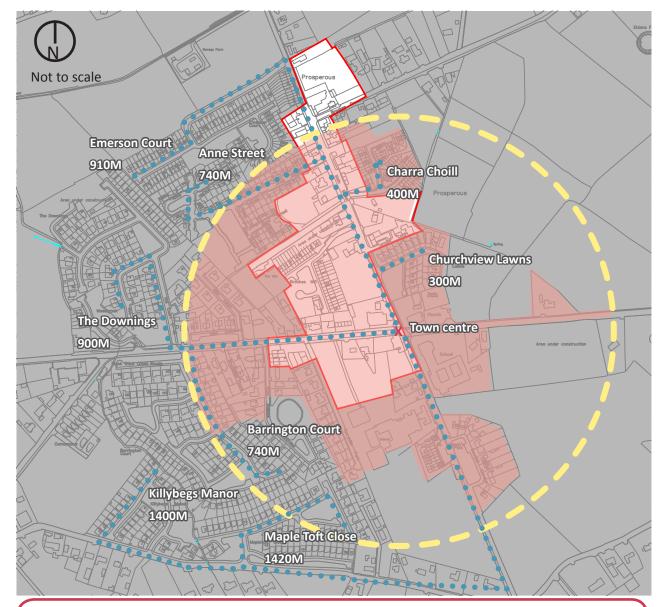
#### **Total Overall Pedestrians Count: 827**

The end of Curryhill park was the busiest area with 47% of the footfall, followed by the School with 38% and Larry's Bar with 15%.

End of school hours 15.00-16.00 had the highest footfall count

A total of 32 Cyclists were recorded within the town core during the study time

### **3.3 TOWN PEDESTRIAN SHED/WALKABLE CATCHMENT SURVEY**



Connectivity between Old Main-street and New Main-street is very poor, this would be aided by a new pedestrian link between The Downings and Anne Street.

#### Ped Shed Net

– 400M Ariel Ped Shed

••••• Existing Walking Routes Ped shed is short for pedestrian shed also commonly known as a walkable catchment area, these form the basic building blocks of walkable neighborhoods. The ped shed encompasses the area which is within easy walking distance of the town centre, (covered by a 5-minute walk) and is regarded as the distance people will walk to pick up shopping basics (about 0.25 miles or 400 meters). - Chapter 15 Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023.

A theoretical 400M radius circle is drawn to represent the potential walking range from the centre, but in practice the true ped shed has an irregular shape because it covers the actual distance walked which is effected by roads, walls and built structures, this is called the ped shed net.

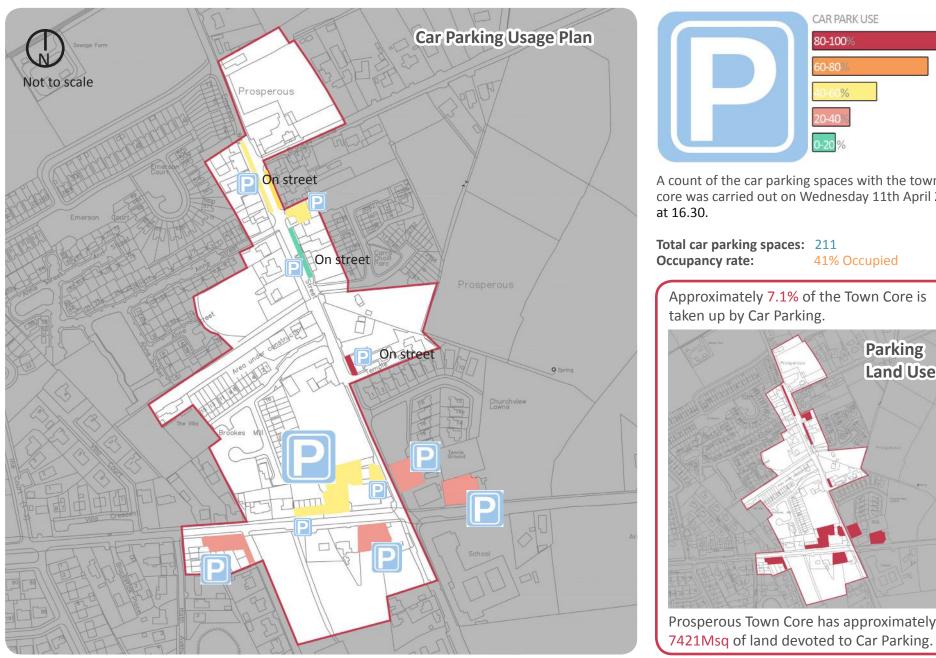
## Approximate existing walking distances from exemplar housing areas:

| Churchview Lawns: | 300M  |
|-------------------|-------|
| Charra Choill:    | 400M  |
| Anne Street:      | 740M  |
| Barrington Court: | 740M  |
| The Downings :    | 900M  |
| Emerson Court:    | 910M  |
| Killybegs Manor:  | 1400M |
| Maple Toft Close: | 1420M |

Results: Only 2 of the existing housing areas fall within the desired 5 minute / 400M walking distance.

Approximately 57% of the towns housing falls outside the 400M ariel Ped Shed area.

## **3.4 CAR PARKING SURVEYS**



% A count of the car parking spaces with the town core was carried out on Wednesday 11th April 2018 Total car parking spaces: 211 41% Occupied Approximately 7.1% of the Town Core is taken up by Car Parking. Parking Land Use Prosperous Town Core has approximately

CAR PARK USE

80-100%

## **3.5 PUBLIC REALM AUDIT**







Top left and above: Potential for creating civic space on New Main Street, Top right poor condition of existing footpaths, Right wide lots with undefined vehicular entry, Bottom - heavy traffic at junction of New and Old Main Street, Below recent resurfacing of footpaths - Old Main Street. Left corner dereliction and at Left existing Gateway to Prosperous











## **3.6 SWOT ANALYSIS**

#### 3.6 Health Check SWOT analysis

#### Strengths

- Strong streetscape in the built environment of Old Main Street
- Very popular annual heritage festival (1798 re-enactment)
- Strong heritage assets (Grand Canal, Cotton industry, 1798 Rebellion)
- Sufficient car parking within town core
- Much of the town area is within 5 minutes walking distance from the town centre

#### Weaknesses

- High volumes of through traffic on R403 and R408
- Limited evidence of centre-first development policy within built up area
- Prominence of vacancy/underuse of buildings
- Disjointed Town Centre with poor permeability/ pedestrian connectivity between both Old Main Street and New Main Street
- Dominance of parking lots on New Main Street
- Very limited cycling infrastructure
- Limited investment in public realm within town centre (particularly New Main Street)
- Poor definition between town and countryside
- Limited provision for teenagers
- Presence of overground wires contributing to neglected public realm

#### Opportunities

- Existing vacant sites present opportunities to develop greater density in the town centre
- Wide streets allow for provision of improved public realm along New Main Street and Old Main Street

- Strong historic elements to town, which can reinforce the identity of the town at Gateways/ entrances to the town
- Increase permeability between town core and adjoining residential developments when the back-land sites come for development
- Increase uptake of existing Kildare Shop-front and Town Centre improvement scheme
- Significant funding potential exists with the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund for the investigation and preparation of projects.

#### Threats

- Increase in traffic volumes and further degradation of the public realm
- Possible increase in through traffic from trucks and HGVs
- Continuation of suburban type development with limited pedestrian connectivity
- Continued loss of vitality in town centre due to town centre depopulation

A survey invited respondents to rate 20 key aspects of the town centre. The most positive ratings were the standard of service in the shops, ease of getting around and feeling of safety. The most negative aspect was the lack of seating/areas to congregate. 15 survey responses were received

| Good                             |     | Neutral                                  | Poor                                       |   |  |
|----------------------------------|-----|--|--|---|--|
| 20%                              | 20% | 60%                                      |  | Café/Restaurant Choice  | Do you expect trading pros-<br>pects over the next to year to :  |
| 20%                              | 20% | 60%                                      |  | Café/Restaurant Quality   | peets over the next to year to .   |
| 80%                              |     |  | 20%  | Standard of service in shops  | Improve 50%  |
| 20%                              | 80% |  |  | Parks/Green Spaces  | Worsen 0%  |
| 80%                              |     |  | 20%  | Ease of getting around on foot  | Not to change 50%  |
| 40%                              |     | 60%                                      |  | Value for money   |  |
| 80%                              |     |  | 20%  | Feeling of safety during the day  | What do you consider the main  |
| 60%                              |     | 40%                                      |  | Variety of goods available  | strengths of Prosperous?   |
| 40%                              |     | 60%                                      |  | Attractiveness of Town Centre   |  |
| 20%                              | 20% | 60%                                      |  | Footpath Cleanliness  | Friendly atmosphere 50%<br>Traditional character-town 25%  |
| 20%                              | 20% | 60%                                      |  | General feeling of vibrancy   | Good range of shops 13%  |
| 40%                              |     | 60%                                      |  | Availability of Parking   | Other 12%  |
| 20%                              | 40% | 40%                                      |  | Traffic Flow  |  |
| 100%                             |     |  |  | Seating/Areas to congregate   |  |
| 20%                              | 20% | 60%                                      |  | Other Attractions   |  |
| 20%                              | 20% | 60%                                      |  | Footpath Quality  |  |
| 20%                              | 40% | 40%                                      |  | Feeling of safety at evening/night  | t  |
| 50%                              |     | 25%                                      | 25%  | Cost of Parking   |  |
| 60%                              |     | 40%                                      |  | Cycling infrastructure  |  |
| 20%                              | 20% | 60%                                      |  | Range of Events   |  |
| Do you have<br>Yes 25%<br>No 75% |     | Do you sell online?<br>Yes 33%<br>No 66% | Increase<br>Better s<br>Improve<br>Parking | nprovements would you like to make to<br>ed vibrancy/events<br>ecurity/increased Garda presence<br>e footpaths/pedestrian improvements<br>nt units/more shops | <ul> <li>Prosperous Town Centre?</li> <li>27%</li> <li>27%</li> <li>20%</li> <li>13%</li> <li>13%</li> </ul> |

## **4.1 SHOPPER OPINION**

A survey invited respondents to rate 20 key aspects of the town centre. The most positive rating was the free parking and the standard of service in shops. However the most negative ratings were given to seating/areas to congregate and the cafe/restaurant choice. A total of 83 shopper surveys were received

| Good<br>6% 12%<br>6% 48%                       |              | Neutral  | Poor  |                       | Café/Restaurant Choice<br>Café/Restaurant Quality   | Why do you shop in Prosperous<br>Out of habit /convienence 60%<br>Easy to get around 27%<br>Selection/quality of shops 7% |
|--|--------------|--|---|-----------------------|---|---|
| 67%  |              |  | 21%   | 2%                    | Standard of service in shops  | Other 6%  |
| 6% 16%   | 78%          |  |   |                       | Parks/Green Spaces  |   |
| 61%  |              | 24%  | <mark>15%</mark>                              |                       | Ease of getting around on foot  |   |
| 31%  | 44%          |  | 25%   |                       | Value for money   |   |
| 67%  |              |  | 12% 21%                                       |                       | Feeling of safety during the day  | What do you consider the main strengths of Prosperous?  |
| 45%  |              | 45%  | 15%   |                       | Variety of goods available  | strengths of Prosperous:  |
| 47%  |              | 31%  | 22%   |                       | Attractiveness of Town Centre   | Friendly atmosphere 59%   |
| 47%  |              | 24%  | 29%   |                       | Footpath Cleanliness  | Traditional character-town 24%  |
| 20%  | 65%          |  | 15%   |                       | General feeling of vibrancy   | Compact nature of the town 8%<br>Good range of shops 7%   |
| 31%  | 22%          | 47%  |   |                       | Availability of Parking   | Other   |
| 23%  | 20%          | 57%  |   |                       | Traffic Flow  | 3%  |
|  | 88%          |  |   |                       | Seating/Areas to congregate   |   |
| 6% 19%   | 75%          |  |   |                       | Other Attractions   |   |
| 19%  | 29%          | 52%  |   |                       | Footpath Quality  |   |
| 15%  | 27%          | 58%  |   |                       | Feeling of safety at evening/nigh   | t   |
| 74%  |              |  | 16%   | 10%                   | Cost of Parking   |   |
| 34%  | 22%          | 44%  |   |                       | Cycling infrastructure  |   |
| 27%  | 18%          | 55%  |   |                       | Range of Events   |   |
| see in Prospe<br>Food events,<br>Cultural/Art/ | /Markets 38% | How often do you<br>Daily<br>2-3 times a week<br>Weekly<br>2-3 times a month | shop in Prosperous<br>62%<br>21%<br>14%<br>3% | lm<br>Be<br>Pa<br>Fil | hat improvements would you like to n<br>prove footpaths/pedestrian improver<br>tter security/increased Garda present<br>rking<br>I vacant units/more shops<br>creased vibrancy/events | ments 34%   |

5.0 Community Participation Methodology

An initial information meeting was held in the Westgrove Hotel, Clane to launch the Health Check Process. This meeting was on Wednesday, April 11th at 7pm. The purpose of this meeting was to inform members of the public and the Public Participation Network (PPN) about Kildare County Council's "Town/Village Health Checks" and how communities can participate in the process. A narrated short animation was shown to set the scene for the process. This animation entitled "Town" by Orla Murphy recounts the history of Irish Towns and imagines how they could be recreated to accommodate residential uses while retaining a multi-functional core centreed around community uses.

Public participation was strongly encouraged in the Health Check Process by making evident all research at each stage of the process. This was then used as the basis for generating ideas (first workshop) and voting on the ideas as a community (second workshop). This participatory approach differs significantly from consultation as a means of generating public involvement in the process.

#### 5.1 Workshop 1

The first participatory public workshop took place on May 09, in St Farnan's Post Primary School. Invites were sent in advance to members of the PPN and advertisements were published in the Leinster Leader and Liffey Champion. Attendees were divided into small groups and asked to discuss in small groups specific topics concerning their town centre. These topics included

- Streetscape and Open Space
- Business improvements in Town Centre

Image of the Town

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The format of the event ensured that attendees contributed to all topics with one member of the group asked to write a synopsis of their discussion. These discussions were then recounted to the wider group. Specific projects were identified throughout the discussions, which would form the basis for the second public workshop.

#### Photographs from first public workshop





## **5.1 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION**

#### 5.2 Workshop 2

#### Voting methodology

On June 15th a second public workshop was held in St Farnan's Post Primary School. The purpose of this event was to prioritize the ideas discussed at the first public workshop. This was undertaken by a voting mechanism independent of individual's favoured projects, where each attendee was given the same quantity of red dots and asked to distribute the dots (voting credits) on the projects they would most like to see realised. All dots could be placed on an individual project or distributed as appropriate.

Following the prioritizing of the ideas five distinct projects emerged. These were

1) Idea 1: Improvements to New Main Street – Score 26

- 2) Idea 2: Gateway and Identity- Score 09
- 3) Idea 3: Community Centre Score 08

4) Idea 4: Old Main Street - Tree Planting, Car Parking Etc.

– Score 07

5) Idea 5: Walk the Block – Score 07

Other high scoring ideas that emerged were

- Slate River Walk
- Prosperous to Clane cycle way
- Ballinafagh Lake walkway improvements

Mapping at various scales, examples of precedent projects and round table discussions provided the basis for further detailed discussions on each of these ideas. The following objectives and master plan evolved from this process.

|   | Idea   | Score |
|---|--|-------|
| 1 | Improvements to New Main Street:                                 | 26    |
| 2 | Town Gateways and Identity                                       | 9     |
| 3 | Community Center   | 8     |
| 4 | Old Main Street, tree planting, improvements to car parking etc. | 7     |
| 5 | Walk the block   | 7     |

Below - Photographs from second public workshop and above table of priority ideas









6.0 Project Findings, Goals and Objectives

Project 1 Improvements to New Main Street –

#### Findings

This project seeks to deliver a traffic calmed Town Centre with a greater provision of public realm infrastructure. The intention with this place making approach is to deliver an attractive tree lined Main Street/Boulevard as an anchor to Prosperous Town Centre, by assigning higher priority to pedestrian uses without unduly compromising on vehicular movement.

Goals and Objectives

• Introduction of raised tables to calm traffic and allow pedestrian crossings at specific points in the streetscape – Points identified as potential locations are

> - Junction with Old Main Street/ Prosper ous National School/Church of Our Lady and St Joseph

- Adjacent to proposed Town Park

- Between Spar and associated commercial developments on both Side of New Main Street/R403.

This traffic calming approach is consistent with Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets Guidance.

• Definition of edge to large parking lots (planted or built structure) on New Main Street – including Christies Bar, Dowlings Bar, Parking lot adjacent to Post Office, Parking lot adjacent to Spar.

- Definition of entrances to parking lots by change in materials of footpath
- Introduce a new palette of street furniture

including seating, lighting, bins and ornamental planting.

• Truck parking/stopping on the footpaths was highlighted as a specific item requiring attention in the design of the new streetscape

• Improve the junction between Curryhill Park and New Main Street.

• Require all street works to adhere to a design code/ palette of materials Consistent with objectives, PR 10, PR18 and PR41 of The Kildare County Development Plan LAP (2017-2023)

• Underground all cabling beneath streetscape

#### Project 2

Town Gateways and Identity

#### Findings

Desire to improve the identity of Prosperous through the development of specific features as part of Gateway treatments to the town.

Goals and Objectives

• Improve the identity of Prosperous through the development of specific features as part of Gateway treatments to the town.

• Gateway treatment to be located on the 3 principal approach roads, - R403 East, R403 West, and the R408 Maynooth Road.

• Specific elements of relevance to the identity of Prosperous were highlighted as relevant to the development of the gateway concept. These included the 1798 rebellion, the former Cotton Mills and associated heritage, the presence of the Grand Canal and the many Raths located in the vicinity.

Treatment would introduce traffic calming,

and definition of the 50km Zone. See image attached consistent with DMURS Consistent with objective, PR 14 of The Kildare County Development Plan LAP (2017-2023)

#### Project 3

**Community Centre** 

#### Findings

The lack of a local community facility was highlighted during this process. Attendees to the workshops in particular identified the need for teenagers to have a space where they could have a Youth Café or similar type facility.

#### Goals and Objectives

This space could also house complementary facilities including and area for elderly members of the community and include a kitchen or café as well as meeting rooms.

Provision of a similar type facility is mentioned in The Kildare County Development Plan LAP (2017-2023) as part of objectives PR34, PR35 and PR36

#### Project 4 Old Main Street

#### Findings

Recent improvement works to Old Main Street are a welcome addition to the town. However this several objectives relating to recent works were highlighted and are included below.

#### Goals and Objectives

 Introduction of materials consistent with historic elements of town (paved sets, granite kerbs etc.)

#### **6.0 PROJECT FINDINGS: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

• Continuation of the scheme on the western side of Old Main Street,

# • Traffic Calming treatment to junction with the Maynooth Road

- Introduce a pedestrian crossing/raised table (with change of carriageway materials) between Ann Street (housing estate) and Old Main Street. Currently there is no pedestrian provision for crossing this road/street.
- Tree Planting to the West of the Street between parking bays
- Rationalizing the car parking to the Londis Shop (currently car parking is undelineated and cars are parking at 45degrees to the kerb – this is impacting on the cycle lane).
- Create a link road from Dublin Road to Kilcock Road in order to alleviate congestion within the town centre.

## Project 5

Walk the Block

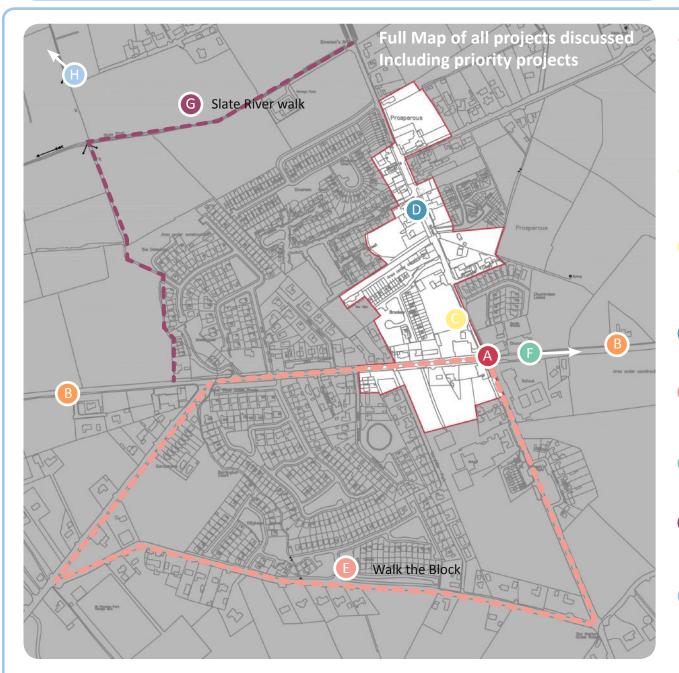
#### Findings

A popular walking route in Prosperous "Walk the Block" heads west from the Junction between Old Main Street and New Main Street before turning south at Topaz, then east at the GAA pitch and then north at Hatters Cross to rejoin New Main Street. This walk approximately 3 kilometers in length is currently a popular recreational walk. However some of the pedestrian provisions were identified as being sub standard, these are included below and Consistent with objectives, PR 19 and PR16 of The Kildare County Development Plan LAP (2017-2023) Provide for linked pedestrian routes around the town, through the provision of new footpaths

#### where currently absent.

Goals and Objectives

- Absence of footpaths on part of the route (between Killybegs Manor and GAA club)
- Lack of seating
- Lack of lighting on parts of the route
- No safe crossing to the GAA Club
- Narrow footpaths in places



- A Main Street and Traffic Calming: Widening of footpaths and introduction of high quality paving, street furniture and trees to animate the Mainstreet and give a human scale. Junctions, crossings and carriageway to be rationalised, possible resequensing of traffic lights and the use of raised tables to calm traffic.
- **Town Gateways and Identity:** Creation of bespoke signage features situated at the towns gateways along major routes. (Shown at Indicative Locations)
- **Community Centre/Youth Space:** Designated building within town core accommodating after school youth space with large multi-use space for community use- stage area, storage space and kitchen.
- Old Main Street: Formalise street parking and introduce tree planting within build outs to divide and soften the streetscape.
- Walk the Block: Improve the popular 'Walk the Block' route by widening and creating footpaths where required and the addition of street lighting, seating and bins.
- **Prosperous to Clane Cycleway:** Establish a designated cycle path over the 4.9KM route between Prosperous and Clane.
- G Slate River Walk: Develop a low impact riverside walkway along the Slate River with entrance points at Donaghers Lane and along the R403 to Allenwood.
- **Ballinafagh Lake Walk:** Establish a connection to the existing wetlands and improve the existing facilities by the addition of signage, static and floating walkways, bird watching structures and picnic area.

#### **6.2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### 6.2 Recommendations

Following the research, analysis, surveys and the public workshops undertaken as part of this Health Check the resulting list of project recommendations for Prosperous Town Centre have been identified.

Principal concerns evidenced at the workshops correlate well with the research phase of the project and the level of through traffic is clearly an issue for the town. The intention of introducing a suite of traffic calming measures in tandem with improving the public realm (streets and footpaths) forms a central component of this Health Check proposal. Specifically items that rated poorly amongst shoppers were parks and green spaces 78% and seating areas to congregate 88%. This was also consistent within the business community scoring 80% and 100% respectively. These ratings were consistent with the projects that emerged as part of the public workshops.

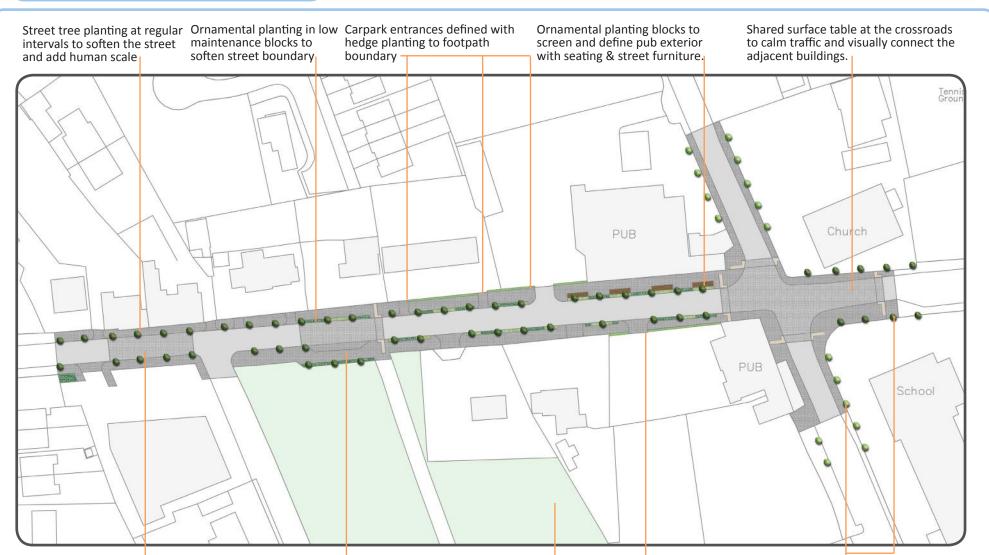
As such a significant investment in the New Main Street is the principal recommendation of this study and was the most popularly voted project. (Project 1) However the continuation of streetscape improvements to Old Main Street were also highlighted as important (project 4).

The recognition of the need for greater pedestrian connectivity between Old Main Street and New Main Street was discussed at the workshops. However despite the proven benefits these are not seen as popular measures. Such pedestrian connectivity need to be constructed as part of planning conditions for all future developments due to the challenges of retrofitting at a later date. However improvements to the current a "walk the block" route is seen as delivering greater pedestrian improvements (project 5).

Residents of Prosperous also noted the image of the town, while rich in heritage was not currently presented well. The reinforcement of the identity of the town through the creation of bespoke gateway treatments (project 2) was a popular idea and needs to be facilitated in conjunction with traffic calming measures.

A final concern for residents and an item that was not apparent during the research phase of the project is the need for greater provision of youth facilities. Although a park is currently at planning stage in Prosperous, a facility for teenagers is currently lacking in the town (project 3)

Please note the identification of the projects, as well as their hierarchies have emerged as part of two well-attended public workshops and are consistent with the research and analysis elements of this project.



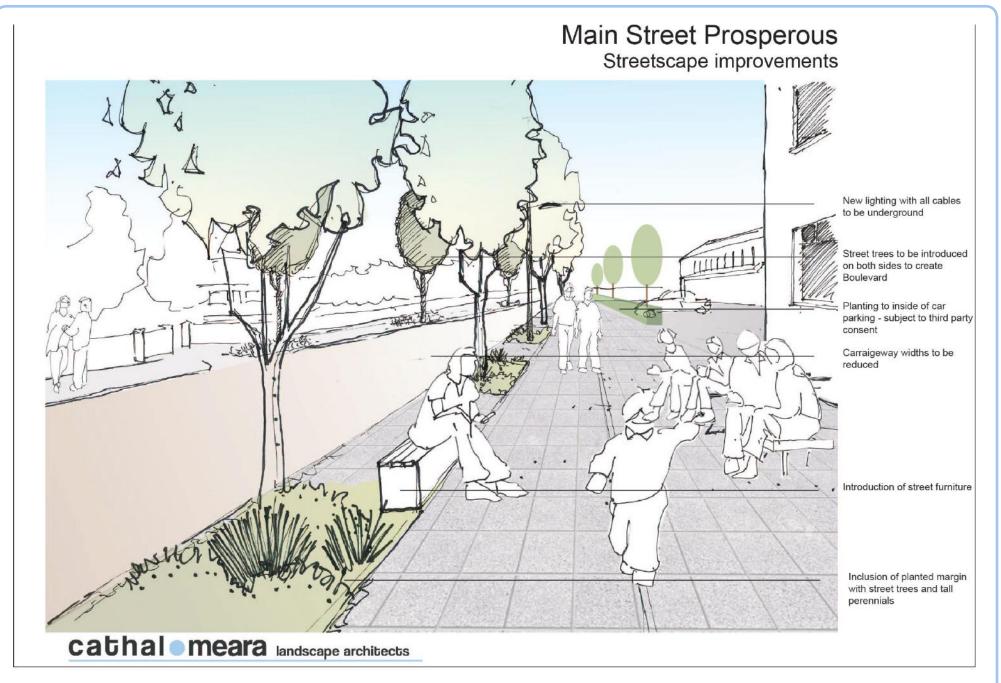
Raised table creating a shared surface space link between commercial areas and calming traffic.

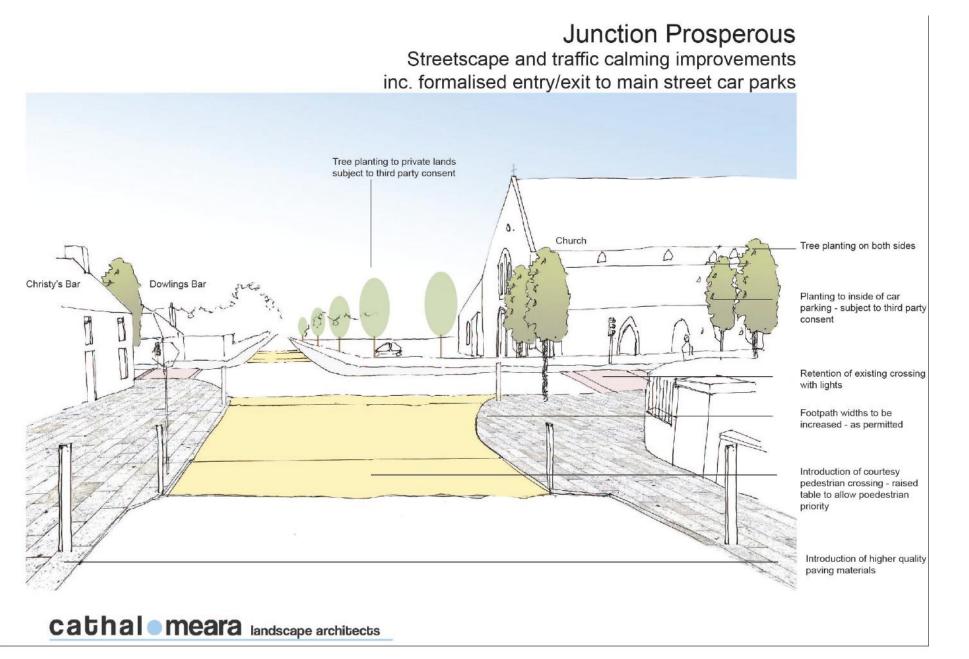
Shared space raised table calming traffic at the new park/school crossing. New Park (not part of new mainstreet plan but street frontage should be designed to compliment).

Carpark entrance defined with hedge boundary

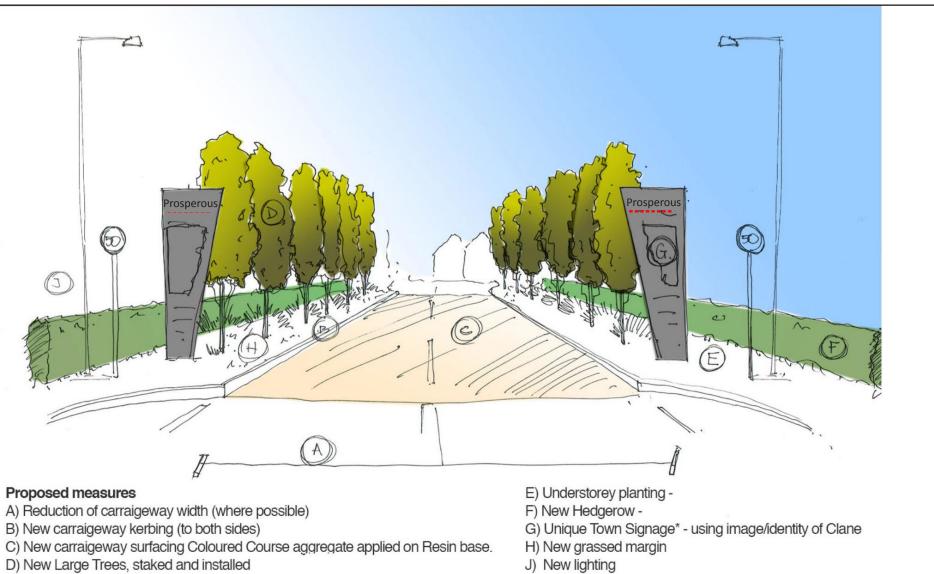
Tree planting within private ownership as footpath width will not allow street tree planting to footpath planting (to be agreed with landowners).

Note: This plan is only meant as an indicative drawing and will need further investigation in order to tie in with existing designs for the planned park. Future designs will require tracking of corners to allow ease of vehicular access to housing, side roads and businesses, placement of trees to avoid conflict with site lines and services, consultation with adjacent landowners to agree works, consultation with National Roads Authority and Kildare County Council.





## Gateway treatment - to be located on principal approach roads



## Improvements to 'Walk the Block'.



•• Walk the Block Route



Seating nodes along route



Furniture including bins & lighting



New and widened footpathes

#### **APPENDIX 1 GOAD SUB CLASSIFICATION USED**

COM 1 Antiques shops COM 2 Art & Art dealers COM 3 Booksellers COM 4 Carpets and Flooring COM 5 Charity Shops COM 6 Chemists & Drugstores COM 7 Children's & Infants wear COM 8 Crafts, Gifts, China & Glass COM 9 Cycles & Accessories COM 10 Department and Variety Stores COM 11 DIY & Home Improvement COM 12 Electrical & Other Durable Good COM 13 Florists COM 14 Footwear COM 15 Furniture COM 16 Gardens & Equipment COM 17 Greeting Cards COM 18 Hardware & Household Goods COM 19 Jewellery, Watches & Silver COM 20 Mixed Clothing COM 21 Ladies Wear & Accessories COM 22 Leather & Travel Goods COM 23 Men's W ear & Accessories COM 24 Music & Musical Instruments COM 25 Stationers COM 26 Office Supplies COM 27 Other Comparison Goods COM 28 Photographic COM 29 Second Hand Goods & Books COM 30 Sports, Camping & Leisure Goods COM 31 Telephones & Accessories COM 32 Textiles & Soft Furnishings COM 33 Toys, Games & Hobbies COM 34 Vehicle & Motorcycle Sales COM 35 Vehicle Accessories COM 36 Opticians CNV 1 Bakers & Confectioners CNV 2 Butchers

CNV 3 Convenience Store, Groceries & Frozen Food

| CNV 4<br>CNV 5<br>CNV 6<br>CNV 7<br>CNV8 | Delicatessen<br>Fishmonger<br>Health Foods<br>Markets<br>Off licence |
|--|--|
| CNV9                                     | Shoe repairs etc   |
| CNV10                                    | Supermarkets   |
| CNV11                                    | Confectionery, Tobacconist, Newsagent                                |
| RS1                                      | Clothing & Fancy Dress Hire  |
| RS2                                      | Dry Cleaner & Laundrette   |
| RS3                                      | Filling Stations & Garages   |
| RS4                                      | Health & Beauty  |
| RS5                                      | Hairdressers/Barbers   |
| RS7                                      | Other Retail Outlets   |
| RS8                                      | Photo Processing   |
| RS9                                      | Photo Studio   |
| RS10                                     | Post Offices   |
| RS11                                     | Repair, Alterations & Restoration                                    |
| RS12                                     | Travel Agents  |
| RS13                                     | Vehicle Rental   |
| RS14                                     | Vehicle Repair & Services  |
| OR1                                      | Shops  |
| LS1                                      | Bars, Wine Bars & Public House                                       |
| LS2                                      | Bingo & Amusement  |
| LS3                                      | Cafes  |
| LS4                                      | Casino & Betting Office  |
| LS5                                      | Cinemas, Theatres & Concert Halls                                    |
| LS6                                      | Clubs  |
| LS7                                      | Disco, Dance & Nightclub   |
| LS8                                      | Fast Food & Takeaways  |
| LS9                                      | Hotels & Guest Houses  |
| LS10                                     | Restaurants  |
| LS11                                     | Sports & Leisure Facilities  |
| FBS 1                                    | Building Society   |
| FBS 2                                    | Building Supplies & Services   |
| EDC 2                                    | Business Goods & Services  |

- FBS 3 Business Goods & Services
- FBS4 Employment & Careers

- FBS 5 **Financial Services** FBS 6 Legal Services FBS 7 Other Business Services FBS 8 Printing & Copying FBS 9 **Property Services** FBS 10 Retail Banks HMS 1 Chiropodist HMS 2 Dental Surgery HMS 3 Doctors Surgery HMS 4 Health Centre HMS 5 Nursing Home HMS 6 Osteopath HMS 7 Other Health & Medical Service HMS 8 Rest home HMS 9 Veterinary surgery PS1 Advice Centre PS2 Community Centre PS3 Council Offices Educational Establishment PS4 PS5 **Emergency Services** PS6 Information Centre PS7 Kindergarten PS8 Library Museum & Art Gallery PS9 PS10 TA/Cadet Centre PS11 **Tourist Information**
- REL Place of Worship
- VAC 1 Vacant Shop